

Funding and Initiatives for Development and Production

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Funding and Initiatives for Development

There are a range of funding pathways and initiatives for screen stories in development, however funding at this stage is incredibly competitive across the sector.

The following links include options which typically run each year, however you may also find additional funding and initiatives which are one-off, format specific, or offered in a particular region, so Spada recommends producers search online and via industry organisations to keep up to date with available funding.

The **NZFC** offers a range of development funding and support both directly, and in conjunction with other organisations, for film projects. These include:

- **Short Film Funding** includes He Kauahi Catalyst, a \$90K short film production fund which includes \$10K towards the development of a linked feature film project – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Feature Film Development Fund** (Scripted & Documentary) a single-pathway rolling fund which aims to support feature films to progress to production. \$35,000 per tranche, maximum of \$140,000 per project during development. Criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Seed Funding** is a collaboration between NZFC and the NZ Writers Guild which offers Seed and Seed Advanced grants designed to provide money for writers to help their projects progress to the stage where they may apply to the Feature Film Development Funding, or develop independently. Criteria and application information [here](#)
- **Industry Development Fund** combines the previous Strategic training Fund and the NZFC administered On-the-Job Development programme for internships, mentorships, attachments and professional placements. Criteria and application details [here](#)

Script to Screen works alongside partners to offer targeted development funding, including:

- **South Shorts Mentorship** programme supports new and emerging screenwriters from the South Auckland community to develop their short film scripts – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **FilmUp Mentorship Programme** is a six-month professional development programme for writers, directors and producers which supports and empowers eight filmmakers each year to reach the next stage in their film careers. Criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Story Camp Aotearoa** is a residential feature film lab that fosters craft, voice and vision. Criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Waitaha Canterbury Screen Story** Incubator is a collaboration between Script to Screen and Te Puna Matarau for writers of feature films, TV series, and narrative driven video games. Criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Strength in Numbers** is a series of workshops where selected filmmakers focus on building sustainable businesses in our screen industry. Criteria and application details [here](#)

NZ On Air funds scripted and non-fiction for online and TV. Their funding round focus can be subject to change, and one-off Request for Proposals (RFPs) may be open so it's best to check in with their Funding Page [here](#)

Regular funding at development stage includes:

- **Content Development** applications can be submitted to any funding round (unless otherwise specified) and is focused in three key areas:
 - Premier content development
 - Sustainable content development
 - Newer Storytellers content development
 - Content Development criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Kōpere Ake:** NZ Writers Guild, in partnership with NZ on Air, has developed Kōpere Ake to enable Aotearoa screenwriters to create high quality world-class scripted proposals. Criteria and application details [here](#)

Te Māngai Pāho provides contestable, mixed-platform funding for producers and creators to create a diverse range of Māori content across linear television, online and digital platforms, web series and apps. All mixed-platform initiatives support Māori language and culture outcomes and the majority of Te Māngai Pāho funding is contestable, and is available to producers and creators to create a diverse range of Māori content, such as:

- Special Projects
- Tamariki & Rangatahi
- Innovation
- NZ on Air Co-Fund
- General Audience
- News & Current Affairs.

View all **Te Māngai Pāho Funding** criteria and dates [here](#)

Development Residencies – There are a number of residencies available for the development of screen projects, including:

- **Tāhuna** is an annual 4-week residency in Queenstown, NZ founded by Great Southern with support from NZFC, NZ On Air and Queenstown Lakes District – criteria and application information [here](#)
- **Michael King Writers Centre** offers multiple residencies per year of 2 – 3 weeks duration in Devonport, Auckland – criteria and application information [here](#)
- **Dunedin City of Literature** offers a range of residencies across the city throughout the year, many of which are open to screenwriters and screen projects – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Write Room Wellington** is a screenwriter residency programme founded by POP Film and offered in partnership with Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, the Wellington City Council, and Wellington’s UNESCO City of Film Programme. There is also a producer mentorship available – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **The Fulbright–Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers’ Residency at the University of Hawai’i** offers one award each year to a New Zealand–based writer, to carry out work on a writing project – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Various Screen Guild and Organisation Workshops & Programmes** will offer one-off opportunities for development of screen projects. Spada recommends connecting with the various screen guild newsletters and social media accounts to remain informed – view a full list of the screen guild and organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand [here](#)

Funding and Initiatives for Production

The **NZFC's** production funding includes:

- **He Kauahi Catalyst** supports filmmakers to progress their talents and make exceptional, high end narrative short films that will ignite the flame and be the catalyst for change in their career. Narrative drama and animation short films (not documentary) which are tonally or thematically linked to feature films and/or long-form content – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **Feature Film Production Investment** supports the making of diverse New Zealand feature films that are original, exciting, and culturally significant. Suitable for narrative and documentary feature films – criteria and application details [here](#)
- **He Pounamu Te Reo Māori Feature Film Initiative** is an annual fund for the production of narrative feature films in Te Reo Māori – criteria and application information [here](#)
- **New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG) for New Zealand Productions** is part of the Government's screen incentives scheme. Eligible productions can access a cash rebate equivalent to 40% of Qualifying New Zealand Production Expenditure (QNZPE). The purpose of the New Zealand Grant is twofold:
 - To build the sustainability, scale and critical mass of the domestic film industry and support the development of New Zealand creatives.
 - To provide cultural benefits to New Zealand by supporting the creation of New Zealand content and stories.
 - Criteria and application details for the **NZSPG** [here](#)

NZ On Air's production funding is typically held in three rounds, however there may be additional targeted rounds such as Children's content or the Te Māngai Pāho co-fund.

- View all **NZ On Air Funding** criteria and application round information [here](#)

Day One Shorts is an immersive talent development program offering workshops, mentoring and funding for filmmakers providing a pathway for young voices to break into the screen industry and forge sustainable careers.

- View the **Day One Shorts** criteria and application details [here](#)

Loading Docs is an annual launchpad for short documentary projects which supports creators with resources and mentorship throughout production. Live action and animated documentary projects can apply.

- View the **Loading Docs** criteria and application details [here](#)

Additional Funding may also be found through partnerships with industry companies for equipment or resources, investors, or sponsors from outside the screen sector, local council initiatives, crowdfunding, lottery grants, or other fundraising activities – the road to funding is seldom straightforward so be prepared to research opportunities that will help take your project from script to screen!