

ACTF Development Funding FAQs

Please read the ACTF Development Funding [Guidelines](#), as most questions will be answered within this document.

Is my project eligible for ACTF Development Funding?

Projects must be intended for a child audience, and are intended to find a place with a broadcaster that has a local child audience. Programs should be intended for broadcast on a platform with a local child audience, and where the platform pays a licence fee towards the production of the series.

Can I apply for development funding for a YouTube project?

Currently the ACTF does not fund development or production of programs intended for a direct to YouTube release.

Does ACTF fund educational content for the schools market?

ACTF funding is available for programs intended to find a home on a broadcaster; that may be free-to-air television, pay TV or an SVOD platform.

How do I submit my project?

Projects are submitted via the ACTF Development Funding Application portal on our website [here](#).

How much funding can I apply for?

Development funding amounts vary depending on the stage of development being undertaken, and how a project is being developed. It is best to discuss your budget with the ACTF ahead of applying for funding. You might also take a look at [past funding decisions](#) on the website to get an idea of range.

What type of projects does ACTF fund?

We fund development of drama, factual and documentary programs for children, that fit with what a broadcaster might commission for the child audience. They may be live action or animation. We also fund feature film development.

What can I use ACTF development funding for?

ACTF development funding can be used to hold a development workshop to expand an idea, or the writing of a series bible or sample script(s). It is intended to fund the out-of-pocket expenses for a producer or creator in developing a children's concept, such as writer's fees, script editors, and workshop participants. Each project's requirements vary, so this is something you might discuss further with the ACTF ahead of applying, to get more specific information on your particular circumstances.

Do I need to have Broadcaster interest to apply for ACTF funding?

No, you do not have to have broadcaster interest to apply for development funding. It can be helpful to your development to have some market feedback on your idea before developing a project too far, but it is not a requirement for development funding.

Do I need to have matched funding to apply for ACTF funding?

No, you do not need to have matched funding from a broadcaster or state agency to apply for ACTF Development Funding. Projects that have matched funding are always attractive however, and a broadcaster providing matched funding is a good indication of your project's future potential in the marketplace.

Do I need to have a Producer attached to my project?

It is preferred that projects have an experienced Producer attached when applying for development funding, but it is not a requirement. ACTF will fund projects from experienced Writer(s) where they have a track record, and can demonstrate that they have a pathway to production companies for future stages, or for production.

Feature Film applications are strongest when submitted with an experienced team, which might include a Producer, Writer, and Director

Can ACTF recommend/introduce me to a Producer?

ACTF don't recommend specific production companies for development or production. We work with a wide variety of Producers across Australia on all different types of projects. If you are not sure of which production companies to approach, a good start is to watch a lot of local children's series and see who made them. Also check out your state film agency website for local production companies. Producers don't have to be experienced in children's television specifically, but it is helpful if they are experienced in the genre you are looking to develop.

Can I apply for funding for a project with an International Broadcaster attached?

Projects must be first and foremost for an Australian child audience. You can have an international broadcaster attached, if in the opinion of the ACTF the project has the potential to appeal to an Australian broadcaster as well, once developed.

Why do I have to speak to an ACTF team member before applying?

Speaking to an ACTF team member before applying helps a project move more quickly through the development assessment process once submitted. Questions can be answered before applying, and it helps ensure that we have all we will need to consider a project for funding.

How many projects can I apply for at once?

You can only submit one project at a time for development funding.

When do applications have to be submitted? Is there a deadline?

ACTF accepts development funding applications at any time via the [ACTF Funding portal](#). Turnaround time for assessment and decisions will vary depending on volume of applications received, and whether ACTF requires further documentation or information from you once your application has been submitted.

How do I find out if my application has been approved?

Once the assessment process has been completed, you will be contacted by a member of the ACTF team to advise the outcome of your application.

Do I have to have everything on the materials checklist before I submit my application?

Yes, you need to have everything relevant to your application that is listed on the checklist before submitting your application. This will ensure that a project can be considered for development. If relevant documents or materials are missing when an application is reviewed, this will slow down any assessment or consideration of the project.

How does ACTF assess applications?

Criteria for assessing applications is found in the ACTF Guidelines [here](#).

Will ACTF provide feedback on my project if it is not approved for funding?

ACTF will provide feedback when a project is not approved for funding. However, we do not provide a script service and do not have the capacity to provide detailed notes or feedback on your material.

What is an acquittal that is mentioned in the guidelines?

The project acquittal is a cost report that successful applicants need to complete at the end of their development stage, which will trigger final payment of development funds. This acquittal reports on all funds spent on the development compared to the contracted budget and requires the funding recipient to provide copies of invoices that correspond with the cost report. A template is provided in the ACTF agreement to make this process easy and will also be available online if your application is approved for funding.

What is Chain of Title and why is it important?

Chain of Title refers to the documents that show the ownership of the intellectual property in a project. This is important because the ACTF needs to be satisfied that the applicant holds the necessary rights in the intellectual property order to develop the project.

Chain of Title will differ for every project, depending on what the underlying work is that the project is based on. In some instances, the project will be based on an original concept created by the applicant themselves which they have ownership over. Please note that if the owner of the original concept is an individual and the applicant is their company, then there will need to be an assignment in place to show the creator has assigned the necessary rights to the applicant. In other instances, the project may be based on an existing work, such as a book, therefore the applicant will be required to obtain the necessary rights from the owner of the existing work (for example, the author or the publisher) to be able to enter into a development agreement with the ACTF.

The ACTF will contract with the party/parties who hold the necessary rights in the intellectual property in a project.

Chain of Title is important to clarify before starting the development, so that later on there is no confusion as to who holds the rights in the intellectual property of the project.

PLEASE DO READ THE GUIDELINES FOUND [HERE](#) AS MOST QUESTIONS WILL BE COVERED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, HAVING READ THE GUIDELINES AND THESE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT applications@actf.com.au

