Film/TV/Screenwriting Grants

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Austin Film Festival Enderby Entertainment Filmmaking Fellowship Award
https://austinfilmfestival.com
This award is designed to give candidates first-hand experience in global production and development, independent filmmaking, and distribution strategy to help build a solid foundation for young filmmakers starting out in the business. The award will provide the winner with a trip including covered travel and lodging to Enderby’s Los Angeles offices, career guidance, and the opportunity to shadow executives and filmmakers on-site.

Austin Film Festival Fiction Podcast Competition
https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit/podcast-competition/
Winners receive a $1000 cash prize, AFF’s Bronze Typewriter Award, reimbursement of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend AFF, and reimbursement for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival.

Austin Film Festival Film Competition
https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit/film/
First-place winners receive up to $2,500, along with airfare and hotel reimbursement to attend their film being screened at Austin Film Festival. Categories include, Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Documentary Short, Animated Short, and Student Films.

Austin Film Festival Produced Digital & Scripted Digital Series Competition
https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit/digital/
This competition accepts both filmed and written submissions in an effort to find talented voices who can adapt their vision to emerging digital platforms. With the emergence of online content platforms, digital series, webisodes, and everything else you can find on the world wide web, barriers have been broken and the doors are wide open for new media and innovative formats.

Austin Film Festival Screenplay & Teleplay Competition
Annual winners of each category are awarded up to $5,000 and will be presented during the Austin Film Festival Awards Luncheon. Winners will also be able to attend exclusive panels and be included in the Producers Book, which is distributed to competition judges and other industry professionals.
Austin Film Festival Young Filmmakers Competition
https://austinfilmfestival.com/yfp/competition/
Now entering its 28th year, AFF still hinges on its original mission: to further the art and craft of storytelling. We love being able to do that with the next generation, which is why we have a FREE film competition for young filmmakers ages 13-18. At the Young Filmmakers Showcase, selected animated, documentary, and narrative short films from all around the world will play on the big screen in front of a supportive Festival audience!

Austin Film Society Grant - Development Fund
https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-overview/
Special AFS Development fund for filmmakers with a track record who receive $5,000 to help them keep their next project moving.

Austin Film Society Grants – Feature & Short projects
https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-overview/
Annual awards are provided emerging film and video artists in Texas whose work shows promise, skill and creativity. Grant recipients have shown their films at renowned festivals like Sundance, Berlin, Cannes, Toronto, Tribeca, Venice, Rotterdam and SXSW and have been nominated for Gotham Awards, won Independent Spirit Awards and Student Academy Awards. In addition to grants for production, post-production and distribution, the Austin Film Society provide cash stipends to Texas filmmakers traveling to prestigious film festivals through its AFS Travel Grant program.

City of Austin Creative Content Incentive Program
https://austintexas.gov/department/film-digital-media-production-incentives
The City of Austin offers incentives to qualifying film, television, video game, and visual effects projects equal to 0.50% of wages paid to local workers. Projects produced by an Austin-based company or which significantly promote Austin may be eligible for an additional 0.25% incentive for a total incentive of 0.75%.

City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture
https://dallasculture.org/grants-and-calls/
The Office of Arts and Culture welcomes artists and arts organizations to participate in the competitive opportunities such as grants and calls for entries.

The Creative Future of Texas Fund
https://bossbabes.org/grants
We live in a state with one of the fastest-growing groups of creatives and entrepreneurs. And we believe homegrown businesses—no matter how small—have the potential to change our communities. If you’re a woman or LGBTQ+ creative, entrepreneur or small business owner (with less than 20 employees) based in Central Texas, you’re eligible to apply for our $1000 Creative Futures grant, as well as a free membership to bbtx: $1K was awarded to a project instead of a person; Texas Latina Project: An Anthology Film.
El Paso Museums & Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) Local Filmmaker Grant
https://mcad.elpasotexas.gov/arts-funding
As part of its mission to drive El Paso’s cultural vitality, MCAD provides support annually to local artists, area non-profit arts organizations and creative entrepreneurs through a competitive granting process in six categories that is designed for maximum transparency.

San Antonio Project Grants
https://www.getcreativesanantonio.com/Grants
The San Antonio Film Commission is a division of the Department of Arts & Culture, which provides grants to qualifying artists based in San Antonio. These grants are aimed to support a diverse portfolio of artists, including filmmakers, working across the City of San Antonio in the production of new, original, high-quality art.

Texas Commission on the Arts: Young Master’s Program
http://www.arts.texas.gov/initiatives/young-masters
This program awards grants to talented young artists, Texas 8th to 11th grade students (or homeschooled students who have achieved a comparable status towards high school graduation) who are legal US and Texas residents, to further their studies in their chosen field. This grant is not a college scholarship. The most talented young artists will receive the title of Young Master and will be awarded grants of $5,000 per year (up to two years) to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines.

Women in Film Dallas Suzanne Dooley College Tuition Scholarship
https://www.wifdallas.org/scholarships
The WIFD Suzanne Dooley College Tuition Scholarship is awarded to a full time woman college student studying film, television or a digital media program at a College/University. The Scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient’s College/University. The award amount is determined by the WIFD BOD presiding over the scholarship’s cycle calendar year.
U.S. – NARRATIVE (FILM, TV, SCREENWRITING)

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: FilmCraft
http://www.oscars.org/education-grants/grants
FilmCraft grants support high-quality educational programs that identify and empower future filmmakers from nontraditional backgrounds. Targeted programs include those that encourage an appreciation of film as both a vocation and an art form, and those that provide direct, hands-on opportunities for participants to gain the filmmaking skills they need to tell their stories. Grants typically range from $5,000 to $20,000.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Academy Film Scholars
http://www.oscars.org/education-grants/grants
Academy Film Scholars grants are awarded to previously published individuals who are pursuing significant new works of film scholarship. These grants fund research as well as academic and scholarly projects that elevate both filmmaking and film scholarship. Projects must address cultural, educational, historical, theoretical or scientific aspects of theatrical motion pictures. Those examining elements of the film industry that have been underrepresented in the canon of film scholarship will be given priority. Two $25,000 grants are awarded each year.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: FilmWatch
http://www.oscars.org/education-grants/grants
FilmWatch grants support curated screening programs at North America-based film festivals, film societies and other film-related organizations. Targeted programs include those that create culturally diverse viewing experiences, promote motion pictures as an art form, provide a platform for underrepresented artists, and cultivate new and dedicated audiences for theatrical film. Grants typically range from $5,000 to $20,000.

American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest
https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/
The mission of the American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition is to find and promote new and innovative voices in cinema. The winner of the competition will receive the grand prize of $5,000. The winner and nine honorable-mentions will be considered for representation by select agencies and their scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies. The list of participating agencies and production companies will be finalized and posted on their website.

Big Vision Empty Wallet Incubator
http://www.bigvisionemptywallet.com
Big Vision Empty Wallet Incubator is awarding creative guidance, mentorship, and a business plan from the Big Vision team. In addition, you will receive discounts from vendors nationwide. To qualify for this opportunity your project must have a writer, director, or a producer that is woman, person of color, member of the LGBTQ community, or military veteran.

Texas Film Commission • Office of the Governor • texasfilmcommission.com
This list is a selection of grants & fellowships offered; it is not a comprehensive list of all available.
Updated: September 2021
Big Vision Empty Wallet Level Up
http://www.bigvisionemptywallet.com/level-up
Level Up is an incubation and enrichment experience that combines Big Vision Empty Wallet’s signature incubation process with an intimate meeting of the minds for creators who are at a turning point in their careers and looking for new relationships and knowledge to help them take their careers to the next level.

BlueCat Screenplay Competition
http://www.bluecatscreenplay.com
The BlueCat Screenplay Competition is committed to the undiscovered writer and provides written analysis on every script submitted. Awards range from $10,000 for grand prize, $5,000 for feature, best short, or pilot, as well as prizes for best title and International scripts.

BondIt Media Capital - Screencraft Film Fund
https://bondit.us/grant
In partnership with BondIt Media Capital, a film & media fund based in Beverly Hills, ScreenCraft is offering two production grants per year to talented filmmakers for narrative features, short films, and TV pilot series scripts and documentaries that display originality, vision & exceptional potential. Grant amounts will vary from $10,000 to $30,000 depending on the scale and merit of each project. This program includes creative development from the ScreenCraft team and production guidance and resources from BondIt Media Capital and Buffalo 8 Productions.

Chicken & Egg Filmmaker Award
https://chickeneggpics.org/programs
Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women non-fiction filmmakers whose diverse voices and dynamic storytelling have the power to catalyze change, at home and around the globe. We are looking for filmmakers with powerful stories, unique access to their subjects, a collaborative spirit, and the courage to take creative risks. Chicken & Egg Pictures supports self-identifying women (cis or trans) and gender nonconforming individuals. 5 winners receive a $50,000 unrestricted grant and year-long mentorship.

CineMart Arte International Prize
The ARTE International Prize (€6,000) is an award given to the producer of the best CineMart project, to support its financial development. With this award, ARTE France Cinéma and CineMart hope to contribute to the development and production of independent filmmaking.

CineMart Eurimages Co-Production Development Award
The Eurimages Co-Production Development Award is an annual award and a prize of €20,000 given to one of the selected CineMart projects that is, or will be a European co-production.
CineMart Wouter Barendrecht Award
A prize of €5,000 is awarded by CineMart in conjunction with the Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation. Eligible for the Wouter Barendrecht Award are directors under 35 with a project selected for CineMart, and who so far have directed three films or less.

Connecther Film Festival
https://connectherfilmfest.org/awards
Girls Impact the World is a Connecther initiative seeking to raise awareness about and propose solutions to the most pressing issues facing women around the world today. The Connecther Film Festival is a scholarship opportunity for current high school and undergraduate students with the goal of achieving this aim through film. Multiple awards available ranging from $1000 - $5000.

The Coppola Shorts
https://www.zoetrope.com/coppolashorts
You could be awarded a $5,000 cash prize and American Zoetrope will invite a number of reputable talent agencies and production companies to view your film if you enter your 3 to 10 minute short into the Francis Coppola Short Film Competition. They welcome multiple entries, simultaneous submissions, and entrants from outside the United States.

Creative Capital
https://creative-capital.org/award/about
Creative Capital helps artists realize specific projects while building their capacity to sustain their careers for the long-term. An artist must be a U.S. citizen, at least 25 years of age, at least 5 years of professional experience, and not a full-time student. CC provides financial and advisory support to artists in the disciplines of emerging fields, film/video, literature, performing arts, and visual arts. Creative Capital provides each funded project with up to $50,000 in direct funding and career development services valued at $50,000, for a total commitment of up to $100,000 per project. This program works in a seven year cycle.

The David Ross Fetzer Foundation for Emerging Artists
https://www.thedaveyfoundation.org/the-grants.html
Designed for U.S. filmmakers of 35 or under, the Foundation will be awarding film grants that consist of either dollar grants ($5000), or gear grants (valued at $10,000) donated by Film Xchange. Grantees also receive mentorship from experienced filmmakers, including in past years Sundance film festival participants. See the website’s Film Grant page for more information.
Disney/ABC Directing Program  
[http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/directing_program.html](http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/directing_program.html)

The two-year professional directing program, which spans two television seasons based upon ABC’s production calendar, recruits experienced directors on the cusp of making the transition into episodic directing. The primary goal of this program is to afford Program Directors access to develop relationships with Disney/ABC Television Group executives and productions. Those selected to participate in the program become part of the Disney | ABC Directing Program directing talent pool.

Disney/ABC Writing Program  
[http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/writing_program.html](http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/writing_program.html)

The primary goal for Program Writers is to staff on a DATG series as a staff writer during the one-year program; however, staffing is not guaranteed. The program also provides access to executives, producers and literary representatives through various meetings and events designed to facilitate relationships that can prove invaluable in developing a television writing career. For at least the first month the Program Writers participate in a curriculum designed to better prepare them for staffing consideration.

Femme Frontera Film Grant  
[https://www.femmefrontera.org/funding](https://www.femmefrontera.org/funding)

As part of an on-going initiative to increase, inspire, and support short form content made by women from the El Paso-Las Cruces-Juarez region, Femme Frontera will fund new works made by emerging and established self-identifying female filmmakers. The funds will assist these filmmakers in the creation of their short films in the El Paso-Las Cruces-Juarez region. They will provide up to $2500 to one or more short films being made in these regions by filmmakers from these regions.

The Film Fund  
[https://www.thefilmfund.co/contests](https://www.thefilmfund.co/contests)

The Film Fund serves as an alternative to film industry funding platforms such as screenwriting contests, time-intensive grant applications, and crowdfunding campaigns found on websites such as Kickstarter. You could even use The Film Fund in conjunction with crowdfunding. Simply explain your film’s premise and how you’ll use some of your budget in a pitch and you can get up to $10,000 for your short film.

Film Independent Camera Division Grant  

If you or someone on your team is an LA Film Fest alum or FIND Fellow, Film independent is selecting a qualified filmmaker who will be loaned a digital camera package to use for your feature film production or web series.
Film Independent’s Fast Track Fellowship
https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/fast-track
Fast Track is a three day film financing market, held during the Los Angeles Film Festival and designed to help producer-director teams “fast track” their projects forward through sixty meetings with top executives, financiers, agents, managers, distributors, granting organizations, and production companies. During three days of intensive meetings, participants gain valuable exposure and build vital relationships as they propel their films towards completion. Participants accepted into Fast Track are also eligible for a $20,000 production grant awarded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Film Independent Project Involve
https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/project-involve
Project Involve is offering 30 up-and-coming film professionals from under-represented communities the opportunity to hone skills, form creative partnerships, utilize free or low-cost production resources and ultimately gain the industry access necessary to succeed as working artists.

Film Independent Screenwriters Lab
https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/screenwriting-lab
An intensive week-long program that is designed to help screenwriters develop and express their unique voices as writers to take their current scripts to the next level. Through meetings with lab mentors, outside advisors, and other writers in the program, Fellows will receive personal feedback and the necessary tools to revise and refine their scripts for production while gaining invaluable knowledge along the way.

Film Independent Sloan Distribution Grant
https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/grants-and-awards/sloan-distribution-grant
This $50,000 grant is awarded to a nearly completed (or finished) narrative film with a leading character that is a scientist, engineer or a mathematician.

The Fledgling Fund for Documentary Film Outreach and Engagement
http://www.thefledglingfund.org/documentary-fund
The Fledgling Fund awards 3-5 outreach and engagement grants that range from $15K to $25K and will give priority to projects that are well positioned to make an impact quickly. They welcome both short-form and long-form documentary films and are open to others forms of non-fiction storytelling.

Ford Foundation’s JustFilms Grant Program
https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/justfilms/justfilms-inquiry/
JustFilms focuses on film, video and digital works that highlight social justice issues. Initiative funds will be distributed through two distinct paths, Content and Field Leadership. The Content Grant is given to artist-driven film and new media projects that highlight social justice issues, while the Field Leadership Grant will be given to projects that will strengthen and provide new resources in the field.
Frameline’s Film Completion Fund  
https://www.frameline.org/year-round/filmmaker-support/completion-fund

The program provides financial contributions to filmmakers to secure funding to complete their works. Submissions are being accepted for documentary, educational, narrative, animated or experimental projects about LGBTQ people and their communities. Films dealing with LGBTQ themes are eligible for up to $5,000 worth of grants.

Gamechanger Films  
http://gamechanger-films.com

They’ve broadening the fund’s scope to include projects by and about people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, people of color and YES that includes men from underrepresented communities, as well. Gamechanger Films has also expanding into television and digital content with a new, fully monetized development fund that will enable it to buy, option and develop IP for television, streaming and digital platforms.

The Hubert Bals Fund  

An initiative from the prestigious International Film Festival Rotterdam dedicated to funding work by filmmakers from developing countries. The Hubert Bals Fund is designed to help remarkable or urgent feature films by innovative and talented filmmakers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe at all stages of completion, including early project development to post production.

IFP Independent Filmmaker Labs  
https://thegotham.org/apply/labs/filmmaker-home/#.XFCa0XRKhaR

Through the Labs, IFP works to ensure that talented emerging voices receive the support, resources, and industry exposure necessary to reach audiences. Open to all first time feature documentary and narrative directors with films in post-production. The program is designed for low budget features under $1 million to help them through completion, marketing, and distribution.

ITVS Open Call Funding  
https://itvs.org/funding/open-call

Open Call provides completion funds for single nonfiction public television programs on any subject from any viewpoint. Projects must have begun production and is only available to independent producers who are citizens or legal residents of the United States.

Japan Foundation New York Grant for Arts and Culture  
https://www.jfny.org/grants/grants

This grant accepts applications for projects from non-profit organizations that take place within the 37 states east of Rocky Mountains to support projects that will further understanding of Japanese arts and culture. Priority will be given to those projects that have secured additional funding from sources other than the Japan Foundation. Successful project can receive up to $5,000.
Latino Public Broadcasting Public Media Content Fund
http://lpbp.org/public-media-content-fund-guidelines
This fund is an open invitation to independent producers to submit proposals for a program, limited series or short web-based digital new media video projects for distribution to PBS.org or another public media web platform on any subject that relates to or is representative of Latino Americans that is appropriate for public television and/or one of its platforms. Grants average $5,000-$100,000 for programs of most genres.

Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant
https://www.nywift.org/fund-for-women-filmmakers/the-loreen-arbus-disability-awareness-grant
A grant for $7,500 will be awarded to a woman filmmaker for a film on physical or developmental disability issues. Directors and producers are eligible to apply.

Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation
https://www.midatlanticarts.org/grants-programs/grants-for-artists/
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation’s (“MAAF”) On Screen/In Person program provides opportunities for independent filmmakers to tour throughout the mid-Atlantic region with their recent films and foster greater understanding and appreciation of their work through direct audience engagement. Animation, experimental, documentary, and narrative films on any subject are accepted for consideration.

MountainFilm Commitment Grant
https://www.mountainfilm.org/initiatives/commitment-grants
The MountainFilm Commitment grant will support filmmakers with a total of $30,000 each year. To qualify for this grant you must be working on a documentary that touches on mountain culture or the environment.

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS)
https://theemmys.tv/scholarships/
(Scholarships include: Univision, McKenzie Family, Jim McKay, Douglas W. Mummert, Mike Wallace, The Linda Giannecchini Memorial Trustees Scholarship and the NATAS’ Inclusion scholarship.)
NATAS is a professional association dedicated to the advancement of television and related electronic media and best known for its Emmy Awards that recognize excellence in a number of categories. The Academy also sponsors programs, seminars, and scholarships for high school and colleges in cities served by the 19 local chapters. In addition, the National Organization, through its non-profit Foundation, awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors who intends to pursue a baccalaureate degree in communications with emphasis on any aspect of the television industry.
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)  
https://www.arts.gov/grants  
The National Endowment for the Arts, has grants to support the development, production, and/or distribution of innovated projects to show media as art or media about the arts. Media arts includes screen-based and print projects presented via film, television, radio, audio, video, the Internet, interactive and mobile technologies, video game consoles, and transmedia storytelling, as well as media-related print.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) - Media Projects: Development Grants  
https://www.neh.gov/program/media-projects  
The Media Projects: Development Grants program supports the collaboration of media producers and scholars to develop humanities content and to prepare documentary film, television, radio, and podcast projects that engage public audiences with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. All projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship and demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) - Media Projects: Production Grants  
https://www.neh.gov/program/media-projects  
The Media Projects: Production Grants program supports the production and distribution of radio, podcast, television, and long-form documentary film projects that engage general audiences with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. All projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship and demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical.

National Latino Media Council/National Hispanic Media Coalition Latino Television Writers Program  
http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/latino-television_writers_program.html  
During the five-week, Los Angeles-based, intensive program (October and November), participants create a mock writers room led by an entertainment executive to develop at least one television spec script. The workshop-style setting provides a collaborative environment where participants pitch story ideas and engage in notes sessions – training them how to incorporate others’ notes into their writing, as well as preparing them for writing program submissions, meetings and potential series staffing.

NBC’s Writers on the Verge  
http://www.nbctalenttips.com/writers-on-the-verge  
Writers on the Verge is a 12-week program focused on polishing writers and readying them for a staff writer position on a television series. The program is looking for writers who are “almost there” but need that final bit of preparation with their writing and personal presentation skills. By the end of the program, writers should have a polished pilot or spec script and a completed pitch. Writers of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting
https://www.oscars.org/nicholl
The Academy’s Don and Gee Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting is an international screenwriting competition established to identify and encourage talented new screenwriters. Five recipients are chosen to receive a $35,000 fellowship so long as they complete at least one original feature film screenplay during the Fellowship year.

Nickelodeon Animation Writing Program
http://nickanimationstudio.com/writing-program
The Nickelodeon Writing Program is designed to attract, develop and staff writers with diverse backgrounds and experiences on Nickelodeon Network productions. There are two creative avenues to pursue: the General Track (up to 1 year) and the Preschool Track (6-months). Operating in a three-phased structure, the program provides a salaried position for up to one year and offers hands-on experience writing spec scripts and pitching story ideas in both live action and animation television. To enter, applicants must submit a comedic spec script for one of the television series currently on air.

NYTVF’s Independent Pilot Competition (IPC)
https://www.nytvf.com/ipc.html
The New York Television Festival’s independent pilot Competition (IPC) is accepting independently-produced, original television pilots and series, short films, and short-form web series from around the globe. The projects must be 4 to 60 minutes long and applicants will have a chance to receive exposure, awards development deals with Lionsgate, NatGeo, the Travel Channel, and Sundance Channel.

Panavision’s New Filmmaker Program
https://www.panavision.com/new-filmmaker-program
Panavision’s New Filmmaker Program is an ongoing grant program that loans filmmakers working on low budget productions with equipment at little or no charge.

PIC (Pacific Islanders in Communication): Funding
https://www.piccom.org/pages/get-funded
The mission of Pacific Islanders in Communications is to support, advance, and develop Pacific Island media content and talent that results in a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary challenges. Through the Media Fund’s four open calls, applicants can apply for funds to assist on the projects that deal with the Pacific and the Pacific Islander experience. These public television projects can be at the research & development, production or completion stage to qualify for funding. Independent producers or independent entities producing television, film or video programming are encouraged to apply.
POV: Call for Entries
http://cfe.pov.org/index.php
POV, the public television’s premier showcase for independent, nonfiction film, is looking for programs of all perspectives to showcase in its annual PBS series. They welcome all subjects, styles, methods, and lengths. They are offering a competitive sum for broadcast destitution of films each season.

Points North Fellowship
https://pointsnorthinstitute.org/artist-programs/points-north-fellowship
Organizers of the Camden International Film Festival will choose 6 filmmakers who will receive two all access passes to the festival. This includes four nights of accommodations, and a stipend to fund their travel to Camden for the Points north Pitch and industry mentorship to launch their doc project.

Rooftop Filmmakers Fund
https://rooftopfilms.com/filmmaker/?cli_action=1627510855.239#filmfund
Rooftop Filmmakers Fund is an opportunity to help our community of filmmakers make their next movie. Only filmmakers who have screened a movie at Rooftop Films’ festival are eligible. Rooftop Films has eleven grants available —seven for feature length films and four for short films. Our equipment and service grants are valued at more than $250,000 and come courtesy of our sponsors.

Adrienne Shelly Foundation Grants
http://adrienneshellyfoundation.org/how-to-apply
The Adrienne Shelly Foundation provides awards and scholarships through various partnerships with some of the most prominent academic and filmmaking institutions in the country. We do not make direct awards to students and filmmakers. If you are interested in receiving funding from The Adrienne Shelly Foundation, visit the websites of their current partners on their website.

The Roy W. Dean Grant/From the Heart Productions
http://fromtheheartproductions.com/how-to-apply-for-grants
The Roy W. Dean Grant funds short films, documentaries, and independent features that are budgeted under $500,000. They must be films that are unique and make a contribution to society. Compelling stories about little known subjects, historical films, and films that touch hearts are encouraged to apply.

ScreenCraft Fellowship
https://screencraft.org/fellowship
The chosen recipients will receive ongoing professional support and a special trip to Los Angeles for meetings and introductions to key entertainment studio executives, producers, literary managers and agents. To apply, simply submit your feature film script or original television script, along with an optional cover letter that expresses your vision and background as an emerging writer.
ScreenCraft Screenwriting Competitions
https://screencraft.org/screenwriting-contests
We handpick the managers, agents, and producers that are the right fit for our winning screenwriters and foster meaningful relationships with entertainment industry executives. Contest categories include twelve genre and formats including action & adventure, animation, cinematic book, comedy, drama, family-friendly, film fund, horror, sci-fi & fantasy, true story & public domain, short, and TV Pilot.

Scriptapalooza
https://scriptapalooza.com/home
From choosing our judges to creating opportunities, our top priority has always been the writer. We surround ourselves with reputable and successful companies, including the many producers, literary agents, and managers who read your scripts. Our past winners have won Emmys, been signed by agents, managers, had their scripts optioned, and even made into movies. But the most important prize of all is this: Scriptapalooza will promote, pitch, and push the Semifinalists and higher for a full year. No other competition in the world does that.

ScriptPipeline Contest
https://scriptpipeline.com/shop/screenwriting-contest
The ScriptPipeline Screenwriting Competition seeks talented writers to connect with production companies, agencies, and managers. As one of the longest-running screenplay contests, we focus specifically on finding representation for writers, supporting diverse voices, championing marketable, unique storytelling, and pushing more original projects into production. Finalists receive immediate circulation to ScriptPipeline partners, in addition to $25,000 to the winner and $2,500 to second place.

SFFilm Grants
https://sffilm.org/artist-development/fund-your-film
SFFilm Makers, offers nine grants or fellowships and artist development services for fiction and documentary filmmakers all over the world.

Showtime’s Tony Cox Screenplay Competition
https://nantucketfilmfestival.org/submit/screenplays
Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions recognize emerging writers in four unique categories as the best from the pool of submissions each year. Finalists in each competition are read by prestigious juries, receive top industry recognition, and participate in a Festival focused specifically on screenwriting that includes cash prizes for all competitions and a Mentors Brunch with a prominent screenwriter (past mentors include Oliver Stone, Robert Towne, David O. Russell, and Nancy Meyers). This screenplay competition from Nantucket Film Festival gives cash prizes ($5k for winners) and VIP festival access to winners with scripts for short films, feature films, 30-minute TV Pilots and hour-long TV pilots.
Slamdance Screenplay Competition
https://slamdance.com/festival/#submit
The Slamdance Screenplay Competition is dedicated to discovering and supporting emerging writing talent. Screenplays in every genre, on any topic, from anywhere in the world are eligible and can be in a feature, teleplay, short, or horror format. Awards totaling $16,000 are given to the top three scripts in each category and the grand prize script. The Grand Prize is for the best screenplay, regardless of category.

Sloan Research Grants
http://www.sloan.org/apply-for-grants
Throughout the year, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation provides grants for filmmakers on a case-by-case basis. The foundation will determine if a project qualifies for the funding as projects about the creative or performing arts are not eligible unless related to educating the public about science, technology, or economics. To see if a project qualifies, a letter of inquiry must be submitted to the director of the Public Understanding of Science, Technology & Economics. After they are contacted by the director, a grant proposal must be submitted.

Spirit Award Grants
http://www.filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/grants
Every year at the Spirit Awards, Film Independent gives out four Filmmaker Grants. The awards are by nomination only.

Sundance Institute - The Creative Distribution Fellowship
https://www.sundance.org/create/overview
The Fellowship is a curated program that includes grant funds, access to premium pre-negotiated distribution deals, and connections to experienced industry mentors with the Institute’s Creative Distribution team playing a strategic advisory role. We are seeking films at all budget levels featuring distinctive, singular voices. We will select three or four films on a rolling basis, and we will support fellows during their initial release period (6 - 12 months). Selected films receive $25,000 grant for marketing expenses with an emphasis on digital marketing, and a mid-five-figure minimum deal from either Amazon, Hulu or Netflix, and preferred access to other Sundance Institute brokered digital distribution opportunities through its relationship with Quiver Digital.

Sundance Institute – Labs, and Grants
https://www.sundance.org/create/overview
At the Institute’s core is a commitment to champion the creation of unique work by individual storytellers. Through open applications and by invitation, they offer Labs, grants, intensives, mentorships with accomplished professionals, and ongoing support to advance the development, production, and completion of independent work.
Sundance Institute - Women at Sundance
http://www.sundance.org/initiatives/womenatsundance
Women at Sundance is dedicated to creating gender equity in American media and innovating ways for women to succeed as storytellers who shape our cultural landscape. They support women filmmakers to grow and sustain their careers through a yearlong fellowship program, an annual financing intensive, and community events throughout the year.

Tribeca All Access Grant
https://www.tfiny.org/program/detail/tribeca-all-access
The grant is currently open to filmmakers from around the globe and will support seven scripted features and seven documentary features. Through grants, individually customized year-round mentorship, events, industry connections, and TFI Network market meetings during the Tribeca Film Festival, TAA has created a close-knit community where participants learn from - and grow with - each other, while creating productive and long-term working relationships within the industry. There is also an additional grant for alumni of the program.

Viacom/CBS Writer’s Mentoring Program
https://www.viacbs.com/writers-mentoring-program
Writers Mentoring Program is designed to help aspiring writers to improve their skills as well as make their way into the television world. The focus of this six month program is on opening doors by providing opportunities to build relationships with network executives and show runners and to develop the interpersonal skills necessary to succeed in the industry. Members will meet for workshop once a week and attend a minimum of 5 full-day meetings over the course of the program.

Vision Maker Media - Public Media Content Fund
https://visionmakermedia.org/get-funded
Vision Maker Media invites proposals for programs intended for Public Television that represent the experiences, values, and cultures of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Projects should be accessible to a broad audience, have the potential for a national broadcast, and be used for effective outreach/community engagement activities to reach audiences beyond a Public Television broadcast.

Vision Maker Media – Short Film Production Fellowship
https://www.visionmakermedia.org/node/3807
Vision Maker Media (VMM) invites proposals for fiction and non-fiction shorts by and about American Indians and Alaska Natives for production funding of $25,000. Selected Fellows will have access to tools, training, mentorship and communal support for becoming a successful filmmaker. Topics include tribal cultures and values, Indigenous histories and modern experiences, environmental and social justice, youth and elders and empowerment. The call is open to short documentaries, narratives, non-fiction, experimental and animation.
Warner Bros. Television Directors’ Workshop
https://televisionworkshop.warnerbros.com/directors-workshop
A new initiative bent on introducing up-and-coming directors to prime time. With the backdrop of active Warner Bros. Television sets as the learning environment and top television directors, cinematographers and showrunners as the instructors, those selected to the program will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop and other classes including cinematography, acting, and shadowing others.

Warner Bros. Television Writers’ Workshop
https://televisionworkshop.warnerbros.com/writers-workshop
For over 40 years, the Warner Bros. Television Writers’ Workshop has been the premiere writing program for new writers looking to start and further their career in the world of television. Every year, the Workshop selects up to eight participants out of more than 2,500 submissions and exposes them to Warner Bros. Television’s top writers and executives, all with the ultimate goal of earning them a staff position on a Warner Bros.-produced television show.

World Cinema Fund
The World Cinema Fund supports films which could not be made without additional funding. Films that stand out with an unconventional aesthetic approach, that tell powerful stories and transmit an authentic image of their cultural roots. The support is focused on the following regions: Latin America, Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the Caucasus. Production and distribution grants are available.
U.S. – DOCUMENTARY (FILM, TV)

Bertha BRITDOC Connect Fund  
https://britdoc.org/bertha-connect
The Bertha BRITDOC Connect Fund is the first European-based outreach and engagement fund and is open to filmmakers from around the world. The fund is looking to support smart, strategic outreach campaigns for ambitious independent documentary films with a social issue at their core; films which have the ability to achieve real change on a local, regional or global level. Funds are to be used for marketing and outreach campaigns for a completed film, not for production, development or completion funding.

Catapult Film Fund  
http://catapultfilmfund.org
The fund provides development funding to documentary filmmakers who have a compelling story to tell, have secured access to their story, and are ready to shoot and edit a piece from production fundraising purposes. CFF’s mission is to enable filmmakers to develop their film projects to the next level. Grants up to $20,000.

Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Documentary Fund  
https://caamedia.org/caam-documentary-fund/
The CAAM Documentary Fund provides production funding to independent producers who make engaging Asian American works for public television. Documentaries are eligible for production or post-production funding and must be intended for public television broadcast. Awards typically range between $10,000 and $50,000.

Derek Freese Documentary Fund  
http://derekfreesefilm.org
Provides production support for feature-length documentary films that have both a strong narrative and a compelling story. Up to $35,000 is given biennially to an independent filmmaker. Films can be in either the production or post production process but does not fund student films.

Duke University - Dorothea Lange–Paul Taylor Prize  
https://documentarystudies.duke.edu/awards/lange-taylor
The prize is intended to support artists, working alone or in teams, who are engaged in extended, ongoing fieldwork projects that fully exploit the relationship of words and images in the powerful, persuasive representation of a subject. The prize is not awarded for completed projects or to support the production of a book, exhibit, website, or other outcomes. The winner receives $10,000, features in Center for Documentary Studies’ digital publications, and inclusion in the Archive of Documentary Arts at Rubenstein Library, Duke University.
Film Independent Documentary Lab
https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/documentary-lab
Through a series of meetings and workshops, the Documentary Lab provides creative feedback and story notes to participating filmmakers, while helping them to strategize for the completion, distribution, and marketing of their films. Additionally, the program serves to advance the careers of its Fellows by making introductions to film professionals who can advise on both the craft and business of documentary filmmaking.

The Fledgling Fund for Documentary Film Outreach and Engagement
http://www.thefledglingfund.org/documentary-fund
The Fledgling Fund awards 3-5 outreach and engagement grants that range from $15K to $25K and will give priority to projects that are well positioned to make an impact quickly. They welcome both short-form and long-form documentary films and are open to others forms of non-fiction storytelling.

Good Pitch by Doc Society
https://goodpitch.org/
This program brings together documentary filmmakers who focus on social and environmental issues to help build partnerships and form a global network of change makers. The program has expanded to hosting events around the world that are committed to connecting new partners and collaborators to make films truly influential and not just commercially successful.

Gucci Tribeca Films Documentary Fund
https://www.tfiny.org/program/detail/gucci-tribeca-documentary-fund
Grants finishing funds for documentaries that highlight human issues from around the world. Intended for films in production or post product production and are eligible for funds from $10,000-$25,000. Funded films will be driven by thoughtful and in-depth storytelling, bolstered by a compelling visual approach.

Hot Docs: CrossCurrents Fund
https://www.hotdocs.ca/i/crosscurrents-doc-fund
The CrossCurrents Doc Fund is awarding grants of up to $30,000 CAD to one or more projects in production every year. This grant is available to emerging documentary filmmakers with less than three professional directing credits who has a film that is being told from within an underrepresented community.

IDFA Bertha Fund
https://www.idfa.nl/en/info/idfa-bertha-fund
The IDFA Bertha Fund is the only fund in the world dedicated solely to stimulating and empowering the creative documentary sector in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe. The fund is looking for new creative documentary projects which can be submitted in project development, production, and post production for funds up to €50,000.
Independent Lens
http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/about/submissions
Independent Lens considers a range of factors, including the quality of the filmmaking, the timeliness of the story, and audience appeal. Programs should offer a fresh perspective, especially if the topic has been explored on other PBS series. Independent Lens does not accept instructional films, performance pieces, docudramas, reenactments, and programs with content better suited for another PBS series.

ITVS Diversity Development Fund
https://itvs.org/funding/diversity-development-fund
ITVS Diversity Development Fund gives producers of color up to $25,000 in research and development funding so you can develop your documentary for public media. Pre-production nonfiction projects only. Around five percent of applicants receive funding.

ITVS Open Call
http://itvs.org/funding/open-call
ITVS Open Call is not a grant. Open Call gives independent producers up to $350,000 to complete production for a standalone broadcast length documentary to air on public television. The documentary can be on any subject, viewpoint or style as long as it is in active production already, as evidenced via a ten to fifteen minute work in progress sample.

ITVS Short-Form Open Call
https://itvs.org/funding/short-form-open-call
Short-Form Open Call is not a grant. It is only open to short-form documentary films and/or short series. They are looking for exceptional non-fiction stories that spark dialogue and engage a young and diverse audience on public media’s web-based platforms. Stories of any subject will be considered, though they have a special interest in topics dealing with Arts & Humanities, Criminal Justice, Disability, Health and Rural America.

The Jerome Foundation Artist Fellowship
https://www.jeromefdn.org/apply/artist-fellowship
The Jerome Foundation is pleased to announce the first round of a new Artist Fellowship program that offers flexible, two-year grants to support the creative development of early-career generative artists in the state of Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York City. Artists may apply individually or together with other members of ongoing collectives or ensembles.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Media Production Grant
https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/media-projects-production-grants
The National Endowment for the Humanities awards one to three $100,000 to $650,000 grants that you can continue to apply with documentaries that address the humanities. To apply you need an experienced team, non-profit organization or fiscal sponsor, two humanities advisors, and a lengthy application.

Texas Film Commission • Office of the Governor • texasfilmcommission.com
This list is a selection of grants & fellowships offered; it is not a comprehensive list of all available.

Updated: September 2021
Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund  
http://www.documentary.org/pare-lorentz-guidelines
The Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund will provide annual production grants totaling $95,000 for the creation of original, independent documentary films that illuminate pressing issues in the United States. Projects should compelling story and focus on one of Pare Lorentz’s central concerns—the appropriate use of the natural environment, justice for all or the illumination of pressing social problems. The fund supports full-length documentary films exhibiting objective research, artful storytelling, strong visual style, and high production values, as well as skillful direction, camerawork and editing. Projects must have completed research and development and be moving onto production or post.

Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions  
Supports projects that promote the preservation and use of America’s documentary heritage essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture. Its goal is to provide access to historical documents that can be used to tell an American story. Projects may highlight one person of historical significance in American history or about a movement in politics, military, business, social reform, the arts, and other aspects of the national experience. A grant is for one or two years and for up to $200,000 per year. The Commission expects to make up to 25 grants in this category for a total of up to $3,000,000.

The Rogovy Foundation, Miller/Packan Documentary Film Fund  
This foundation funds projects that are transformational, with enlightening narratives and inspiring characters. It supports documentary film as an instrument for change, delivering greater knowledge, compassion and awareness. Awarded bi-annually, the fund will award grants totaling $200,000 between six to twelve documentary film projects per year.

The Scottish Documentary Institute Consultancies  
https://www.scottishdocinstitute.com/opportunities/consultancies
The Scottish Documentary Institute is rapidly becoming a renowned force behind interesting documentaries coming out of the region, so if you’re based in Scotland, the Consultancies are a good way to get your foot in the door.

Southern Documentary Fund Filmmaking Grants  
https://southerndocumentaryfund.org/programs/filmmaking-grants/
The Southern Documentary Fund offers fiscal sponsorship for documentary projects made in or about the American South. Having a fiscal sponsor allows artists to solicit funds from government agencies, foundations, trusts, individuals, and other philanthropic sources that require IRS nonprofit status in order to contribute to a project. These contributions are then tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. SDF charges a modest 6% administrative fee for any monies contributed to projects through our Fiscal Sponsorship program, plus credit card or other payment processing fees incurred for online donations.
Sundance Documentary Fund
http://www.sundance.org/programs/documentary-film
The Sundance Documentary Fund awards funding to support of U.S. and international contemporary independent documentary films. The documentary fund provides grants to filmmakers worldwide for projects that display artful and innovative storytelling, global relevance, engagement with contemporary social issues, and the potential for social engagement. There are four categories of grants open to documentaries in all stages including: development, production/post, and audience engagement.

Tribeca Film Institute IF/Then Short Documentary Program
https://www.tfiny.org/program/detail/ifthen-short-documentary-program
Through a competitive process, IF/Then Shorts identifies and supports original, standalone short documentaries by filmmakers working regionally and representing their communities. In an effort to discover and empower underrepresented voices, each pitch has a different regional focus. Each pitch begins with an open call for submissions. TFI and a partner film festival selects up to 6 filmmaking teams from these submissions to present their projects at a live pitch competition at the film festival, before a jury of industry representatives. Each team has 7 minutes to present their project after which there is a short moderated discussion with the jury. One filmmaker selected from each competition receives up to $25,000 in completion funding for his/her short film, year-round mentorship, and the opportunity to participate in the IF/Then distribution initiative.

Vision Maker Media - Public Media Project Fund
https://visionmakermedia.org/get-funded/
Vision Maker Media invites proposals for programs intended for Public Television that represent the experiences, values, and cultures of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Projects should be accessible to a broad audience, have the potential for a national broadcast, and be used for effective outreach/community engagement activities to reach audiences beyond a Public Television broadcast.