



TEXAS PRODUCTION INCENTIVES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 - AUGUST 31, 2017

WWW.TEXASFILMCOMMISSION.COM

ABOUT THE TEXAS PRODUCTION INCENTIVES

The Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program provides cash grants to qualifying projects based on their eligible Texas spend. Our well-established infrastructure includes experienced crew and talent, diverse locations, facilities and support services. Up-front savings include sales tax exemptions, hotel occupancy tax exemptions, and refunds on taxes for fuel used off-road. All of these things combined, projects made in Texas consistently see savings towards the bottom line.

*ADDITIONAL 2.5% INCENTIVE FOR PRODUCTION IN UNDERUTILIZED OR ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS

Projects that complete at least 25% of their total production days in underutilized or economically distressed areas of Texas may receive 2.5% additional incentive percentage to a base incentive rate. See the Texas Film Commission website for additional information outlining the qualifying area maps.

FILM & TELEVISION

Feature Films

Television Series

MOWs

Documentaries

Television Episodes

Webisodes

Television Pilots

Miniseries

Interstitial Television Programming

Base Incentive Rate	5% - 20%
*Underutilized or Economically Distressed Areas Incentive	Additional 2.5%
Minimum In-state Spend	5% for \$250,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million - \$3.5 million 20% for \$3.5 million+
Qualifying Expenses	Wages, Vendor expenditures, and Petty Cash
Per Project Cap	None
Qualified Labor	First \$1 million of each Texas Resident
Program Qualifications	70% of paid crew and 70% of paid cast, including extras, must be Texas Residents 60% of total shooting days must be completed in Texas

VISUAL EFFECTS

For Film & Television and Commercials

Project Type	Film & Television	Commercials / Reality TV
Base Incentive Rate	5% - 20%	5% - 10%
*Underutilized or Economically Distressed Areas Incentive	Additional 2.5%	Additional 2.5%
Minimum In-state Spend	5% for \$250,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million - \$3.5 million 20% for \$3.5 million+	5% for \$100,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million+
Qualifying Expenses	Wages, Vendor expenditures, and Petty Cash	
Per Project Cap	None	
Qualified Labor	First \$1 million of each Texas Resident	
Program Qualifications	70% of total paid crew and cast, including extras, must be Texas Residents 60% of total production days must be completed in Texas	

VIDEO GAMES

Computer Console

Mobile Electronic Device
Handheld Console

Browser or Web Based Console
Stand-Alone Arcade

Interactive Media
Virtual Reality

Base Incentive Rate	5% - 20%
*Underutilized or Economically Distressed Areas Incentive	Additional 2.5%
Minimum In-state Spend	5% for \$100,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million - \$3.5 million 20% for \$3.5 million+
Qualifying Expenses	Wages, Vendor expenditures, and Petty Cash
Per Project Cap	None
Qualified Labor	First \$1 million of each Texas Resident
Program Qualifications	70% of paid employees must be Texas Residents 60% of total production days must be completed in Texas

COMMERCIALS

National Commercials
Infomercials
Educational Videos

Regional Commercials
Interstitial Advertising
Instructional Videos

Series of Commercials
Music Videos

Base Incentive Rate	5% - 10%
*Underutilized or Economically Distressed Areas Incentive	Additional 2.5%
Minimum In-state Spend	5% for \$100,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million+
Qualifying Expenses	Wages, Vendor expenditures, and Petty Cash
Per Project Cap	None
Qualified Labor	First \$1 million of each Texas Resident
Program Qualifications	70% of combined paid crew and cast, including extras, must be Texas Residents 60% of total shooting days must be completed in Texas

REALITY TELEVISION

Nationally Syndicated Reality Series
Nationally Syndicated Contest or Game Shows

Nationally Syndicated Talk Shows

Base Incentive Rate	5% - 10%
*Underutilized or Economically Distressed Areas Incentive	Additional 2.5%
Minimum In-state Spend	5% for \$250,000 - \$1 million 10% for \$1 million+
Qualifying Expenses	Wages, Vendor expenditures, and Petty Cash
Per Project Cap	None
Qualified Labor	First \$1 million of each Texas Resident
Program Qualifications	70% of combined paid crew and cast, including extras, must be Texas Residents 60% of total shooting days must be completed in Texas

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Texas Film Commission must receive the required application documents by the following timetable:

Earliest Application Deadline	Latest Application Deadline
No earlier than 120 days prior to the first day of production <i>*As of 3/27/18 the application window was amended.</i>	No later than 5 PM Central Time on the 5 th business day prior to the first day of production

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The Texas Film Commission must receive the following information within the required application deadline:

1. A Qualifying Application Form, to be completed and submitted online. To request a link to the online form, please call the TFC Incentive Department;
2. An itemized budget detailing only estimated Texas expenditures, submitted via e-mail; and
3. A content document, submitted via e-mail:
 - Feature films and television programs (except episodic television series) should submit a complete script.
 - Episodic television series should submit a complete script of the first episode to be filmed in Texas.
 - Visual effects projects for feature films and television programs should submit a complete script.
 - Visual effects projects for commercials, educational videos and instructional videos should submit a complete script, storyboard or detailed outline/summary of content.
 - Video game projects should submit a brief summary of game content providing sufficient detail concerning the themes, settings, story, characters and events.
 - Commercials, educational videos and instructional videos should submit a complete script, storyboard or detailed outline/summary of content.
 - Reality television projects should submit a detailed treatment or outline/summary of program content.

In addition to an examination of minimum requirements and a review of content, the Qualifying Application Form will be examined in light of the following criteria to assess, the potential magnitude of the economic impact of a project in the State of Texas: (i) the financial viability of the Applicant and the likelihood of successful project execution and planned spending in the State of Texas; (ii) proposed spending on existing state production infrastructure (such as soundstages and industry vendors); (iii) the number of Texas jobs estimated to be created by the project; (iv) the ability to promote Texas as a tourist destination through the conduct of the project and planned expenditure of funds; (v) the magnitude of estimated expenditures in Texas; and (vi) whether the project will be directed or produced by an individual who is a Texas Resident (where the term "produced by" is intended to encompass a non-honorary producer with direct involvement in the day-to-day production of the project, but above the level of line producer).

ADDITIONAL TAX EXEMPTIONS

Projects may also qualify for the following tax exemptions administered by the Comptroller's Office:

- Up-front 6.25% - 8.25% Sales Tax Exemptions on most items rented, leased or purchased for direct use in production.
- Refunds of the 6% State Occupancy Tax on hotel rooms occupied for more than 30 consecutive days.
- Refunds on fuel taxes paid on fuel used off-road in generators, boats or in unlicensed vehicles, such as tractors.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, please visit our website.

Or, if you have questions, call us at 512-463-9200, or e-mail us at filmincentive@gov.texas.gov.

This brochure is presented in a summary format, is not an exhaustive presentation of the Texas Production Incentives and is qualified entirely by reference to the authorizing statute and program rules.

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