

FAQ's

1. If the director is based outside of the U.S. but the producer is based in the U.S., do we still qualify?

We will accept applications from producers based in the U.S. (even if the director isn't based in the U.S.) as long as the producer will be the person leading/running the impact plans and will be the one prepared to attend the monthly Impact Kickstart cohort calls.

The director must still identify as an underrepresented maker.

2. If our director doesn't identify as underrepresented but a majority of the rest of the team does, do we still qualify?

No. Although the director doesn't have to be the applicant, we still require that the director identify as an underrepresented maker. Our lens is one of equity. This award is for film projects directed by underrepresented filmmakers, not just a matter of diversity, but rooted in a desire to lift up largely underrepresented perspectives and to serve directors who disproportionately do not have the same level of access and resources as other directors who are more widely represented in the field.

3. Will you accept films finished in the past few years?

We only accept films created within the past year of the Impact Kickstart application deadline.

4. I have a disability and will need special accommodations arranged for me to apply to Impact Kickstart. Does Working Films provide support?

Working Films strives to make all of our events and programs accessible, including our application processes. To request an accessibility accommodation or adjustment, please email hhearn@workingfilms.org.

5. How do you define "feature length"?

40 minutes or longer. If you are submitting a multi-part series, then the total run time of the full series should be 40 minutes or longer.

6. How does Working Films define accountability to and consent from participants and communities?

Accountable filmmaking acknowledges that storytelling is a sacred, human endeavor, and that storytelling through filmmaking is a privilege that, like any privilege, is fraught with power dynamics, historical context, and social inequities. Accountable filmmaking

responsibly stewards the intended and unintended impacts of making a film and conscientiously aspires to operationalize values and ethics in each aspect of the storytelling process (*This is a definition co-created by the Indie Media Arts South working group focused on non-extractive storytelling*). While every film is unique in its process of production and release, there are core values that we believe should undergird all storytelling endeavors. These are outlined by the Documentary Accountability Working Group [here](#). Regarding consent, we believe that it is an ongoing process that should be revisited throughout the making and release of a film, not a one time agreement at the start of the filmmaking process.

7. Can Working Films provide an impact budget template?

There is not a required template applicants need to follow. However, you can certainly reference the impact budget template below.

[Impact Campaign Budget – Template](#)

9. What is the acceptance rate of impact campaign recipients?

Two grants have been awarded each cycle of Impact Kickstart, and historically there have been 75+ applicants each cycle. This cycle, we are expanding the amount of grants we offer by having varying levels of grant amounts (\$10k-\$20k), and we expect to receive a similar amount of submissions.

10. When will the cohort calls take place?

The filmmaker cohort calls will take place monthly from December 2025 - December 2026 on a day and time of the month that works for everyone in the cohort. So the official schedule will be decided as a group. We just ask that filmmakers have the capacity to participate in a monthly one-hour call.

The cohort calls will provide space for partnership and strategy development, refining impact campaign goals, and peer-to-peer support.

11. I have more questions! What can I do?

If you have any more questions, please reach out to Hannah Hearn, Impact Coordinator, at hhearn@workingfilms.org.