

**NOHFC Northern Business Opportunity Program
FILM & TELEVISION INDUSTRY PROJECTS
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Updated: October 12, 2017

Q. What percentage of submitted NOHFC applications are approved?

A. The percentage of applications approved is based on a case-by-case basis for each intake round. The number of applications approved during each intake round also depends upon the supply and demand. Since the intake round is a competitive process, the quality and completeness of proposals is the predominant determining factor for eligibility and funding consideration.

Q. If my application is approved, how soon will my production receive the NOHFC funding?

A. The NOHFC is able to begin a disbursement of funds (first advance – 25% draw down) as soon as the legal contract is signed and required supporting documentation stipulated in the agreement is provided. When proof of spending of the Northern spend is provided, the NOHFC will process the next 25% of funding. There is always a 10% holdback at the end until the film is delivered.

Q. Does a mentor have to be from Ontario/Canada?

A. No, the mentor does not have to be from Ontario/Canada as foreigners may mentor a Northern Ontario crew member.

Q. If productions are unable to rent a camera in the North, can they rent from the South, and if so, will this count for funding?

A. Only vendors located in Northern Ontario are considered eligible costs for reimbursement of NOHFC funds.

Q. Are NOHFC grants transferrable to other production companies?

A. No. To transfer a grant, a project must go back to the NOHFC Board for re-approval. It would technically be like going through the application process again.

Q. What are the dates for intake rounds?

A. The intake rounds are in March, July and November with specific dates announced annually. Funding decisions are generally provided three months after the intake round. The number of intake rounds can be adjusted during the

year, without prior notice, depending on available funding and program changes. Dates will always be posted to the NOHFC website.

Q. What is the targeted number of points for the Northern Ontario Crew Content Form?

A. NOHFC is looking for a minimum of 25 points.

Q. Would a project be eligible if the Executive Producer is out of province, but all producers are from Ontario?

A. Yes, if the executive production company is Canadian, the project would still be considered eligible. NOHFC does not have Canadian Content restriction or conditions.

Q. Is there a time limit as to when the funds need to be spent?

A. There is no time limit; however, since the intake rounds are competitive, the NOHFC would like to see that your funding has largely been sourced and applied for, as well as being ready to go to camera in the next several months as opposed to the next few years.

Q. Is there a targeted number of scripts for television programs/series that the NOHFC is looking for?

A. No, NOHFC has not set targets for scripts of television programs/series.

Q. Is the mentorship process a requirement?

A. Mentorship is only required if you wish to deem your non-Northern labour as Northern labour. You can deem your non-Northern labour, as long as they are paired with a Northern trainee. A Training Plan, a Mentor/Trainee Agreement and a Request for Deeming Form will need to be completed and submitted to your Project Officer prior to start of production. Additionally, both a Trainee Completion Form and a Mentor Completion Form will both need to be completed and submitted to your Project Officer when requesting reimbursement for labour costs.

Q. In the crew content form there is a provision that states Northern Ontario picture cars count as points – is the NOHFC contemplating counting other suppliers as well?

A. The NOHFC is focusing on building capacity and building crew to grow the industry in Northern Ontario. The Northern spend component provide bonus points around the suppliers.

Q. Is there assistance for film industry suppliers to expand or establish a business in Northern Ontario?

A. The NOHFC has a program outside of the Film and Television Industry Projects funding for suppliers wishing to expand in the North: The Northern Business Opportunity Program – Small Business Start-Ups and Business Expansion Projects.

Q. Prior to NOHFC reviewing and making a decision on a project, can the project still go to camera?

A. If your application has been submitted to NOHFC and is in progress of being reviewed, you may still go to camera; however, it would be a risk that you take since there is no guarantee the funding will be approved. If you go to camera prior to receiving a decision from NOHFC and your project does get approved, the NOHFC will reimburse you as far back as the date of your application.

Q. Does the NOHFC have a plan to increase gearhouse infrastructure in place?

A. Yes, the NOHFC is actively encouraging suppliers to establish businesses in the North to meet the demand of the industry.

Q. At the end of production, the funding is conditional upon proof of expenditures. Specifically, what does the NOHFC want to see at the end of the production?

A. Some things that the NOHFC would like to see are a breakdown of the costs incurred during the production along with proof that the production has paid the vendors in the North.

Q. When a production company submits an application to the NOHFC, how much funding should be in place already? What if other funding sources take months to make decisions?

A1. The NOHFC would like to see that the majority of the financing is in place and is sourced. NOHFC prefers that applications to other funders be already submitted. If another funder will not make a decision for another 8 months, the NOHFC would prefer if the application was submitted to one of our intake rounds that is closer to the end of those 8 months. While the NOHFC understands that other funders may have longer review periods, it is expected that the application to these funders has already been made prior to submitting the NOHFC application.

A2. Confirmation of funding, investments or sales agreements should include terms and conditions tied to the contribution amount, along with documentation to substantiate or support the existence of the offered amount.

Q. Why is a distribution agreement needed?

A. NOHFC must have a reasonable level of comfort that the productions will be completed successfully, delivered and viewed by a wide audience. A distribution agreement is one of the elements that serve as support that the delivered product has an intended audience and a plan to reach them. In the application package, the distribution agreement should also include a bio on the distribution company.

Q. How much funding overall is available?

A. The NOHFC has a fiscal year budget of \$100 million. Assistance is available in the form of a conditional grant up to 50% of eligible costs (Northern spend) to a maximum of \$500,000.

In addition the NOHFC has approved a decision note allowing consideration for television series to be eligible for amounts exceeding the guideline of \$500,000.

Q. What is the eligibility criteria composed of?

A. Some aspects that are reviewed include the verification of documentation, the risk/benefit rating, the strength of the production team, the financing, the development of crew and training, the background and credentials of producers, marketing and distribution plans, post-production sourced from the North, if the film will showcase Northern Ontario locations or feature a Northern setting and storyline.