

## Regional Location Assistance Fund Guidelines

### Essentials

#### *About this program*

- The Regional Location Assistance Fund (RLAF) offers grants to encourage Victorian, interstate and international film and television productions to locate production activity in regional Victoria.
- The objectives of RLAF are to:
  - Attract production activity to regional Victoria (as identified in this [map of Victorian regions](#))
  - Increase business and employment opportunities for regionally based companies and residents
  - Promote regional Victorian locations to audiences outside of Victoria.

#### *What are we looking for?*

Screen projects that will increase employment and filming activity in regional Victoria.

#### *Who is eligible?*

- Production company or studio undertaking production for an eligible project in regional Victoria.
- Regionally based production companies undertaking filming in regional Victoria that meet all the above criteria may be eligible for support through this program, to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

#### *What projects are eligible?*

To be eligible, projects must:

- be either:
  - Fiction - feature film, telemovie, mini-series, pilot or series, or
  - Documentary - feature film, television one-off or series, or
  - light entertainment series (including reality, lifestyle) that showcases regional Victorian locations, culture and/or lifestyle, and has the potential to contribute to the visitor economy.
- use regional Victorian locations for a minimum of five days during principal photography where the majority of crew/cast will be accommodated in proximity to the regional filming location.
- meet a minimum qualifying expenditure of \$100,000 in regional Victoria on approved elements (see *What can you receive funding for?* below).
- have genuine marketplace interest for commercial release or distribution of the project.

- have a budget that includes, at least, minimum Australian industry award rates for industry practitioners involved in the Victorian work.

Applications must be approved by VicScreen prior to commencing the activities for which an incentive is being sought.

### ***What is not eligible for this program?***

The following are not eligible for a RLAF grant:

- Current affairs programs, quiz shows, variety or panel shows
- Television commercials
- Short films (<60mins)
- Community television
- Student films
- Screen content which, in the opinion of VicScreen's assessors, is exploitative or which may harm an individual or group
- Applications from federal or state government departments or entities.

### ***What can you receive funding for?***

- The amount of a RLAF grant is calculated as a percentage of [Qualifying Regional Victorian Expenditure](#) on a project, including:
  - Payments made to regional Victorian residents or regional Victorian companies for goods or services
  - Salaries (pro rata to the period of regional filming) and other expenses paid to, or incurred by, any regional Victorian resident for the period where that activity is undertaken in proximity to their regional residence
  - Fees for production and other services provided by regional Victorian companies
  - Per diems, accommodation and other associated living-away-from-home costs incurred by the production company.
- A full explanation of Qualifying Regional Victorian Expenditure can be found [here](#).
- If a RLAF grant forms part of the project's finance plan, it will need to be part cashflowed as it is not payable in full until final delivery (see *What happens if you get funding?* below).

### ***Who can you talk to about this program?***

- Before submitting an application, you are strongly advised to discuss your project with VicScreen
  - [Joe Brinkmann](#), Head of Incentives and Production Support via email or on +61 3 9660 3255

- [Tess Hamilton](#) Incentives Coordinator via email or on +61 3 9660 3254
- Incentives Officer – [George Macfarlane](#), +61 3 9660 3284
- For technical issues or form submission enquiries, Grants Officer, [Nadia Macaulay](#) +61 3 9660 3220.

## The Details

### *What happens after you apply?*

- Your application will be assessed by the [Victorian Screen Economic Development Committee](#) who will take into consideration matters including the following Assessment Criteria:
  - The number of days of principal photography undertaken in regional Victoria (minimum of five days)
  - The project's total [Qualifying Regional Victorian Expenditure](#) in regional Victoria
  - The number of employment and business opportunities for regional Victorians
  - The value of the additional activity being brought to the region/s
  - The experience and track record of the key production personnel
  - The exhibition, broadcast or distribution prospects for the production
  - Any other support for the project from VicScreen
  - Other aspects of the project and its production in Victoria which the Committee considers relevant to the objectives of the RLAf program.

### *How long until a decision is made?*

- Complete applications are usually assessed within four weeks of submission.
- If your project is time critical, you should discuss it with our [Head of Incentives and Production Support](#) before submitting your application.

### *What happens if you get funding?*

- Successful applicants will enter into a standard, agreement with VicScreen, setting out the terms and conditions of the RLAf grant, including:
  - The project must achieve the agreed production spend and shoot days in regional Victoria
  - VicScreen must be credited on the project
  - The applicant must assist VicScreen and the Victorian Government with publicity and media opportunities to promote the project's production activity in regional Victoria
  - Details of the deliverables to be provided to VicScreen on completion of the project including a final cost report (evidencing regional production spend), completed Acquittal Report, schedules, copies of the project and production stills.

- RLAFF grants are generally paid in three instalments:
  - 50% after execution of the RLAFF Agreement and VicScreen’s receipt of confirmation of commencement of principal photography
  - 25% on approval of VicScreen’s final credit on the project (prior to mastering)
  - 25% upon completion of the project and VicScreen’s receipt of all deliverables.
- VicScreen reserves the right to withhold or vary the amount of any instalment if any requirements are not satisfied (including reaching the Qualifying Regional Victorian Expenditure or delivery of the deliverables).

### ***What happens if you don’t get funding?***

- If your application is unsuccessful, we will contact you to let you know.
- At that stage, you may wish to contact our [Head of Incentives and Production Support](#) for feedback on your application.

### ***What will help your application?***

- Read these guidelines thoroughly and check your eligibility. Terms underlined in black appear in the website glossary.
- Review the [online application form](#) – make sure you have all required documents ready to be submitted with the application.
- Make sure your application addresses the Assessment Criteria.

### **Ready to start your application?**

Reach out to our [Incentives team](#) to discuss your project