



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA

SLATE DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2026-2027

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Section 1 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#) shall apply to the Slate Development Pilot Program Guidelines, unless otherwise specified.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In addition to the requirements set out in these Guidelines, Applicants must comply with (i) the applicable rules and requirements of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#) and (ii) the applicable policies and definitions in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#).

The Slate Development Pilot Program (the “**Program**” or “**SDPP**”) is a pilot initiative designed to offer more flexibility to Applicants and allow them to choose and fund their English and French development Projects without the requirement of an attached Canadian Broadcaster (or other entity that can unlock CMF funding).

Beginning in 2026-2027, the following changes have been made to this Program:

- The number of Projects an Applicant can commit their Slate Development Envelope Allocation to has increased from three (3) to five (5) Projects (see below);
- Track Record Applicants and Alternative Access Applicants may reapply for additional funding under certain circumstances (see section 3.1 and 4.1); and
- Lower required worldwide sales for Alternative Access Applicants (see Addendum A).

Applicants are awarded funding through this Program through a Slate Development Envelope (**SDE**) Allocation. They are entitled to commit their SDE Allocations to the development of up to five (5) Eligible Projects and may determine how their SDE Allocations are distributed between each Project.

Applicants that are awarded an SDE Allocation will receive 100% of the Allocation paid on signature of their contract with the CMF. In order for the CMF to track the specific amounts spent and confirm eligibility of each Project, successful Applicants will need to submit a separate SDPP final report for each Project funded by their SDE Allocations before the end of the thirty (30) month period (as detailed in section 4.1 below). Any funds remaining in an SDE Allocation for which the CMF has not received a SDPP final report by the deadline will be removed and the funds will be returned to the CMF.

The Program will fund two separate pools of Eligible Applicants with two distinct processes:

- Applicants that **have** (i) the required track record of CMF-funded projects and (ii) CMF-reported gross sales during the Program’s eligibility window outlined in section 3.1 below and Addendum A (**Track Record Applicants**). Track Record Applicants will not compete in a selective process.
- Applicants that **do not have** (i) the required track record of CMF-funded projects and (ii) CMF-reported gross sales during the Program’s eligibility window outlined in section 3.1 below and Addendum A (**Alternative Access Applicants**). Alternative Access Applicants must meet the separate criteria outlined in section 3.1 and Addendum A and will be evaluated through a selective process that will occur in two stages:

Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming, In-house Programming, Projects with an existing commitment or attachment from a Canadian Broadcaster (all these terms are defined in [Appendix A](#)), returning series, and purchased formats are not eligible in this Program.

The CMF total budget allocation for the Program is broken down as follows:

- Track Record Applicants¹: 2/3
- Alternative Access Applicants²: 1/3

¹ Funding will be awarded until the Track Record Applicants budget is depleted.

² Funding will be awarded based on how recommended Alternative Access Applicants (from the Preliminary Evaluation process) score in the Main Evaluation process.

At least 25% of the funds in this Program will be reserved for Applicant companies where the shareholder(s) meet the definition of either Diverse Community or Official Language Minority Communities (see section 2.2 and [Appendix A](#)).

2.2 DEFINITIONS

Please see [Appendix A](#) for definitions on the following terms found in these Program Guidelines:

- Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming
- Canadian Broadcaster
- In-house Programming
- Diverse Community
- Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC)
- Related Party

In addition to the definitions noted above, this Program has specifically earmarked funds reserved for **Diverse Community and Official Language Minority Community Owners**. In order to qualify for these specific reserved funds, Eligible Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 100% of the Applicant company's ownership is retained by an individual producer (or multiple producers) that is a member of that Community (as defined in [Appendix A](#)) (the "**Community Owner**").
- The **Community Owner** exercises full creative, executive, artistic, technical and financial control of the Applicant company and Projects developed and produced.
- The **Community Owner** will initiate and will continue to meaningfully participate in the Projects development.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An Eligible Applicant to the Program must meet:

- The Eligible Applicant criteria in section 3.1 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#);
- Any applicable specific eligibility criteria noted in this section; and
- Any applicable further requirements/qualifications noted in Addendum A below.

Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming are not eligible for this Program.

For the purposes of these Guidelines, while the term Applicant *includes* all Related Parties (defined in [Appendix A](#)) associated, affiliated or parent companies and/or individuals (as determined by the CMF at its sole discretion), as applicable, it *excludes* all co-applicants and only the primary Applicant that meets the minimum qualifications listed in section 3.1 will be considered eligible for this Program.

An Eligible Track Record Applicant:

- a. has received a funding commitment from the CMF in the past five (5) Program years (2021-2022 to 2025-2026) for at least:
 - one (1) development project and one (1) production project; **OR**
 - two (2) production projects.

AND

- b. meets the applicable minimum CMF-reported gross sales³ requirement noted in Addendum A.

Please note, a Track Record Applicant that previously received a SDE Allocation from the Program is eligible for a new SDE Allocation in the same genre if at least one (1) of their Projects that used the previous SDE Allocation has moved to production and has reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance.

Additionally, beginning in 2026-2027, Track Record Applicants that previously received a SDE Allocation under the Children and Youth or Documentary genres may submit a new application to the SDPP under the Drama genre, provided **ONLY** Drama programming Projects are used to meet requirements a. and b. above.

An Eligible Alternative Access Applicant:

- a. meets the applicable requirements/qualifications noted in Addendum A.

Additionally, beginning in 2026-2027, Alternative Access Applicants that received an allocation from the SDPP – Alternative Access in a previous year are only eligible for a new SDE Allocation if at least one (1) of their Projects that used the previous SDE Allocation has moved to production and they have reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance.

³Please note only the Applicant's gross sales reports noted in CMF's "[Dialogue](#)" portal will be the tools used for validation. Telefilm Canada, the CMF Program Administrator (CMFPA) for this Program, will confirm gross sales as reported in Dialogue for the time period noted above. A CMF Applicant has a contractual obligation to provide the CMF with a complete gross sales report regarding the distribution of any CMF-funded Project, at the intervals specified in the Applicant's CMF Financing Agreement. The reporting obligation commences once the Phase II Payment has been disbursed.

If the minimum reported gross sales requirement for the required time period was not available in **Dialogue by December 31, 2025**, the Applicant will need to apply through the Alternative Access Applicant portion of the Program.

3.2 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

An Eligible Project to the Program must meet:

- The Eligible Project criteria in section 3.2 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#);
- Any applicable specific eligibility criteria noted in this section; and
- Any applicable further requirements/qualifications noted in Addendum A below.

An Eligible Project must be a new project that has not received any previous CMF funding or received financing from any third-party financier.

3.2.1 Eligible Market Commitment Requirements and Conditions

In lieu of the requirements in section 3.2.4 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#), Eligible Projects in this Program must meet the criteria noted in Addendum A below.

4. CMF CONTRIBUTION

A CMF Contribution to an Eligible Project must meet:

- The criteria in section 4 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#); and
- Any applicable specific criteria noted in this section.

4.1 AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

Track Record Applicant⁴:

- \$75,000 (Children and Youth or Documentary)
- \$100,000 (Drama)
- Returning Applicants from previous years who have submitted SDPP final reports and are not in default with the CMF are eligible to apply for the lesser of \$100,000 or the amount reimbursed from the original SDE Allocation, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements set out in Addendum A.
- Returning Applicants from previous years receiving a new SDE Allocation may be eligible for an additional \$25,000 if 100% of the original SDE Allocation was reimbursed and subject to the availability of funds, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements set out in Addendum A.

While successful Applicants may commit their SDE Allocations to up to five (5) Eligible Projects, the Maximum Contribution for each Eligible Project funded through this Program shall be no more than 84% of the Project's Eligible Costs.

Applicants will be required to submit a SDPP final report with the details of the costs per Project within thirty (30) months of receiving their SDE Allocations.

Alternative Access Applicant:

- \$75,000
- Returning Applicants from previous years who have submitted SDPP final reports and are not in default with the CMF are eligible to apply for the lesser of \$75,000 or the amount reimbursed from the original SDE Allocation, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements set out in Addendum A.

While successful Applicants may commit their SDE Allocations to up to five (5) Eligible Projects, the Maximum Contribution for each Eligible Project funded through this Program shall be no more than 84% of the Project's Eligible Costs.

Applicants will be required to submit a SDPP final report with the details of the costs per Project within thirty (30) months of receiving their SDE Allocations.

4.2 COMBINING FUNDS

An Eligible Project must be a new project that has not received any previous CMF funding or received financing from any third-party financier.

Projects that receive funding through this Program, however, may subsequently be submitted to CMF Development and Production Programs. It is important to note that any funding a Project receives through this Program, in addition to funding available through other CMF Programs, is required to be included in that Project's final development and/or production budget and financial structure.

⁴For Diverse Community or OLMC Owners, please see the specific amounts in Addendum A.

5. DECISION PROCESS

5.1 TRACK RECORD APPLICANTS

Track Record Applicants must submit documentation to allow eligibility assessment by the CMF's Program Administrator (CMFPA) at Telefilm Canada. After validation of meeting the minimum Program eligibility criteria from the CMFPA, funding will be automatically awarded to Applicants.

5.2 ALTERNATIVE ACCESS APPLICANTS

Alternative Access Applicants must submit documentation to allow eligibility assessment by the CMFPA for both the Preliminary Evaluation and Main Evaluation.

5.2.1 Preliminary Evaluation

In the Preliminary Evaluation for Alternative Access Applicants, the CMFPA will review the annual growth in gross revenue based on the three (3) most recent fiscal years financial statements⁵. In the same fiscal years, Applicants must also demonstrate its average Earnings Before Tax (EBT) is positive. A maximum of forty (40) companies that demonstrate the highest level of annual increases (%) in their average gross revenue will advance to the Main Evaluation Process.

5.2.2 Main Evaluation

Once an Eligible Applicant is recommended from the Preliminary Evaluation, SDE Allocations will be awarded based on how Alternative Access Applicants score (according to the Evaluation Criteria below) in the Main Evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
<p>Applicant Company and Production Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production and industry experience of the Applicant company and its team (<i>Maximum two(2) page description of key positions on the development and production team, with short biographical notes</i>) (20)• Track record of Applicant company in completing and delivering productions (both CMF and non-CMF) and success in reaching audiences (25)• Track record of Applicant company in developing, producing, and delivering projects in the genre being applied for in this Program (15) <p><u>(Gross Sales Declaration and Recently Completed Productions Form available on the CMF's website)</u></p>	60%
<p>Business Plan and Slate Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Description of goals, objectives, vision and articulation of a Business Plan (40) <p><u>(Form available on the CMF's website)</u></p>	40%

⁵Specifically, non-consolidated financial statements (excluding subsidiary(ies) of the Applicant and acquisitions/mergers of other companies). The CMF will only accept statements from the following years: 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026.



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ADDENDUM A

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM

REQUIREMENTS

2026-2027

ALLOCATION OPTION	LANGUAGE	CMF GENRE (see Appendix A)	MINIMUM CMF-REPORTED GROSS SALES ⁶	OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
TRACK RECORD APPLICANT	ENGLISH	Children and Youth AND / OR Documentary	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipients of a SDE Allocation in previous years must have started principal photography of at least one (1) project developed through their previous SDE Allocation and have reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance. Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vast majority in English
		Drama	\$1,000,000	
	FRENCH	Children and Youth AND / OR Documentary	\$35,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipients of a SDE Allocation in previous years must have started principal photography of at least one (1) project developed through their previous SDE Allocation and have reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance. Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vast majority in French
		Drama	\$750,000	
TRACK RECORD APPLICANT (that is also a Community Owner) ⁷	ENGLISH, FRENCH OR INDIGENOUS	Children and Youth AND / OR Documentary AND / OR Drama	\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipients of a SDE Allocation in previous years must have started principal photography of at least one (1) project developed through their previous SDE Allocation and have reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance. Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English, French or an Indigenous⁸ language

⁶ For project(s) from 2021 to 2025 (calendar years). In the case of domestic coproductions, the CMF will calculate the SDPP Applicant's Gross Sales in proportion to the Applicant's percentage of copyright in the Project(s).

⁷ The CMF will rely on the [PERSONA-ID](#) information in the application to confirm the Diverse Community or OLMC Owner.

⁸ First Nations, Inuit, or Métis.

ALLOCATION OPTION	LANGUAGE	CMF GENRE (see Appendix A)	MINIMUM CMF-REPORTED GROSS SALES ⁶	OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
ALTERNATIVE ACCESS APPLICANT	ENGLISH, FRENCH	Children & Youth AND / OR Documentary AND / OR Drama	N/A (see OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA column)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipients of a SDE Allocation in previous years must have started principal photography of at least one (1) project developed through their previous SDE Allocation and have reimbursed the CMF that portion of the advance. Applicants must submit the three (3) most recent non-consolidated financial statements (excluding subsidiary(ies) of the Applicant and any acquisitions/mergers of other companies). The CMF will only accept statements from the following years: 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026, which must demonstrate the following financial requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An annual growth in gross revenue over the four (4) year period presented in the Applicant's three (3) most recent fiscal years. 2. For the same period as mentioned above, the Applicant must demonstrate its average Earnings Before Tax (EBT) is positive. Applicants must demonstrate sales in a minimum of one (1) territory throughout the world, between 2020 and 2025.⁹

⁹ Sales must be confirmed by long form acquisition agreements and/or distributors' sales reports. Please note that a distribution agreement will not be accepted in lieu of a distributor sales report.