



Industry Development Program

Program Guidelines

About the program

The Industry Development Program provides support for organisations to deliver one-off or annual professional development and upskilling initiatives to NSW screen and digital games practitioners. These initiatives may include workshops, masterclasses, forums, labs and targeted professional development activities.

The purpose of the Industry Development Program is to fund skilled organisations to deliver viable and innovative training opportunities to emerging and mid-year screen and digital games professionals, meet industry needs and promote sustainable sector practices in NSW.

The Industry Development Program will open 2 funding rounds during 2026/27. Applications may be submitted at any time during the relevant funding round dates and must address all assessment criteria. Applications will be assessed within the periods outlined in these guidelines and published on the Screen NSW website.

Key information

- Funding amount: \$5,000 - \$150,000
- Applications open: Friday 19 June 2026, 10am (AEST)
- Applications close: Thursday 16 July 2026, 2pm (AEST)
- Application outcome date: Within 9 weeks of application close date
- Designated Decision-Maker: Executive Director, Screen NSW (or their financial delegate)
- Grant opportunity type: Open, competitive
- [Program page](#)
- [Apply here](#).

Funding Rounds

Applications to the Industry Development Program are competitively assessed across 2 funding rounds during 2026/27. Applications received within the following funding rounds will be assessed together after the relevant closing dates.

Please note that assessment periods cannot be expedited.

Round	Eligible Applications	Open Date	Close Date	Assessment Period	Applicants Notified
1	Multi-Year AND Single Year Applications	19 Jun 2026	16 Jul 2026	17 Jul – 17 Aug 2026	W/c 7 Sep 2026
2	Single Year Applications	1 Dec 2026	18 Feb 2027	20 Feb – 23 Mar 2027	W/c 12 Apr 2027

Round 1

Round 1 is open to applicants seeking Multi-Year or Single Year funding.

Initiatives funded through successful Round 1 applications must commence between 15 September 2026 and 30 June 2027.

Round 2

Round 2 is open only to applicants seeking Single Year funding.

Initiatives funded through successful Round 2 applications must commence between 15 April 2027 and 13 September 2027.

Program objectives

The objectives of the Industry Development Program are to:

- Deliver a dynamic and inclusive range of professional development opportunities to emerging and mid-career screen and digital games practitioners across NSW
- Contribute to the growth of a skilled, sustainable and globally competitive screen and digital games industry in the state
- Support employment, professional networks and long-term career pathways for NSW-based practitioners through targeted funding for professional development and career advancement initiatives
- Strengthen the capability and capacity of skilled screen and digital games organisations operating across the state

- Fund skilled organisations to continue to seek, foster and strengthen the upskilling of the next generation of screen and digital games practitioners
- Promote collaboration, business development and strategic partnerships across the screen and digital games sectors
- Bolster initiatives that promote upskilling, innovation and adoption of best practices among NSW screen and digital games practitioners
- Increase upskilling opportunities for practitioners from the NSW Government key priority areas:
 - o Regional NSW
 - o Western Sydney
 - o First Nations people
 - o People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - o People living with disability
 - o LGBTQIA+ people.

The Industry Development Program is funded and administered by Screen NSW, a division within the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport (DCITHS).

Eligibility criteria

Who can apply

To be eligible for funding under the Industry Development Program, applicants must:

- Be an Australian organisation, including:
 - o Companies and not-for-profit incorporated bodies
 - o Co-operatives, trusts or local government authorities
 - o A consortium or a group of organisations working collaboratively*
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Be legally constituted and able to provide proof of legal status
- Adhere to general eligibility requirements under the Screen NSW [Terms of Trade](#).

**In the case of a consortium or group of organisations working collaboratively, one eligible organisation must be nominated as the lead organisation. If successful, the funding grant agreement will be between Screen NSW and the lead organisation.*

Who cannot apply

Funding under the Industry Development Program is not open to:

- Individuals or groups of individuals
- Partnerships

- Unincorporated organisations
- Government departments and agencies
- Primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions and TAFE colleges
- Previous NSW Government grant recipients who have not fulfilled funding conditions and/or who are overdue in acquitting prior funding.

Eligible proposals

Funding is available for initiatives that deliver dynamic and innovative upskilling opportunities for emerging and mid-career NSW screen and digital game practitioners.

Eligible one-off or annual initiatives may include:

- Workshops
- Masterclasses
- Forums or industry conferences
- Talent or project development labs
- Targeted professional development and upskilling activities.

Funding

The minimum funding amount under the Industry Development Program is \$5,000.

Applicants are expected to secure other sources of financial and/or in-kind support wherever feasible, such as from sponsorships, grants or subsidies from other agencies, revenue from ticket sales, fundraising and other activities.

Applications that do not include other sources of financial and/or in-kind support to deliver their initiative are not typically considered as competitive.

Funding amounts requested by applicants should be reasonable and relative to the proposed initiative and benefit to NSW screen and digital games practitioners.

Applicants can request Single Year or Multi-Year funding.

Single Year

Applicants requesting Single Year funding can apply to either funding round.

Funding above \$10,000 is generally not available for a Single Year initiative.

However, applicants requesting Single Year funding over \$10,000 may be considered if their application can demonstrate:

- A program of eligible initiatives to be delivered
- Initiatives that have a significant benefit to one or more NSW Government key priority areas.

Multi-Year

Applicants seeking Multi-Year funding **must** apply to Round 1.

Applications for **Multi-Year** funding cover initiatives occurring over multiple financial years, and eligible applicants can seek either 2-year or 3-year funding). Multi-Year funding is capped at \$150,000 per financial year. However, grants to most applicants are typically in the range of \$10,000 - \$35,000 per financial year.

Multi-Year funding has two application tiers: Tier 1 for lower amounts (up to \$35,000 p.a.) and Tier 2 for higher amounts (\$35,001 to \$150,000 p.a.). Applicants applying to either tier must have a proven funding history with Screen NSW.

Please refer to the *Organisational Capacity* section of the Assessment Criteria for additional requirements for organisations seeking Multi-Year funding.

What you cannot apply for

Funding for the Industry Development Program is not available for the following screen or digital games proposals:

- Publications or magazines, including podcasts (online or print)
- Development, production, or distribution of content
- General operational costs for events or organisations
- Business development activities for organisations
- Business travel to festivals or markets
- Awards or competition component of a film festival or initiative
- Activities that have also received funding from Screen NSW's Audience Development Program for the same initiative in the same financial year
- Festivals or exhibiting content
- Conventions or expos
- School-focused programs.

Selection criteria

Eligible applications are evaluated against a common set of five weighted Assessment Criteria:

Project merit (25%)

Applications should include:

- A clear outline and rationale for the initiative including evidence of the need or demand for the initiative, delivery partners and proposed delivery location/s

- Information about the personnel who will deliver the initiative including details of their roles, relevant experience and key achievements
- Key initiative details including proposed activities, milestones and dates
- A clear explanation of how the requested funding will be used to achieve initiative objectives
- Quality and viability of the proposal i.e., whether the initiative fulfils an industry need
- Key result areas, indicators and targets for the initiative.

Industry development and participation (25%)

Applications should demonstrate:

- Well-developed strategies for engaging NSW screen practitioners in high-quality and innovative professional development initiatives i.e., workshops, networking opportunities, capacity building labs
- Justification for why the initiative should be regarded as a priority for funding i.e., creating diverse training opportunities that screen practitioners would otherwise not have access to
- Appropriate measures to assess the success of these strategies and to integrate knowledge gained into the design of future industry initiatives.

Benefits (20%)

Applications should identify how the initiative will:

- Build the capacity of NSW screen practitioners
- Provide NSW screen practitioners with access to innovative professional development and upskilling opportunities
- Increase industry participation opportunities for screen practitioners from one or more of the NSW Government key priority areas.

Please note that when an application is received from an applicant located outside of NSW, the initiative must be delivered in NSW and/or have a direct and strong benefit for NSW residents.

Organisational capacity (20%)

Applications should provide information regarding the applicant's organisational capacity to deliver the initiative, including:

- An outline of the core business, aims and objectives of the organisation
- An outline of the experience and expertise of the organisation as it relates to the initiative
- Comprehensive details of the organisation including board or committee, staff and governance arrangements
- Financial information for the previous year (actual) and current year (estimated)
- Evidence of the organisation's legal status
- Proven experience in successfully delivering similar industry development initiatives
- Evidence of specialist screen or digital games industry experience.

Multi-Year – Additional Assessment Criteria

Multi-Year – Tier 1

To be considered for Multi-Year Tier 1 funding (up to \$35,000) applicants must:

- Demonstrate a strong track record of outcomes in delivering related initiatives of scale
- Have successfully received and acquitted funding from Screen NSW in three of the last five years.

Multi-Year – Tier 2

To be considered for Multi-Year Tier 2 funding (\$35,001 to \$150,000) applicants must:

- Demonstrate an outstanding track record of outcomes in delivering related initiatives of scale
- Have successfully received and acquitted grant funding from Screen NSW in three of the last five years
- Have a proven impact on the NSW screen and digital games sector.

Budget (10%)

Screen NSW is seeking budgets that demonstrate value for money.

The budget should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the initiative is cost effective, includes realistic income and expenditure targets and makes adequate provision for insurance and other liabilities. Explanatory notes should be used where needed.

Recurring initiatives must include previous year's budget actuals. Screen NSW funding is considered a partial contribution to the initiative and applicants must provide a finance plan indicating other financial and in-kind support available to deliver the project, substantiated by supporting documentation. Please refer to the template budget link in the application form.

The level of funding sought must reflect the initiative's size and benefits to the NSW screen and digital games sector.

Application process

Screen NSW uses the SmartyGrants platform for submission of all applications. Applications made using any other format will not be accepted.

A preview of the application form can be viewed on the [SmartyGrants portal](#).

Late applications

Late applications due to technical difficulties will be reviewed and eligibility determined with absolute discretion by the Manager, Industry & Audience Development, Screen NSW.

A request for late submission due to technical difficulties must be submitted by email to industry@screen.nsw.gov.au within 60 minutes of the application close time, setting out the reasons for the request, along with any evidence.

What to include in your application

With regard to the Assessment Criteria, applicants must prepare responses to all questions and submit all core materials listed on the application form, including:

- Description and rationale of initiative, including any proposed delivery partners
- Demonstrated demand for initiative
- Initiative engagement and participation, including target demographics and inclusion of any NSW Government key priority areas
- Location/s for delivering the initiative
- Budget, including other sources of financial and/or in-kind support
- Organisational capacity to deliver initiative, including key team members
- Marketing strategy and target participants
- Milestones, outcomes, and key performance indicators
- Relevant support material (see information below)
- Additional application materials if seeking Multi-Year Funding (see information further below).

Support material

Support material plays a vital role in how we understand and assess applications. Please submit high-quality support material that is concise, current and directly relevant to the proposed initiative.

Support material for proposals involving the First Nations arts and cultural sector and/or First Nations people, organisations and cultural material must include letters of support and confirmation of involvement from the relevant communities and/or organisations (see [NSW Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols](#)).

Other support material may include:

- A program of activities
- Relevant and recent examples of delivering similar initiatives
- A brief biography or CV for any screen practitioners or key collaborators involved in the initiative (maximum one A4 page per person)
- Confirmation letters and/or letters of support related to your initiative (provided as one document), such as from partners, venues, key sector contacts or other funding agencies.

Please submit support material in the amount and format required, including:

- Combined files not exceeding 25MB
- Up to five minutes of video or audio recording
- No zipped or compressed files
- Documents in PDF format where possible
- Links for externally hosted work only.

Multi-Year – Additional support materials

Applicants seeking Multi-Year funding must also provide:

- A business plan that demonstrates the applicant organisation's viability for the period of funding (2 or 3 years) including other sources of funding and the most recent annual report (which must contain most recent financial statement)
- A detailed budget of proposed initiatives and activities over the requested funding periods
- A Strategic Plan outlining:
 - o The proposed initiatives and activities over the requested funding periods
 - o Mission and Vision statements.

What happens after you apply

When an application has been submitted, applicants will receive an email from our secure online grants system, SmartyGrants, confirming receipt of your application.

Please note that applicants cannot edit or modify an application once it has been submitted.

Assessment process

Eligibility

Applications will be initially assessed by Screen NSW staff to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria, and that all application materials are acceptable. Applications deemed ineligible will not proceed to the formal assessment process.

Screen NSW will inform all ineligible applicants via email within 14 days of this outcome.

Assessment and Recommendations

Eligible applications will proceed to formal assessment by an assessment team, which includes a minimum of one Screen NSW staff member and at least two external industry subject matter experts.

Grant funding allocation under the Industry Development Program follows a competitive process. This means that the assessment team evaluates applications against the:

- Assessment criteria
- Strength of other applications
- Availability of Screen NSW funds.

The assessment team will assess and score applications individually, before meeting to discuss the overall applicant pool and identifying a shortlist of recommended successful applications. All applications are based on their overall score and recommended in order of ranking.

Decision and Approval

The assessment team will recommend successful applicants to the designated decision-maker, Executive Director, Screen NSW (or their financial delegate).

The designated decision-maker will review, consider and approve successful applications based on these recommendations.

All applicants will be informed of their application outcome via email.

Timing

The assessment process will take up to 9 weeks from the application closing date.

Screen NSW aims to notify all Round 1 applicants of their application outcome by week commencing 17 September 2026.

Award process

Successful applicants must enter into, and abide by the terms of, a funding grant agreement with Screen NSW, which will include all deliverables and acquittal requirements in addition to the process for dealing with any variations to the funded initiative.

For **Single Year** applications, funding will usually be paid in one lump sum per financial year upon receipt of a signed funding grant agreement and valid tax invoice. Funding amounts over \$25,000 may require additional reporting and multiple drawdown payments.

Multi-Year applications will receive an initial payment on receipt of a signed funding grant agreement and valid tax invoice for a specified amount but may require additional reporting to trigger future drawdown payments for annual funding amounts over \$25,000. In subsequent funding years, payment of the first drawdown will happen at a specified time and following receipt and approval of acquittals and forward plans (if required).

Screen NSW will not enter into a funding grant agreement with an organisation who has not acquitted any previous funding or is in breach of any funding obligations it has with the NSW Government.

Variations

Any variations to the funding grant agreement, including project scope or activities, location or timeframes outlined in the application form and Grant Guidelines must be submitted in writing for approval from Screen NSW. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of the grant offer.

Screen NSW has the discretion to approve or reject any written variation request from a grantee where the funding grant agreement has already been executed.

To submit a variation request, or if you are unsure if your enquiry qualifies as a variation, please contact the Industry and Audience Development Team via email at industry@screen.nsw.gov.au.

Acquittals and final reporting

After delivering the initiative and before the end of the funding period, successful applicants must provide a final acquittal report detailing the outcomes of the initiative. Specific acquittal materials will be identified in the funding grant agreement between Screen NSW and the successful applicant, but will typically include:

- Overview of initiative
- Engagement with target participants and any NSW Government key priority area
- Delivery locations
- NSW employment outcomes relevant to delivering the initiative, including volunteers
- Budget (actuals)
- Evaluation of initiative compared to identified outcomes and key performance indicators
- Marketing and publicity.

All acquittal materials and final reports must be submitted via SmartyGrants.

Failure to comply with any acquittal and reporting requirements may impact an organisation's eligibility to apply for future Screen NSW funding.

Publication of grants information

The NSW Government Grants Administration Guide (Guide) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the funding grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide).

This information is also open access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the funding awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the funding grant agreement is executed.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).

Support and contact

We encourage you to discuss your proposal and funding expectation with us prior to making your application.

Screen NSW staff are available to provide technical advice and general information to potential applicants on the interpretation of the grant guidelines, including the types of initiatives eligible for funding and support with the online application process.

Screen NSW staff cannot help directly with your application. To maintain a fair and equitable process, staff cannot edit or correct any applications or provide advice on the content or choices required against the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Industry and Audience Development Team via email at industry@screen.nsw.gov.au.

Conflict of Interest Management

Any conflicts of interest will be managed in accordance with the Guide.

A conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, may be identified if staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel has:

- A professional, commercial, or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process
- A relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- A relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation received funding under the program.

If you identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest at any time, you must inform Screen NSW immediately via email at industry@screen.nsw.gov.au.

NSW Government staff, committee members and other officials including the decision maker must declare any conflicts of interest and ensure they are managed as per DCITHS's Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Guide.

Complaint handling, access to information and privacy

Details on how Screen NSW handles complaints, access to information and your private information is available at:



<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/policies-plans-and-procedures/access-to-information/agency-information-guide>