

# California Film Commission PRODUCTION ALERT

**DATE: January 4, 2021**

**Upcoming Application Window (Indie & Non-Indie Films): January 25-27, 2021**

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FILMS: Indies and Non-Indies

### 1. Non-Independent Films (Non-Transferable Tax Credit)

- Credit will apply to a maximum qualified spend of \$100 million (no total budget cap)

### 2. Independent Films (Transferable Tax Credit)

- Credit will apply to a maximum qualified spend of \$10 million (no total budget cap)

An "Independent Film" means a film with a minimum production budget of \$1,000,000 that is produced by a company that is not publicly traded and that publicly traded companies do not own more than 25% of the producing company. While there is no budget cap, credits apply only to the first \$10,000,000 of qualified expenditures. An independent film must have a running time of at least 75 minutes and be intended for commercial distribution to a motion picture theater, home video, television or via the internet. Independent films may be made-for-television movies, but cannot be mini-series or TV series, due to the running time requirement.

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## JOBS RATIO RANKING

Applications are ranked within categories (Indie Films vs. other Indie Films) based upon their [Jobs Ratio](#) score.

For historical reference only, below are the lowest adjusted jobs ratios for the projects that received a reservation of credits during the August 17, 2020 credit allocation window for indie and non-indie feature film projects:

Independent Feature Films > \$10m: **7.23944**

Independent Feature Films ≤ \$10m: **3.43779**

Non-Independent Feature Film: **4.15102**

The jobs ratio numbers quoted above are based on applications received during prior application periods. These numbers should not be relied upon as a guaranteed jobs ratio minimum in future application periods. Applicants are measured against their specific applicant pool and as such, each jobs ratio minimum is specific to those types of productions during a specific allocation period.

**Be sure to download the [Jobs Ratio Calculator](#).** This tool is available to assist you in determining your Jobs Ratio.

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## ONLINE APPLICATION

**The portal will go live Monday, January 25 at 8:00 a.m. and close on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

Applicants should begin to prepare their budget and materials early. You will need a completed and tagged budget in order to fill out the application. Projects that rank in the top 200% (double the number of projects for which

funding is available) will be notified by January 28, 2021 to submit Phase II documents. Applicants should prepare all materials listed in the Checklist as you will be required to submit these within three days if your application is selected.

The **Application Checklist and Tips** are located on the [Application](#) page in the tax credit program section of the CFC website. All Phase II applicants will need to fill out and submit the [Fringe Matrix](#) form which details the fringe percentages in their submitted budgets. All budgeted aggregate fringes must correspond to the amounts in the Fringe Matrix; overstatement of fringe amounts is not permissible. Be sure to carefully read the [Budget/Tagging Instructions](#) so that you can accurately tag your budget. Pay close attention to box rentals and car allowances. The methodology and tagging to determine uplifts and bonus points have been modified, for both independent and non-independent categories, from the methodology utilized in Program 2.0.

[Non-Independent Application Checklist](#)  
[Independent Application Checklist](#)

Qualified expenditure budgets should reflect qualified expenditures on or after March 1, 2021 as Credit Allocation Letters will be issued on March 1.

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

The California Film Commission website provides informational documents listed below to assist tax credit applicants during the application process. Applicants are strongly advised to review each document prior to project budgeting and scheduling.

[Guidelines](#)  
[Regulations](#)  
[Budget, Tagging, & Tracking Tips](#)  
[Qualified Expenditure Charts](#)  
[Jobs Ratio Calculator](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## **About the California Film Commission**

The California Film Commission (CFC) enhances California's status as the leader in motion picture, television and commercial production.

A one-stop office for filmmakers, the Commission supports productions of all sizes and budgets. In addition to managing the Film & Television Tax Credit program, services include an extensive digital location library, free online permitting, low cost use of state properties as shooting locations, and production assistance.

### PUBLISHED BY



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