

NZ Media Fund: December 2019 funding round

Information for funding applicants - Scripted and Factual



A. Purpose

This information is for producers intending to make a funding application to the Scripted or Factual streams of the NZ Media Fund for the December round. In an environment where there are more applications than available funding, we want to show you how to submit an application and how it will be assessed.

B. Introduction

NZ On Air's funding strategy is founded on core public media principles. These include enriching the New Zealand cultural experience, improving diversity of media content in many forms, ensuring content is accessible, strengthening community life, and promoting informed debate. Our publicly-funded content may entertain and it will add cultural value.

For more detail on the strategy underpinning the NZ Media Fund please read the [Funding Strategy](#).

The general guidelines for Factual and Scripted funding applicants can be found [here](#).

The information and expectations document which we provide to assist commissioning platforms can be read [here](#).

C. December funding round priorities and timeline

The December round is for production applications intended to appeal to **general** audiences.

This is the third funding round of the financial year, which means we have already had two significant rounds for general and targeted audiences. These first two rounds alone will likely see 70% of the Factual and around 90% of the Scripted budgets committed.

Given the limited remaining funding available the March and May 2020 rounds will be specific about the types of applications we are seeking. Please see paragraph E for an indication of the focus of these rounds.



Factual. A priority focus of the December round will be Factual projects that deal with **climate change**. We have set aside approximately **\$1.5m** of the additional Crown funding received in Budget 2019 to support **one or two** high-end Documentary series that examine this pressing global issue from a New Zealand and/or Pacific perspective. **Proposals that focus on youth response and action are encouraged.** We would expect the supported projects to have a linear broadcast outcome as part of the distribution plan but are also keen to see joint or cross platform initiatives that would enable this content to be seen and engaged with by a wide audience.

In addition to the \$1.5m set aside for climate change project/s we anticipate committing up to \$6m in December.

Factual genres for this round include Current Affairs, Documentary, Information, and Events.

For Development we will consider significant Factual projects with platform support.



Scripted. Given the high percentage of the annual Scripted budget that will have been committed, and the high number of projects currently in development, this will be a small round that is prioritised for Newer Storyteller comedy and drama projects which have platform support. See our [Scripted Roadmap, para 10.3](#) for further details. A likely total of up to \$2m is available for these projects.

We will only be accepting Development applications for *existing* Scripted projects with platform support that are applying for advanced development.

We are unable to consider any further Diverse Development projects for the remainder of this financial year.

Timeline:

6 September 2019, 4pm Round open for applications.

All applications must be made through NZ On Air's [online application system](#). Applications not submitted through this system will not be accepted.

17 October 2019, 4pm Application deadline. Round closes.

Late applications will not be considered. In exceptional circumstances, for time-sensitive projects agreed prior by the Head of Funding or Acting Head of Funding, we may consider an out of time application.

5 December 2019 Decisions confirmed, applicants notified the following day. This date may be extended at NZ On Air's sole discretion.

D. General Guidelines

Information on NZ Media Fund general guidelines and how to make a funding application can be seen [here](#).

E. Upcoming Rounds

Round	Round Focus
Jan/Mar	Deadline: 16 January 2020
Factual	Closed round. Only Te Māngai Pāho Co-fund applications being considered. Applications to be submitted via Te Pūahatanga .
Scripted	Closed round. No Scripted applications considered.
Mar/May	Deadline: 19 March 2020
Factual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Likely up to \$2.2m for Many Perspectives and Fresh Opportunities projects – see Factual Roadmap here.We hope to be able to reconsider a small number of previously submitted HEIHEI Children's applications. Further details will follow in early 2020.Likely up to \$1.5m of the additional Crown funding received in Budget 2019 to support Quality Journalism. Further details will follow in early 2020.
Scripted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Closed round. We hope to be able to reconsider a small number of previously submitted HEIHEI Children's applications. Further details will follow in early 2020.

Development

The Development slate will be reviewed in the next 2 months in consultation with platforms with a view to retiring projects that have little chance of proceeding into production in the current environment. Once this process has been completed, we will announce if we can consider any further types of Development projects for the balance of the financial year.