

Introduction

[Washington Filmworks](#) (WF) is the private non-profit organization that manages the Production Incentive Program (often referred to as the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program) as well as a variety of resources for the creative industries in Washington State. WF's mission is to create economic development opportunities by building and enhancing the competitiveness, profile, and sustainability of Washington State's film industry.

The legislature passed [ESHB 1914](#) during the 2022 legislative session which allows the Production Incentive Program to offer enhanced incentives if a production is filming in a rural county and/or telling the story of a historically underrepresented community.

About Enhanced Incentives (maximum 10%)

To qualify for an enhanced incentive, the production must also be applying for the Production Incentive Program or the Small Budget Production Initiative, and the qualified production must spend a minimum of \$500,000 for motion pictures, \$300,000 per episode for episodic series, and \$150,000 for commercials.

At no time will a qualified production receive more than a 10% enhanced incentive.

- In the event that a qualified production is telling the story of a historically underrepresented community and filming in a rural county, WF will allow for a maximum of a 10% incentive enhancement on all qualified Washington production expenses.

Enhanced Incentive for Filming in Rural Counties

To qualify for an enhanced incentive for filming in a rural county a qualified production must:

- Disclose, in the application, the rural county or counties where they intend to film. A list of rural counties can be found on the Washington State's Office of Financial Management [website](#).
 - WF defines "located or filmed in a rural county" as a minimum of 50% of Washington State principal photography production days filmed in a rural county.
- Work with WF and the rural community to provide marketing collateral such as, but not limited to, behind the scenes photos and interviews with usable sound-bites for community outlets, pull-quotes for community promotional materials, social media collateral, and screening of the project within the community.

If a qualified production meets the criteria listed above and meets the in-state spending thresholds, WF will provide an additional 10% on all qualified Washington State production expenses incurred inside and outside the rural county.

Telling the Story of Historically Underrepresented Communities

To qualify for an enhanced incentive for telling the story of historically underrepresented communities, a qualified production must:

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- Identify, during the application process, whether their project tells the story of a historically underrepresented community or communities.
 - If the applicant identifies their project as telling the story of a historically underrepresented community or communities, they will be prompted to address the following items in a narrative section of the application:
 - Provide a description of the historically underrepresented community or communities featured in the project's script, storyboards, and/or story document and explain how that community meets the following definition:

The term "historically underrepresented communities" refers to groups of persons who have been relegated to an unimportant or powerless position such that they are prevented from participating fully in decisions affecting their lives. People may experience further marginalization because of their intersecting identities.

They are often communities or populations that face systemic economic, political, social, and cultural barriers, many of them embedded in local laws and norms. The term encompasses communities with a shared experience of marginalization stemming from circumstances beyond their control.

Historically underrepresented communities often include Black, Latino, Indigenous and American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color, members of religious minorities, refugees, migrants, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQIA2S+¹) persons, rural communities, formerly incarcerated persons, persons experiencing homelessness, and persons with disabilities.

- Describe how the experience of this historically underrepresented community is portrayed in your project.

WF will contract with readers to evaluate the project for the enhanced incentive for telling the stories of historically underrepresented communities. Readers will have an understanding of motion picture storytelling with a working knowledge of screenplay structure and format and experience evaluating subjective creative content. Readers will also have varied lived experiences and a deep understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion principles and opportunities.

Questions? Email us at Info@washingtonfilmworks.org

¹ Taken from [National Assoc. of Social Workers](#): People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or gender expansive, queer and/or questioning, intersex, asexual, and two-spirit