

MARCH 2026

SCREEN CANTERBURY NZ PRODUCTION GRANT

FUND OVERVIEW 2024 – 2026

INTRODUCTION

ChristchurchNZ, Ōtautahi Christchurch's economic development agency, is dedicated to driving sustainable economic growth and ensuring the city's prosperity. Screen CanterburyNZ, the regional screen office within ChristchurchNZ, shares a bold vision to foster the growth of the screen sector in a way that benefits both people and the planet.

In July 2024, ChristchurchNZ renewed the Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant, a regional financial incentive that has successfully attracted eleven productions to engage in screen-based activities in the Waitaha Canterbury region. The grant, totaling \$600,000, will be distributed to eligible productions over the 2024-2026 period.

The fund will accept applications for scripted and factual content, including film, television, web series, and video on demand. However, it is not currently available for game development or production, training programmes, public event productions, news programmes, advertising and commercials, or website and IT development. Content that is deemed objectionable or pornographic will not be considered.

For projects with total budgets over \$5 Million dollars and a minimum of \$2 million spend in the Canterbury Region the Screen CanterburyNZ Regional Grant may choose to allocate up to \$200,000.

For projects with total budgets over \$1million up to \$5 Million dollars and a minimum \$1million dollars spend in the Canterbury Region the Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant may choose to allocate up to \$100,000.

Please note round toru of this production grant cycle (2024-2026) has a total allocation of \$67,500 to be distributed to eligible production.

For projects with substantive Waitaha Canterbury based intellectual property with budgets upto \$1 million with a Waitaha Canterbury minimum spend of \$500,000 which are already supported by other funding sources (e.g. private, national funding bodies/organisations such as NZ On Air, NZFC, Te Māngai Pāho or the NZ Writers' Guild) ChristchurchNZ will consider applications at its discretion.

Projects that originate in the Waitaha Canterbury region or have significant Waitaha Canterbury-based above-the-line talent and meet the criteria will be considered 'Local Intellectual Property'.

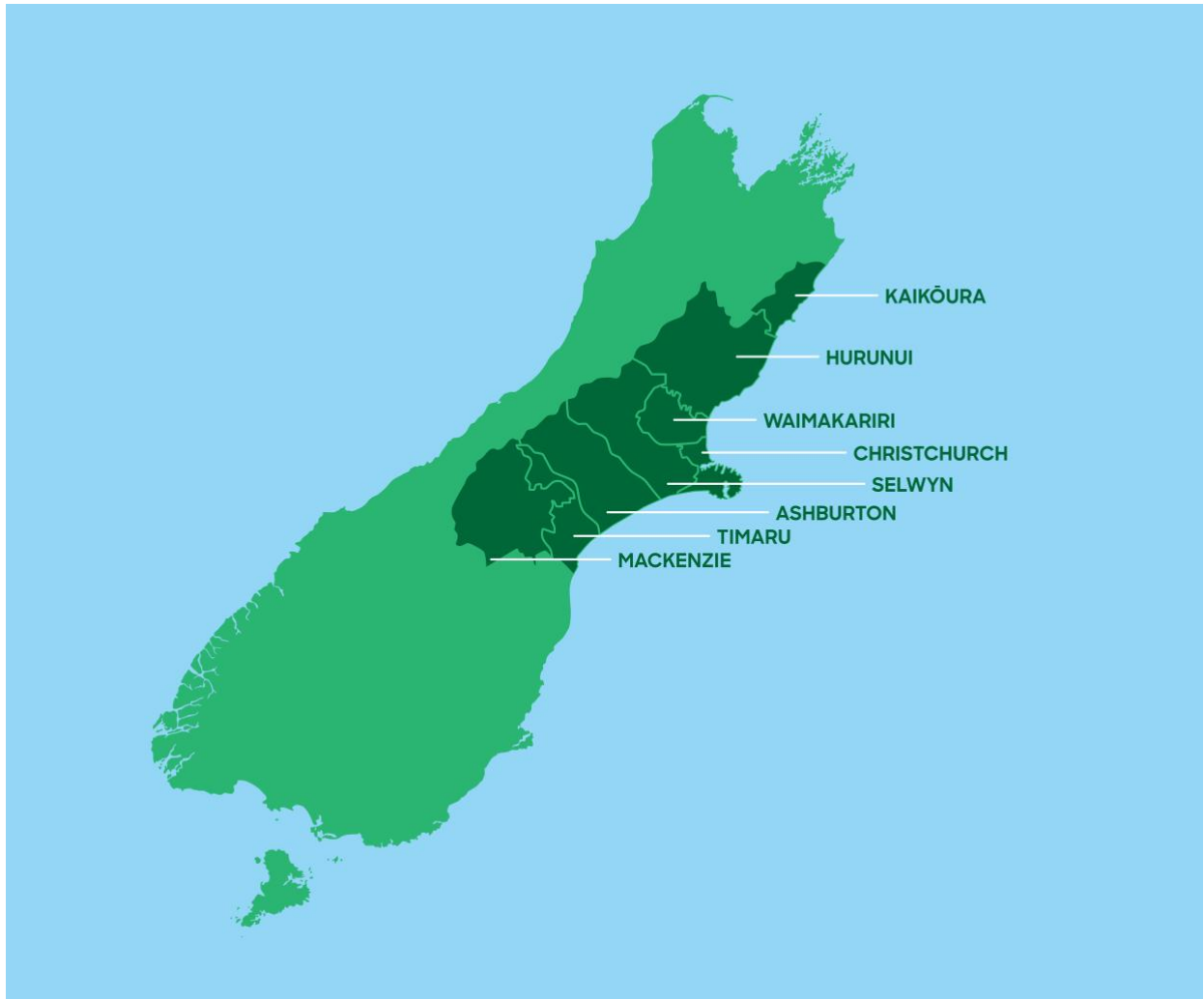
All projects must have complete funding in place from verifiable sources such as NZ on Air, NZFC, Te Māngai Pāho, private equity, and the like.

It is recommended that you contact the Screen CanterburyNZ Manager to discuss your project before you begin the application process.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be a feature film, TV series, or web series.
2. Projects must conduct at least 15 days of principal photography in Waitaha Canterbury or Ōtautahi Christchurch

Please refer to the map and specify if you will be filming in the Christchurch City Council district or wider Canterbury region. The Christchurch City Council district includes Banks Peninsula – please check the 16 wards that fall within this boundary from this [link](#). The wider Canterbury region is made up of Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, MacKenzie, Hurunui and Kaikoura districts.



3. Producers must make every effort to hire at least 40% Waitaha Canterbury-based crew when possible. Exceptions will be made when local crew are not available or do not fit the technical or creative requirements needed by the project.
4. For projects with total budgets over \$5 Million dollars and a minimum of \$2 million spend in the Canterbury Region the Screen CanterburyNZ Regional Grant may choose to allocate up to \$200,000.
5. For projects with total budgets over \$1million up to \$5 Million dollars and a minimum \$1million dollars spend in the Canterbury Region the Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant may choose to allocate up to \$100,000.

6. Projects with substantive Waitaha Canterbury based intellectual property with a Waitaha Canterbury minimum spend of \$500,000 will be considered at the discretion of the assessment panel along with any disbursement amounts.

Please note round toru of this production grant cycle (2024-2026) has a total allocation of \$67,500 to be distributed to eligible production.

7. For a project to be considered Waitaha Canterbury-based IP (“Local IP”), it will meet the following criteria:
 - a. At least one person on the project must be a Waitaha Canterbury-based writer, producer, or director.

In addition, at least one of the following criteria must be met:

- b. The content is written specifically about a place or places in the Canterbury region.
- c. The project utilises between 80% and 100% Waitaha Canterbury-based crew
- d. The project has a minimum of 15 days of filming in the Waitaha Canterbury region.

‘Waitaha Canterbury-based’ refers to businesses that can provide an NZBN number registered to a Canterbury address and crew who have their primary place of residence in Canterbury.

8. Projects that are considered to be Local IP, and have a Waitaha Canterbury-based minimum spend of \$100,000 will be eligible to receive smaller disbursement amounts at the sole discretion of the assessment panel.

APPLYING FOR FUNDING

Before you apply for the Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant, please make sure you:

- Review all relevant application information carefully to ensure you fully understand the eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, and any reporting requirements – some requirements have changed so if you are applying for a second time, you will need to familiarize yourself with these updates.
- Prepare and provide all required information including your projected budget detailing your Canterbury spend.
- Review the funding checklist and attach all required documents when you send your application.
- Applications will be accepted during multiple funding rounds throughout the year. These dates will be announced on the ChristchurchNZ / Screen CanterburyNZ website.
- Once the funding round dates have been released, we will accept applications.
- When you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive this, please go back and check your information or make contact with the Screen CanterburyNZ Manager.

- Funding decisions will be made within 8 weeks of the closing date.
- There is a limited pool of funding available, ChristchurchNZ Management reserves the right to close this fund at any time and to decline any application at their sole discretion.

PROCESS

An independent advisory panel will review all applications received. The panel will include established producers, screen practitioners, mana whenua, and a General Manager of ChristchurchNZ. Conflicts of interest will be managed via strict governance procedures. The applications and associated assessments and recommendations from the advisory panel will then be submitted for final consideration to ChristchurchNZ management, who will make the final decision on each application.

The selection panel will be convened by Screen CanterburyNZ and will assess applications based on but not limited to the following **criteria**:

- The projected Waitaha Canterbury spend in relation to the overall budget.
- The number of filming days in the Waitaha Canterbury region.
- The number of Waitaha Canterbury residents cast and/or crewed.
- The number of local businesses engaged by the production.
- The use of Waitaha Canterbury screen infrastructure.
- The amount of Waitaha Canterbury Intellectual Property associated with the production.
- The amount of Waitaha Canterbury above-the-line crew.
- Production provides opportunities for Waitaha Canterbury screen workers to upskill.
- The level of 'production readiness' and other finances being confirmed.
- Hiring methodology is open and transparent.
- Mana whenua is being consulted and/or partnered with in a meaningful way as appropriate.
- Use of trainees, especially those from local screen-based educational facilities such as Kōawa, Ara Broadcasting School, Yoobee, and the like.

RESERVED RIGHTS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant Letters of Offer will expire in 3 months, unless otherwise agreed. The offer will be conditional and subject to Screen CanterburyNZ reviewing financing script materials (or treatment materials in the case of a documentary).

Letters of Offer will be considered for projects also seeking funding from NZ On Air, NZFC or, Te Māngai Pāho and if given (at the discretion of ChristchurchNZ) will expire 2 weeks after the next board meeting of the relevant funding body. It is recommended that you contact the Screen CanterburyNZ Manager to discuss your project

No funding will be made available until the first day of Waitaha Canterbury-based shoot.

Funding will be released in instalments based on attainment of agreed milestones. 10% of funding will be held back until receipt of final report from the production which summarises the experience of the Waitaha Canterbury production/post-production after the project has finally wrapped from Waitaha Canterbury.

Expiry: Screen CanterburyNZ reserves the right to withdraw any Letter of Offer should the Producer's application to any NZ National funding body be declined, or if the project is not fully financed within three months of the issuing of the letter of offer, or if the project has not begun production in Waitaha Canterbury within 6 months of the letter of offer.

The following standard terms and conditions apply to all proposals and the application process include, but are not limited to:

- a. The applicant must bear all their own costs in preparing and submitting their proposal
- b. The applicant represents and warrants that all information provided to ChristchurchNZ is complete and accurate
- c. ChristchurchNZ may rely upon all statements made in the applicant's proposal
- d. ChristchurchNZ may amend, suspend, cancel and/or re-issue the application process at any time
- e. ChristchurchNZ may change the application process (including dates), but will give affected applicants a reasonable time to respond to any change
- f. ChristchurchNZ may accept late proposals/applications
- g. ChristchurchNZ may seek clarification of any proposal
- h. ChristchurchNZ retains the right to decline or approve any application at their sole discretion
- i. If a proposal submitted to ChristchurchNZ is unacceptable, ChristchurchNZ may enter negotiations with an applicant (if any)
- j. ChristchurchNZ and the applicant both agree to take reasonable steps to protect the other's confidential information
- k. ChristchurchNZ's obligation to protect the applicant's confidential information is subject to any legal requirements
- l. There is no binding legal relationship between ChristchurchNZ and any applicant, and any proposal is only accepted if both parties sign a funding contract
- m. The laws of New Zealand shall govern the application process
- n. In submitting a proposal, the applicant is deemed to have read, understood and agreed to these terms.

The Screen CanterburyNZ contracted funding terms will include:

1. *Payment: No funding will be made available until the first day of Waitaha Canterbury-based shoot. Funding will be released in instalments based on attainment of agreed milestones. 10% of funding will be held back until receipt of final report from the production which summarises the experience of the Waitaha Canterbury production/post- production after the production has finally wrapped from Waitaha Canterbury.*
2. *Recoupment:* The investment is offered as a non-recoupable regional grant, provided that the funding terms are met.
3. *Credits:* Screen CanterburyNZ will be entitled to the following onscreen credits:
 - a) "Made with the support of the Screen CanterburyNZ Production Grant" and the Screen CanterburyNZ logo.

- b) Screen CanterburyNZ logo on publicly material (posters, tickets and media wall – where applicable)
 - c) Names of the Screen CanterburyNZ personnel to be mentioned in the credits.
4. *Long Form*: a long form funding agreement will be entered into which reflects the terms set out in this letter and such other terms as the parties shall agree.
 5. Marketing materials will need to be made available for Screen CanterburyNZ to use and released at the same time as the Project's other marketing channels, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
 6. Screen CanterburyNZ will have the right to create their own marketing content and materials utilising photos, videos, 'behind the scenes' footage and the like as agreed to in writing with the Project producer/s.
 7. Producers to host a premiere / screening of the film in Ōtautahi Christchurch. 10 free tickets to premiere and events will be given to Screen CanterburyNZ and ChristchurchNZ staff.
 8. The production will allow Screen CanterburyNZ and ChristchurchNZ staff access to the production office and any locations as required at times and dates agreed to with Project Producer/s.
 9. Key crew will be selected and interviewed by Screen CanterburyNZ or ChristchurchNZ staff regarding their experience during the Canterbury production phase.
 10. Producers will provide daily call sheets, as requested by Screen CanterburyNZ staff, which shall be kept confidential.
 11. Producers will provide a narrative report at the end of the production with all relevant details as per the application.
 12. Producers will provide a cost report on the actual spend in Waitaha Canterbury to Screen CanterburyNZ.

For more information please contact the Screen CanterburyNZ Manager

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