FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What types of projects are eligible?

The WETA+ and DC/DOX Film Fund supports non-fiction storytellers based in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia (the DMV), as well as non-fiction projects focused on the DMV region. Short films, long films, and limited episodic series are all eligible to apply. Projects must have begun production and may be in either production or post-production at the time of application. Applicants must provide a work-in-progress sample from the project.

The Film Fund does not support:

- Projects that are promotional in nature or advocate for a specific policy or political agenda.
- Scripted projects.
- Projects in the development or pre-production stage.

Is residency in Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia required?

No. Applicants do not need to reside in the DMV. The Fund supports filmmakers based in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia and filmmakers based elsewhere in the United States whose projects are substantially focused on the DMV region. Selected applicants will be expected to attend professional development, networking and screening activities in Washington, D.C. Applicants must be based in the United States.

What durations are considered short-length and feature-length?

Films of less than 40 minutes in duration are considered short and films at or longer than 40 minutes are considered feature films.

What support is available through this fund?

$250k in funding will be awarded to up to six selected projects and individual grant amounts, which will vary based on project details. Applicants may request up to $25k for a short-length project and up to $100k for a feature-length project. Selected filmmakers will also receive professional development and networking opportunities through WETA and DC/DOX. Completed projects will be broadcast and streamed on WETA's platforms for a period of time and under terms mutually agreed upon by WETA and the filmmaker.

Is fiscal sponsorship required to receive the funds?

No. Fiscal sponsorship with an eligible nonprofit is not required, but applicants must have a structure in place to receive the funds from WETA by June 30, 2027, which may include an LLC, production company, fiscal sponsor or other arrangement acceptable to WETA.

What are the responsibilities of the selected applicant?

Selected applicants are responsible for completing their projects as outlined in their applications and for fulfilling the terms of their funding agreements with WETA. Before funds are disbursed, the applicant must enter into an agreement with WETA that includes a broadcast and streaming window on WETA's platforms, with the timing, duration and other terms mutually agreed upon by WETA and the filmmaker. Films that receive funding must meet WETA's technical specs and must be completed within 24 months from January 2027. Selected applicants will also be expected to participate, to the best of their ability, in professional development, networking and screening activities offered through the Film Fund and DC/DOX. Please see the full list of Terms & Conditions for more information.

Is the use of AI tools permitted in the filmmaking process?

Yes, but any material use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create or substantially alter image, audio, text or other creative content must be disclosed in the application. If selected as a grantee, any material use of generative AI introduced later in the filmmaking process must also be disclosed to WETA.

If my project is selected, when should I expect to receive funds?

Selected applicants will be notified by April 2027, and the full amount of each grant will be disbursed by June 30, 2027, following execution of the required contract with WETA.

Questions?

Please email filmfund@weta.org with any questions but please note that application materials emailed to this address will not be accepted.