

2026-27 ONTARIO CREATES ENTERPRISE FUND

Deadline: August 27, 2026 – 5:00 PM ET

The Ontario Creates Enterprise Fund documentation includes:

- Ontario Creates Enterprise Fund – Guidelines (this document)
- [Ontario Creates Program Policies](#)

Applicants must review the documents listed above prior to submitting an application.

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1. [Introduction](#)

The Enterprise Fund is a new pilot program in 2026-2027 intended to drive economic growth in Ontario's publishing and screen sectors by investing in innovative strategic business development activities that position these sectors to be globally competitive, integrate new technologies into business processes, and capitalize on success.

The objective of the Enterprise Fund is to support entrepreneurial business development activities that could lead to significant company growth, specifically in terms of revenues, size, global impact, and job creation.

Ontario Creates is committed to:

- supporting diversity and gender parity;
- providing enhanced accessibility support to people with disabilities, people who are Deaf, and people who face barriers in accessing technology to complete an application; and
- fostering respectful workplaces in all the sectors and companies we support.

Please see [Program Policies](#) for important details.

2. Eligible Applicants

- Individual for-profit companies who are successful recipients of financial support from Ontario Creates' publishing and screen funding programs within the past 5 years.

OR

- Partnerships between more than one incorporated business, where the lead applicant is a for-profit company who has been a successful recipient of financial support from Ontario Creates' publishing and screen programs within the past 5 years.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for additional eligibility requirements.

Ontario Creates staff can provide advice regarding eligibility in advance of deadlines but an official decision regarding eligibility will be based on the application material submitted.

3. Eligible Projects and Activities

For applicants who meet the eligibility criteria outlined above and in [Appendix 1](#), the following Industry Priorities have been identified as eligible projects/activities for the 2026-2027 Enterprise Fund:

Applicant Type	Industry Priority	Project/Activity Examples
Individual Applicant	Revenue diversification activities	R&D of new IP, brands, or verticals; initiatives to monetize back catalogues, etc.
Partnership Applicant	Strategic business efficiencies	Incorporating AI tools into business operations; collective logistics and distribution infrastructure projects, etc.

Projects/activities must:

- relate to the applicant's primary core business (production of screen content; publishing magazines or books) and to an Ontario Creates-supported creative industry sector (i.e.

- film/tv; interactive digital media, magazine publishing; book publishing)
- demonstrate potential for measurable outcomes focusing on:
 - creating significant revenue growth margins
 - improving business operations
 - facilitating access to new markets and business opportunities
 - creating jobs
- be innovative and distinct from the regular operations of the applicant's business

Ineligible Projects and Activities are those that:

- are already receiving/have received support through another Ontario Creates program
- are eligible to receive support through another Ontario Creates program
- are routine activities and have related expenses that are considered a normal part of the applicant's business
- do not relate to the applicant's primary core business and/or to an Ontario Creates-supported creative industry sector (i.e. film/tv; interactive digital media, magazine publishing; book publishing).
- Examples of ineligible activities include but are not limited to:
 - buying/renting real estate to create a separate revenue stream;
 - developing and monetizing new technology, platforms or services that do not relate to the applicant's core business;
 - creating a new vertical and separate business within the company such as an internal literary agency (publishing) or talent agency (film/tv).

Other considerations:

- If the applicant's proposed project or activities do not relate to the Enterprise Fund's 2026-2027 priorities listed above, please contact Ontario Creates staff to discuss.
- Projects that have commenced prior to submission of an application may be eligible with approval from Ontario Creates staff, however, any expenses incurred prior to submission of the application are not eligible.
- If applying as a partnership, only one application per activity will be eligible. (ie. multiple applications for the same activity coming from different partners are not eligible)

4. Financing, Budget, Expenses, and Timeline Requirements

Financing:

- The Enterprise Fund will provide a non-repayable contribution of up to **75% of the approved budget**
 - to a maximum of \$80,000 for an Individual Applicant
 - to a maximum of \$150,000 for a Partnership Applicant
- Financing for the remaining budget must come from the applicant(s) and/or third parties, including other government sources, and or/partners. Additionally:
 - a minimum of 10% of the remaining budget is required as a cash contribution from a source other than Ontario Creates

- a maximum of 15% of the remaining budget may be included as *in-kind* costs

Budget:

- Budgets must be submitted on the [EXCEL template](#) provided and must include all costs through to completion of the project. No alternate templates or formats will be accepted.
- If outside services are required, applicants must include quotes and a rationale for the selection of the service provider.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses:

- All expenses included in the Budget must directly relate to the project.

Eligible Expenses	Examples
Administrative expenses ¹ to a maximum of 15% .	office space/rent, utilities, payroll service costs, couriers, office equipment, organizational overhead, management oversight and accounting
Capital expenses: 50% of the cost, or the amortization expense using the straight-line method with a prescribed useful life of 12 months.	hardware, software, etc.
Labour costs directly related to the execution of the activity	in-house and contract positions calculated at a fair market rate
All other expenses relevant and necessary for the completion of the project.	

Ineligible Expenses

- Ongoing operational costs;
- Costs incurred before the application was submitted;
- Salaries and wages of staff not directly tied to the project;
- Staff benefit costs;
- Hospitality expenses.

Timeline:

- The applicant must begin incurring expenses **no later than 90 days** after notification of Ontario Creates' decision.
- All activities must be completed and all expenses must be incurred at the conclusion of the program period.
- Projects must be completed **a maximum of 20 months** from notification of

¹ The definition of an administrative cost is at the discretion of Ontario Creates

Ontario Creates' decision; it is expected that project timelines will range from 6 months to 20 months, including time to prepare final report documentation.

5. Application Process and Evaluation

Applications must be submitted to Ontario Creates by 5:00 pm ET on the applicable deadline via the Online Application Portal (OAP) at <https://apply.ontariocreates.ca/>.

A list of required application materials is outlined in the OAP. Applications must include all requested documentation and adhere to word counts and page limits. Applicants will not have the opportunity to add or replace documentation after the deadline.

- Applications will be reviewed by Ontario Creates for eligibility and completeness.
- If the application is incomplete or ineligible it will not be further evaluated and applicants will be notified via the OAP.
- Eligible applications that include all the required documents will be reviewed and assessed by a jury of industry professionals and/or Ontario Creates.
- Decisions will be communicated to applicants within 16 weeks of the deadline.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a signed agreement with Ontario Creates prior to receiving any funding.

6. Decision Criteria

This is a competitive program, and it is anticipated that the total funding request will exceed the available funds. Applicants are advised to ensure that they meet all eligibility requirements before submitting an application. Additionally, applicants should ensure that their application materials clearly convey the strengths of their proposal in relation to the guidelines. The number of applicants who receive funding and the amount awarded will depend on the quantity and quality of the projects recommended by the jury for support and the individual needs of each project.

Ontario Creates applies a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the evaluation criteria for this program, and directs jury members to do the same. Applicants proposing projects/activities that support, reflect and strengthen diversity and gender parity in Ontario are expected to tangibly demonstrate a genuine and sustained commitment to these equity-deserving communities. Ontario Creates may identify particular underrepresented communities within a sector. The provincial definition of diversity includes, but is not limited to the following dimensions: ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion (creed), sex, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

After applicant and project eligibility have been confirmed, applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting	Considerations may include
Relevance and Innovation	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevance of the project to the applicant(s), and the extent to which it meets a demonstrated need and/or addresses a business challenge and has the potential of creating significant revenue growth and access to new markets and business opportunities; innovative nature of the project; integration of technology or systems to leverage or improve business efficiencies
Track Record	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> company experience with similar projects capacity, skills, knowledge and expertise of the team diversity among senior leadership, staff and/or contract employees evidence of company policies and/or initiatives that support diversity, equity and inclusion
Feasibility and Risks	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarity of activities and deliverables accuracy of budget and strength of financing contributions suitability and quality of project planning and timelines mitigation of other challenges and risks supporting research to demonstrate needs, challenges, benefit of project thoughtful consultation, collaboration and participation of equity-deserving communities
Expected Outcomes and Economic Benefit	30%	<p>As a result of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase in revenue growth margins and enhanced economic stability to the applicant's business improvements, new efficiencies, and cost savings related to business operations access to new markets and business opportunities strategic, long-term benefits to the applicant's business <p>Benefit to the Ontario economy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> return on Ontario Creates' investment creation or retention of jobs in the province spend in Ontario² <p>Overall success of project</p>
Total	100%	

7. Successful Applicants

Successful applicants who are Deaf or disabled may be eligible for supplementary funds

² Ontario expenses are defined in the [Ontario Creates Program Policies](#).

for accessibility expenses required to complete their project deliverables.

Successful applicants will receive funding as follows:

- 60% on execution of the Ontario Creates agreement;
- 25% following approval of the recipient's interim report;
- 15% following the approval of the recipient's final report and all deliverables outlined in the funding agreement.

8. More Information

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These guidelines are for the 2026-27 deadline only. This document is subject to change for future deadlines. Applicants are advised to consult the Ontario Creates website for any updates, clarifications and alterations to these guidelines.

Ontario Creates is an agency of the Government of Ontario that facilitates economic development, investment and collaboration in Ontario's creative industries including the music, book, magazine, film, television and interactive digital media sectors. ontariocreates.ca

APPENDIX 1

Eligibility requirements for applicants

1) Individual applicant:

To be eligible to apply to the Enterprise Fund, an individual applicant must:

- be a for-profit company that is a past recipient of financial support from Ontario Creates' publishing and screen programs within the last 5 years
- be a Canadian-owned and controlled organization*;
- be incorporated in a Canadian jurisdiction
- be Ontario-based*;
- provide financial statements for the two most recently completed fiscal years (please see [Program Policies](#) for more details);
- be in sound financial position (including all associated companies); and
- be in good standing with Ontario Creates.

If successful, the applicant must continue to have a principal place of business in Ontario for the funding duration.

* See [Ontario Creates Program Policies](#) for definitions.

2) Partnership applicant:

To be eligible to apply to the Enterprise Fund:

a) the lead applicant of a partnership must:

- be a for-profit company that is a past recipient of financial support from Ontario Creates' publishing and screen programs within the last 5 years;
- be a Canadian-owned and controlled organization*;
- be incorporated in a Canadian jurisdiction
- be Ontario-based*;
- provide financial statements for the two most recently completed fiscal years (please see [Program Policies](#) for more details);
- be in sound financial position (including all associated companies); and
- be in good standing with Ontario Creates

b) AND the other companies who are involved in the partnership must:

- be Canadian-owned and controlled*;
- be incorporated in a Canadian jurisdiction;
- be Ontario-based*
- be in sound financial position
- belong to Ontario Creates' screen and publishing stakeholder base and meet the eligibility

criteria for one of the following Ontario Creates programs:

- IP Fund – Linear or Interactive
- Publishing Marketing & Discoverability Fund
- Global Market Development Fund – Film and TV
- Global Market Development Fund – Book
- Global Market Development Fund – Interactive

* See [Ontario Creates Program Policies](#) for definitions.

Additional eligibility considerations:

- Partnership applications can be comprised of more than one (1) company, up to a maximum of five (5) participating companies. If envisioning a project that includes more than five (5) companies please contact Ontario Creates staff to discuss.
- Cross-sector applications are welcome and encouraged (for example, screen companies working with publishing companies). Non-profit entities who are incorporated businesses may be part of a partnership application.
- Non-profit entities who are *not* incorporated businesses (ie. trade associations) are ineligible and should refer to Ontario Creates' Industry Development Program as a potential alternative funding resource.

APPENDIX 2

Goals and Key Performance Indicators

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to submit goals and key performance indicators for their project/activities via Ontario Creates' Online Application Portal. An example of how to complete this section of the application is provided below:

Question 13: Goals and Key Performance Indicators

Provide information on the goals you have for this project. At least one goal must be financial, and you must provide KPIs that have \$ values. If your application is successful, you will be required to return to this table when completing your final report:

Goal Name: (Include each specific goal that you want to achieve)	Example 1: Goal 1: Complete a full audit of all past works (a back catalogue) and prepare them for monetization opportunities
KPI (Break the goal down into separate KPIs so you can measure your progress.)	
KPI 1: Catalogue all existing works KPI 2: Confirm latest rights and licensing status	
Where are we now? (Your current situation in relation to the goal.)	
1. Catalogue is partially organized 2. Rights status unclear for some works	
In 15 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)	
1. Catalogue X% organized 2. Rights status clarified for more than 1/2 of available works	
In 24 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)	
1. Catalogue X% organized 2. Rights status clarified for majority of works	
In 36 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)	
1. Catalogue X% organized 2. Rights status clarified for all available works	

Goal Name: (Include each specific goal that you want to achieve)	Goal 2: Increase exposure of catalogue to potential buyers
KPI (Break the goal down into separate KPIs so you can measure your progress.)	
KPI 1: Number of pitch meetings/business leads in works	

KPI 2 : Catalogue presence on platforms (marketplaces, festivals, fairs, etc.)

KPI 3: Supporting marketing assets created to pitch works

Where are we now? (Your current situation in relation to the goal.)

1. No pitch meetings set up/no business leads in works
2. Catalogue not listed anywhere (industry sites,marketplaces, etc)
3. Few if any marketing assets available

In 15 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)

1. X # of pitch meetings completed/business leads in works
2. Catalogue of confirmed-to-date works listed on X# of platforms
3. X # of properties with complete marketing packages ready for pitching

In 24 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)

1. X # of pitch meetings completed/business leads in works
2. Catalogue of confirmed-to-date works listed on X# of platforms
3. X-X # of properties with complete marketing packages ready for pitching

In 36 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)

1. X # of pitch meetings completed/business leads in works
2. Catalogue of confirmed-to-date works listed on X# of platforms
3. X-X # of works with complete marketing packages ready for pitching

Goal Name:

(Include each specific goal that you want to achieve)

Goal 3: Monetize the back catalogue

KPI (Break the goal down into separate KPIs so you can measure your progress.)

1. Number of works licensed or optioned
2. Number of new opportunities/business leads created for works
3. Revenue generated from catalogue

Where are we now? (Your current situation in relation to the goal.)

1. No works currently licensed or optioned
2. \$0.00 generated from catalogue
3. No new or potential leads underway

In 15 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)

- 1.No works currently licensed or optioned.
2. \$0.00 generated from catalogue
3. X potential deals in play as a result of pitch efforts

In 24 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal)

- | |
|---|
| 1. X # of works currently optioned, X currently in negotiation
2. \$X generated
3. X # of potential deals in play |
| In 36 Months: (Desired KPI Status for the goal) |
| 1. X # of works currently optioned, X currently in negotiation
2. \$X generated
3. X # of potential deals in play |