

# FILM SAN ANTONIO

## Incentives

Funding / Incentives

With a 7.5% incentive (caps apply) for film and television projects with at least \$100,000 of approved San Antonio spending, San Antonio has the strongest local film incentive in the state. Combine this with a [State of Texas Film Commission](#) rebate of up to 22.5%\*, fantastic people, history, climate, and diverse locations – and shooting in San Antonio is smarter than ever.

*\*Percentage amount varies based on project budget. Includes an underutilized area bonus of 2.5% for San Antonio.*

Eligible Projects	Ineligible Projects
Feature Films	News or Current Events Programming
Short Films	Talk Shows
Documentaries	Sports or Sports Programs
TV Pilots	Galas Presentations or Award Shows
TV Shows (scripted or unscripted)	Commercials
TV Series/Miniseries	Infomercials (or any projects that directly solicit funds)
Movie of the Week/TV Movies	Political Ads
Music Videos	Obscene Material, as defined by section 43.21, Texas Penal Code

## Overview

The purpose of the Supplemental San Antonio Film Incentive Program (SSAI) is to assist in the attraction of film and television production to San Antonio. The SSAI is a rebate program, with funds distributed after the project is completed.

The SSAI award amount is 7.5% of approved San Antonio spending (as verified by the City by producer’s provision of an independent audit completed by a Certified Public Accountant of financials including total amount of funds spent on project with a breakdown of the Texas and local San Antonio spend). The maximum award for any single project is \$250,000.

SSAI awards will be evaluated on a first come, first considered basis in accordance with the guidelines detailed below. **Please note:** An application must be received by the San Antonio Film Commission **no earlier than 120 days** prior to the first day of principal photography and **no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> day** of principal photography.

The City of San Antonio will determine, on an annual basis, the amount of funds available for the SSAI, if any. The City of San Antonio’s fiscal year begins in October and ends in September.

# Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the SSAI, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Must be an eligible project as detailed below. If awarded, the SSAI can be used for the production and/or post-production of these eligible projects:
- Must have a minimum Greater San Antonio Metropolitan Area (GSAMA) spend of \$100,000. The following counties make up the GSAMA: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina and Wilson.
- At least 60% of production days must occur within the defined GSAMA.
- At least 70% of paid crew must be Texas residents.
- At least 10% of paid crew must be San Antonio residents.
- At least 70% of paid cast, including extras, must be Texas residents.
- At least 10% of paid cast, including extras, must be San Antonio residents.
- The project's principal production office must be located within City of San Antonio city limits.
- The project's primary hotel accommodations must be within City of San Antonio city limits.
- Production must provide City of San Antonio permission to use the name, logo and/or movie poster of the film in all City of San Antonio advertising.
- Promote the City of San Antonio by including:
  - The "FILM SAN ANTONIO" logo in the production's billing block. The logo must appear in a size equal to or no less than any other logos which appear in the production's billing block.
  - The "FILM SAN ANTONIO" logo in the production's end credits, appearing for at least three seconds. The logo must appear in a size equal to or no less than any other logos that also appear in the film's end credits.
  - The language "Made in San Antonio, Texas" in the production's end credits. This must also appear in the trailer, if a trailer end credits appear.
  - San Antonio as a location on the production's page of the Internet Movie Database (IMDb).

## *Note:*

- Projects in receipt of any other production investment funding from The San Antonio Film Commission or the City of San Antonio are not eligible for an SSAI award.
- A project must have its production budget secured before applying for an SSAI award. The SSAI award must not form part of an applicant's production budget.
- Projects that applied for but were not accepted into the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP) are still eligible to apply to the SSAI. These projects must provide proof of correspondence with the Texas Film Commission and the office's reason for denying the project's participation in the TMIIP.

## Eligible Expenditures

- Wages and per diems paid to Texas residents for work performed in San Antonio, including employer paid Social Security, Medicare, Federal Unemployment Insurance, State Unemployment Insurance, Pension, Health and Welfare, and Vacation and Holiday payments. Total compensation (including wages, per diems and eligible fringes) is capped at \$1 million per worker, per project.
- Workers compensation insurance payments may be included only if the premiums are paid to a San Antonio-based company or broker.
- Payroll company service fees may be included only if paid to a San Antonio-based payroll company.
- Payments made to San Antonio companies for goods and services domiciled and used in San Antonio that are directly attributable to the physical production of the project.
- Payments for shipments originating in San Antonio.
- Rentals and leases of vehicles registered and licensed in the State of Texas and rented and leased from San Antonio-based companies.
- Music that is specifically created for the project and fees paid to San Antonio residents hired to create, orchestrate and perform the music.
- Legal fees that are directly attributable to the production and are paid to a San Antonio-based lawyer or law firm.

## Ineligible Expenditures

- Wages and fringes paid to non-Texas residents.
- Per diems paid to non-Texas residents.
- Payments to non-San Antonio vendors, or for goods and services not directly attributable to the physical production of the feature film or television program including, but not limited to, entertainment, gifts and client expenses.
- Fees for story rights, music rights or clearance rights.
- Expenses related to distribution, publicity, marketing or promotion of the project.
- Rental or mortgage payments, utility fees and insurance costs on facilities that are overhead expenses and part of a permanent/continuous business operation.
- Payments made to pass-through companies.
- Payments for shipping on shipments that originate outside of San Antonio.
- Alcohol and tobacco purchases.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Air travel.
- Sales tax.

## Application Process

To apply for the SSAI, productions must send the following items no earlier than 120 days prior to the first day of principal photography and no later than the 12th day of principal photography to FilmSA@FilmSanAntonio.com.

- Submit a completed SSAI application and all documents requested within the application.
- The most current version of the project's budget, with final sign-off budget submitted by the 12th day of principal photography.

If a project applies for and is accepted into the TMIIIIP, the acceptance certification letter from the Texas Film Commission reflecting the approved estimated amount to be disbursed by the state's comptroller's office must be included in the application submission. This must be received by the San Antonio Film Commission no later than the 12th day of principal photography.

## Assessment Process

Applications to the San Antonio Film Commission for awards from the SSAI fund will be assessed by a SSAI Committee (a three-member group of film industry professionals) within 30 days of receipt of the completed application. Applications for projects applying for an SSAI award with payment amounts of more than \$50,000 require additional approval by the City of San Antonio City Council. Applications submitted for San Antonio City Council review may take up to approximately 90 days.

The SSAI Committee will consider the following factors and elements:

- The amount of total expenditure in San Antonio approved elements of the Project's budget.
- The level of employment of San Antonio and Texas cast, crew and heads of departments.
- The benefit of the production to the economy of the City of San Antonio, not limited to but including, employment, purchase of goods and services, rentals, etc.
- Current and likely future effect on the promotion of San Antonio's historic, cultural, natural or man-made resources.
- Current and likely future economic impact on San Antonio through direct production spending, public relations and tourism.
- The significant involvement in the project by San Antonio residents in positions of significance.
- The creative or economic influence, such as executive producer, producer, writer, director or investor.
- The portrayal of San Antonio and San Antonians in a positive fashion.
- **If applicable**, a proof of incentive certificate from the Texas Film Commission.
- **If applicable**, electronic Press Kit (if created) – 1 high-resolution digital copy on an external drive.

## During Production

The San Antonio Film Commission may periodically review production activity including, but not limited to, in-city spending, shooting locations and number of San Antonio and Texas residents hired. The office may request documentation for all of the above. In addition, the production must:

- Send copies of call sheets to the San Antonio Film Commission for every production day (email CC or BCC is okay).
- Provide the San Antonio Film Commission with a production point-of-contact for any media requests.

## Production Delays

If production is delayed, a new start date should be provided along with the reason for the change. If the start of principal photography is delayed for more than 60 days, the application may be discarded and the project may be asked to reapply.

## Final Deliverables

An approved SSAI award will only be paid at completion of the project and subject to the applicant's compliance with the terms of the SSAI Agreement. The project must submit the following deliverables in an orderly report to the San Antonio Film Commission within 60 days of the project's completion.

- An accounts payable spreadsheet, sorted alphabetically by vendor, in-city transactions denoted, and copies of all checks, invoices and receipts for each vendor included.
- A petty cash spreadsheet, sorted alphabetically by name, in-city transactions denoted, and copies of all checks, invoices and receipts for each vendor included.
- A payroll spreadsheet, sorted alphabetically by name and with Texas and San Antonio residents denoted. Include copies of payroll company registers that detail wages and fringes paid or copies of timecards and checks paid to employees.
- Signed call sheets and production reports with location addresses and zip codes for final verification. The GSAMA is defined as locations within the following counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson.
- Copies of both the complete crew list and cast list that includes both Texas resident and non-resident employees. Declaration of Texas Residency forms for each Texas-based employee must be provided.
- Final contact sheet for the production.
- Evidence that the project has achieved the agreed production days in San Antonio with a copy of the shooting schedule.
- Written notice of an independent audit by a CPA verifying eligible expenses.
- At least 12 different high resolution color digital photographs, selected by the applicant showing the film production.
- A copy of the production's poster and any marketing materials (rack cards, fliers, etc.), if applicable.

- DVD copies of the Project and an external drive with a high-resolution movie file (1080p minimum) for the San Antonio Film Commission’s archival and marketing purposes.
- A copy of Key Art or poster created for or in connection with the promotion and distribution of the Project.
- Proof of that the following logo and credit requirements were met:
  - The “FILM SAN ANTONIO” logo appears in the film’s end credits for at least three seconds. The logo must appear in a size equal to or no less than any other logos that also appear in the film’s end credits.
  - The language "Made in San Antonio, Texas" appears in the film’s end credits. This must also appear in the trailer, if a trailer end credits appear.
  - The "FILM SAN ANTONIO" logo appears in the film’s billing block. The logo must appear in a size equal to or no less than any other logos which appear in the project’s billing block.
  - San Antonio is listed as a location on the production’s page of the Internet Movie Database (IMDb).
  - A signed and written confirmation that all of the SSAI requirements have been met and that the project is complete.

**Note:**

- If a project applied for the TMIIIIP, the applicant can provide a duplicate set of the delivery materials submitted to the Texas Film Commission and any additional materials required as listed above. Please review the list below carefully to ensure all required materials are provided.
- The project must achieve the agreed production days in San Antonio, the applicant must deliver the delivery materials to San Antonio Film Commission upon completion, and the information provided to the San Antonio Film Commission about the project must remain true and correct.
- Projects may be submitted electronically to [FilmSA@FilmSanAntonio.com](mailto:FilmSA@FilmSanAntonio.com).

## Reimbursement

Following the project’s submission of all previously mentioned deliverables, the San Antonio Film Commission will review all documentation and ensure the submitted materials match all SSAI guidelines and regulations. Once the project has been verified, reimbursement will be provided within 60 days of submission date.

## Confidentiality

If the applicant is successful in obtaining an SSAI award, the applicant agrees to keep confidential and not disclose the SSAI award amount. The San Antonio Film Commission undertakes not to release or make public details of the SSAI application or Project budget without prior approval of the applicant, subject to the requirements of the Texas Public Information Act.