

ACF Boost 2026

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What is ACF Boost?

ACF Boost is a matched funding program designed to enable independent artists and small groups or arts organisations using the Australian Cultural Fund (ACF) to leverage private sector support through a matched funding 'boost'.

ACF Boost offers dollar-for-dollar matched funding of up to \$5,000 for applicants that run a fundraising campaign through the ACF between 2 February and 30 April 2026.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible, applicants must meet the ACF's registration criteria:

- Be engaged in the promotion and presentation of arts and cultural activities
- Use a grant via the Australian Cultural Fund within Australia or for the benefit of Australia
- Have an ABN and be prepared to receive project funds; OR have an agreement in place with an auspicing body
- Be prepared to run a fundraising campaign between 2 February and Thursday 30 April 2026.

What are the program timelines?

Applications open: Monday 27 October 2025 at 12pm AEDT

Applications close: Monday 17 November 2025 at 12pm AEDT

Assessment: Monday 24 November – Monday 1 December 2025

Applicants notified of the outcome of their submission: Monday 15 December 2025

Fundraising campaign window: 2 February - 30 April 2026 (you choose within this window when you want to promote the campaign to your networks.)

ACF Grant payments distributed: mid-late May 2026 (upon grant agreement being signed and bank details provided.)

Projects commence: Anytime from May 2026

Project Acquittal: Due 30 days after your submitted Project End Date

I already have a project live on the ACF – can I apply for ACF Boost?

If you already have a project live on the ACF you cannot apply for ACF Boost. Only projects submitted within the application window, Monday 27 October 2025 – Monday 17 November 2025, will be considered for Boost.

You are welcome to apply for ACF Boost with the same project by creating a new project submission.

Can I apply for ACF Boost for multiple projects?

No, you can only apply for ACF Boost with one project.

Can I apply for ACF Boost if I/my organisation was an ACF Boost recipient in 2025?

No, you are not eligible to apply for ACF Boost 2026 if you were a part of the ACF Boost 2025 cohort. You will be eligible to apply in the 2027 round.

If my application is not successful, do I still need to run an ACF campaign?

No, you will not be required to run an ACF campaign if your application to ACF Boost is not successful. However, we encourage you to run your campaign with or without ACF Boost funding and we will be available to assist you with resources and advice if you choose to do so.

The ACF is a keep-what-you-raise platform so there's nothing to lose!

If you would still like to run your campaign without ACF Boost funding, please get in touch with the ACF Team and we can organise this for you.

How do I choose my ACF campaign target?

Your ACF campaign target lets us know how much you are hoping to raise for your project, however it's important to find a balance between being ambitious and being realistic.

Think about your resources, networks and time; you will only have between four and twelve weeks to complete your fundraising campaign. You can raise your target at any time, so we recommend to start modest and then raise this when needed.

Have a look at our [Blog](#) for some great tips and advice on how to set a campaign target that will work for you or get in touch with the ACF Team to discuss your proposed campaign.

I have exceeded my ACF campaign target – can I receive more ACF Boost funds?

Firstly, congratulations! It's quite a feat to exceed your campaign target, so take a moment to congratulate yourself. ACF Boost has a fixed pool of funds to distribute so there is no opportunity to receive more than \$5,000 of matched funding - however you are welcome to increase your campaign target so you can leverage more donations. Simply contact the ACF Team to increase your campaign target.

I haven't met my ACF campaign target – what happens now?

The ACF is a keep-what-you-raise platform, so if you don't reach your campaign target, you still receive the amount you raised, plus dollar-for-dollar matched funds from ACF Boost for the amount you raised up to \$5,000.

Can I offer rewards?

No. The ACF cannot receive donations (nor provide a deduction) where the donor or an associate obtains, or would be expected to obtain, any benefit other than the benefit of a tax deduction.

A gift is defined as arising from 'benefaction'. A donor cannot receive any tangible benefit in return for their gift or expect or oblige the artist to give them a benefit. An ACF artist cannot offer a benefit as an incentive to donate.

Acknowledgement on your website, newsletter or donors' board is not regarded by the ATO as a tangible or material benefit. However, enlarging the acknowledgment into forms of advertising would prevent the payment being a gift.

More information is available on the [ATO website](#).

Can I apply for ACF Boost but fundraise through a different crowdfunding platform?

No, all ACF Boost projects must complete their fundraising campaign on the ACF to be eligible for matched funds.

What kind of ABN do I need to have?

We accept any current, active ABN including sole trader, partnership, limited partnership, trust, proprietary limited, corporation and non-profit. If you are being auspiced, please enter the organisation's ABN when creating your ACF profile or contact the ACF Team with the auspice organisation's details.

When can I start fundraising?

Fundraising campaigns commence on Monday 2 February 2026.

If you would like to start your fundraising campaign before you have been informed of your ACF Boost application outcome, please get in touch with the ACF Team and we will open your campaign early. This will not impact your application for ACF Boost.

If your submission is successful, and you started fundraising before 2 February 2026, funds up until this point will also be matched.

I'm new to fundraising. How can I learn more about creating a fundraising campaign?

We have a range of online resources to get your fundraising ready.

A great place to start is our [First Timers Kit](#) which has some helpful hints for first time fundraisers. It's also worth looking through the ACF blog, which is packed full with FAQ videos, case studies, and fundraising resources to help you shape your campaign.

The ACF Team is available for 15 minute consultations which you can arrange [here](#).

Do I need to include a video with my application?

This is optional and won't be included as part of the assessment, however we encourage you to create a campaign video. A video link can always be added to the project later.

Do I need to supply any support material?

No. You don't need to upload or attach any support material to your application. Any additional information (letters of support etc.) that is uploaded or attached to the application won't be included in the assessment.

How do I fill out the budget in the application?

The budget in the application is for the project/project stage that you are raising the funds for. The budget must be balanced, this means that the income and expenditure must match.

See below an example for how to complete the budget in your application.

Projected Income	\$	Projected Expenditure	\$
Income Generated from Project	0	Project and production costs	0
Applicant Contribution	500	Marketing and promotion costs	3,500
Grants Received	0	Administration	0
Sponsorship and Support	3,000	Salaries, fees and allowances	10,000
Donations Other	5000	Logistical and travel costs	0
Donations through ACF	5,000		
Total Income	13,500	Total Expenditure	13,500
Net Income	0		

Where do I add the Boost matched funds in the budget?

Please include the matched funds to a maximum of \$5,000 under the 'Donations Other' budget line.

What support is available for my ACF Boost campaign?

Participants will be invited to a webinar to explore fundraising best practice and hear from past Boost participants. ACF Boost campaigns will be featured on the ACF social media channels to support overall visibility and to promote the matched funding component of the program. Additionally, participants will be able to access guidance and advice from the ACF Team and Creative Australia's State Managers Development and Partnerships.

When will I receive our ACF Boost funds?

ACF Boost grant agreements will be issued in mid-late May 2026. Once issued, participants will need to sign the grant agreement and submit their bank details – the funds will be transferred within 3-5 business days of this happening.

When does the project need to be delivered?

ACF Boost projects can be delivered any time from May 2026.

Do I need to complete a project acquittal?

Yes, all projects that run fundraising campaigns on the ACF are required to complete an ACF acquittal. Project acquittals are due 30 days after the submitted Project End Date.

For more information, please contact the ACF at hello@australianculturalfund.org.au