

ACF Boost 2027

FAQs

What is ACF Boost?

ACF Boost is the ACF's annual matched funding opportunity for individual artists, collectives, and organisations who want to fundraise from private sector support through their ACF campaign. First-time fundraisers to those with previous fundraising experience are welcome to apply.

Successful ACF Boost participants will run a fundraising campaign for their arts and cultural project on the ACF platform between 1 February 2027 - 30 April 2027. The funds raised will receive a matched funding 'boost' of up to \$5,000.

What are the program timelines?

Applications open: Monday 21 September 2026 at 12pm AEDT

Applications close: Monday 19 October 2026 at 12pm AEDT

Applicants notified of the outcome of their submission: Monday 14 December 2026

Fundraising campaign window: 1 February 2027 - 30 April 2027

ACF Grant payments distributed: mid-late May 2027

Projects commence: Any time from May 2027

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

What arts and cultural activities can I fundraise for?

Projects must fall under at least one of the [cultural forms as specified in the ITAA 97](#): literature, music, a performing art, a visual art, a craft, design, film, video, television, radio, community arts, arts or languages of Indigenous persons or movable cultural heritage.

The project activities must clearly relate to the specified cultural form. These can span activities such as producing, presentation, touring, research, etc.

What do you mean by 'private sector support'?

Creative Australia uses the term private investment to mean financial and in-kind support secured from individuals, trusts, foundations, businesses and partners. It can also be defined as private sector support.

For the purposes of ACF Boost, we refer to 'private sector support' as income from non-government sources.

What is the difference between donations from businesses and business sponsorships?

Donations through the ACF are benevolent gifts as donors receive a tax-deductible receipt. You cannot offer material benefits or rewards in exchange for a donation as this would prevent the funds being a gift.

Business sponsorships/corporate partnerships typically involve the exchange of goods and/or services for a fee. Therefore, these arrangements are not benevolent and cannot be paid for via the ACF.

Will funds raised external to my ACF project be matched? Such as selling tickets to a fundraising event.

No, a donor cannot receive any material benefits in exchange for a donation. The ACF cannot receive donations (nor provide a deduction) where the donor or an associate obtains, or would be expected to obtain, any benefit or reward other than the benefit of a tax deduction. More information on this can be found on the ATO website.

For in-person events, we suggest generating a QR code which links directly to your ACF project to facilitate donations.

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, social media, 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](#).

It's mentioned in the assessment criteria that a 'case for support' will be considered. What is this?

A case for support is something you can weave into your project application. It's all about explaining why your project is important, what it means to you, how it is different to other projects of a similar nature and why it is time sensitive (why does it have to happen now?). It should be a strong rationale for why donors should support your project.

Can I apply for ACF Boost for multiple projects?

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

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 21 September 2026 – Monday 19 October 2026, will be considered for Boost.

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

Can I apply for ACF Boost if I/my organisation was an ACF Boost recipient in 2026?

No, you are not eligible to apply for ACF Boost 2027 if you were a part of the ACF Boost 2026 cohort.

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.

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 to register an ACF profile?

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. Please note that the bank account that funds are paid to must have the same name as the ABN holder.

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 starting 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.

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.

We do encourage you to create a campaign pitch video that you can use to promote your fundraising campaign - this can always be added to the project after launching.

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 i.e. come to \$0.

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	1,200	Marketing and promotion costs	1,600
Grants Received	0	Administration	0
Sponsorship and Support	1,000	Salaries, fees and allowances	10,000
Donations Other	5,000	Logistical and travel costs	600
Donations through ACF	5,000		
Total Income	12,200	Total Expenditure	12,200

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.

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.

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.

When will I receive our ACF Boost funds?

ACF Boost grant agreements will be issued in mid-late May 2027. 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 2027.

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.

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

We have a range of online resources to get you 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 [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 10-minute consultations which you can arrange [here](#).

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 opportunity. Participants will be asked to provide images/videos for the promotion. The ACF team will check-in with participants at regular intervals throughout the fundraising window.