

Mendrisio Film Fund

Regulations

Last updated: March 2023

1. Purpose

The Mendrisio Film Fund is an instrument created to encourage investment in the region of the City of Mendrisio by independent audiovisual production companies resident in Switzerland or abroad. It allows them to receive a credit on direct expenses incurred in companies, venues, services and professionals in the region of the City of Mendrisio in the course of shooting a film.

The Fund also has the secondary purpose of promoting the image of the City of Mendrisio.

2. Capital and management

The Fund has a total annual capital of CHF 30'000.-- (thirty thousand Swiss francs) financed by the City of Mendrisio. The management is carried out by the Ticino Film Commission, which verifies and approves the subsidy applications as they are submitted. The balance is approved by the Ticino Film Commission and the City of Mendrisio after presentation of the incurred expenses justified by accounting documents.

Requests are processed in chronological order from their reception and funds are guaranteed only until the capital is exhausted.

3. Admission criteria

Access to the Fund is open to independent production companies that have been active for at least three years and intend to use the facilities of the City of Mendrisio for filming fiction or documentary projects in the form of short films, feature films or television series. Commercials are excluded.

A financial coverage of the project of (at least) 80% of the total budget is required to apply for a financial incentive.

4. Eligible expenses and amount of grant

All expenses incurred in the making of film sequences with any type of professional, service provider or company having its domicile or registered office in the territory of the City of Mendrisio (see attached map) between January 1st of the current year and February 28th of the following year are eligible. A maximum of CHF 10'000.-- (ten thousand Swiss francs) is eligible for each individual entity.

The maximum grant that can be awarded to each project is 30% of the eligible expenses and may not exceed CHF 30'000.- (thirty thousand Swiss francs). The Ticino Film Commission makes an assessment based on the characteristics of the project and the budget for the expenses foreseen in the territory and issues a decision.

5. Request for Subsidies

The request must reach the Ticino Film Commission at least 30 days before the start of filming. No incentive can be granted for filming in progress or for expenses already incurred; exceptions are only possible following a previous agreement with the Ticino Film Commission and if the Fund's capital allows it.

Productions must send a dossier consisting of:

- Project title and synopsis
- Brief presentation (cast, crew and other information deemed important)
- CV of the production company(ies) and director
- Budget
- Financing plan
- List of confirmed funding
- Form “List of expenses within the Mendrisio area” partially completed with the estimated expenses (see attached example)
- Specific production plan within the Mendrisio area (dates and locations of filming)

The Ticino Film Commission also reserves the right to request further documents if necessary.

The Ticino Film Commission undertakes to communicate the decision and the amount of the incentive within 60 days of receipt of the complete application. The Ticino Film Commission and the City of Mendrisio are not obliged to justify their decision, not even at the explicit request of the applicant. This decision is not subject to appeal.

6. Payment of subsidy

The payment shall be made after presentation, at the latest on March 1st of the year following the subsidy’s attribution, of:

- Form “List of expenses within the Mendrisio area” fully completed with all occurred expenses (see attached example)
- Presentation of all the related accounting documents.

The final amount may not, in any case, be greater than the incentive granted before the start of production.

7. Contractual requirements

If the Fund awards a grant, the producers undertake to include the words Mendrisio Film Fund accompanied by the municipal coat of arms of the City in the credits and in the promotional material of the film. At the same time, the support of the Ticino Film Commission must be mentioned as follows: “The film was made with the collaboration of the Ticino Film Commission (LOGO)” in the credits, in the film’s press kit, on all types of promotional material for the film and on the website, if any.

The production also undertakes to complete the Data Collection Form sent by the Ticino Film Commission at the end of filming in the region.