FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING L-OPIF

Program Summary:

Local Oregon Production Investment Fund (L-OPIF) – rebates 20% of goods/services paid to Oregon registered vendors and 10% of Oregon-based payroll (including fringe benefits). Applies to projects spending a minimum of $75,000 up to the first $1 million in Oregon for any single project or season of a series. The local filmmaker must hire at least 80% Oregon cast + crew, contract with a CPA for payroll services and carry production insurance.

L-OPIF now also includes local “media production services”. Media production services, as defined in the bill, include post-production services and interactive video game development. In layman’s terms, projects where only post-production work is done in Oregon may apply for L-OPIF. Video game projects are also eligible to apply.

Q: Can I apply for L-OPIF now if I’m working on a “post-production only” or video game project?
A: Yes you can. Interactive games and “post only” project qualify for L-OPIF if they are being produced by an Oregon Headquartered company.

Q: If my project is over $1 million and there are no more OIF funds available, may I still apply for L-OPIF?
A: Yes, but only the first $1 million of your expenses can qualify for the rebate.

Q: My video game company (or post-production company) will be producing 4 projects over a calendar year. Can I fill out one application as a company?
A: No. Each individual project must apply as a separate project. We cannot accept speculative applications based on anticipated work.

Q: May I apply as I am bidding for a project?
A: Yes. We will tentatively hold the anticipated rebate amount while you are bidding for work, but only for a fixed amount of time. Should you win the bid, we will then formally reserve the funds for your project.

Q: My Company does post-production for commercials. May I apply for a rebate on one of those projects?
A: No. L-OPIF is only for projects with some form of a narrative. Commercial production, news, and sports programming are not allowed in the program according to the statute.

Q: Can my company outsource work out of the state and still apply for the program?
A: You may, but any expense that occurs physically outside the state (a la outsourcing work) will not count towards the rebate. By law, you are also are required to have 80% of your cast and crew be residents of Oregon to qualify for the rebate, so excessive outsourcing may exclude you from the program. Any inaccurate reporting about the location of the work will cause that project to be excluded from any rebate and may prevent the production company from being able to apply for a rebate on any future projects.

It is also important for producers utilizing the Oregon incentives program to familiarize themselves with the state laws regarding Independent Contractors; which can be found on the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry website. Incentives cannot be paid to companies and projects which are in conflict with state laws.

Q: Can we capture “retroactive” expenses?
A: No. The only expenses that can be incentivized are those which have been incurred after the date on the application for the project. We cannot accept an application and then “reach back” for expenses which were dated prior to the application date itself.
Q: What defines an “Oregon Resident?”
A: The actual definition of an Oregon resident can be found via the “Oregon Laws” website, specifically ORS 316.027

Q: How are airline ticket expenses qualified?
A: All travel related costs that are booked through an Oregon-based travel agent into and out of Oregon will count at the 20% rate. Travel booked through an exclusively online agent or directly with the airlines will not qualify.