

## 2025 EDFC Adobe Filmmaker Grant Program Application Rules

These rules ("Rules") govern your application to, and potential participation in, the **2025 Easterseals Disability Film Challenge Adobe Filmmaker Grant Program ("Program")**. By submitting an application ("Entry"), **you ("Applicant")** agree to be bound by these Rules and any additional terms, conditions, or instructions provided by **Easterseals Southern California, Inc. ("Easterseals")** and **Nic Novicki (together, the "Challenge Parties")**. The Program is open to alumni of the **Easterseals Disability Film Challenge ("EDFC")** who meet the eligibility requirements and provide comprehensive applications in a timely manner, as specified in these Rules and the Program guidelines. The Challenge Parties reserve the right to assign their rights and obligations under these Rules to third parties at their discretion.

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### 1. ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- 1.1. The Program is open to filmmakers ("Alumni") who have previously submitted films to the EDFC, including those who have received prior grants.
  - 1.2. Eligible individuals who apply to the Program are referred to in these Rules as **"Applicants"**.
  - 1.3. Applicants must submit their Entry by **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (at 11:59 PM PST/ 8:59 PM EST)** to be eligible for consideration.
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### 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINE

- 2.1. To apply to the Program, follow these Official Rules and the instructions found below and/or on [www.disabilityfilmchallenge.com](http://www.disabilityfilmchallenge.com).
  - 2.2. The following materials all Applicants must submit as part of their Entry, includes:
    - A project proposal and synopsis.
    - A detailed budget outlining how the \$25,000 grant will be used.
    - An execution plan specifying what will be completed by **December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.
    - Additional materials as specified in the Program guidelines found on [www.disabilityfilmchallenge.com](http://www.disabilityfilmchallenge.com)
  - 2.3. The Applicant submitting the Entry must either have a disability and serve as the project/team representative or collaborate with a disabled individual who will actively participate in the Program. If the Applicant does not have a disability, the disabled collaborator must be identified in the Entry and commit to participating in the Grant Program.
  - 2.4. The Challenge Parties may reject incomplete or late submissions at their sole discretion.
  - 2.5. There is no fee to apply.
  - 2.6. Key Program Dates:
    - **Submission Deadline:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - **Grant Recipients Announced:** At the 2025 EDFC Award Show on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - **Grant Closeout Deliverables Due:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - **Grant Program Completion:** December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
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### 3. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- 3.1. Applications will be evaluated by a panel of industry professionals designated by the Challenge Parties.

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3.2. Evaluation criteria include creative merit, feasibility of the project, and alignment with the Program's goals.

3.3. As part of the application process, the Selection Committee will evaluate Applicants' prior EDFC films under the respective contest rules alongside their new materials submitted for the 2025 Program. Applicants acknowledge and agree that any short films submitted to previous EDFC contests remain subject to the rules and agreements under which they were originally submitted, and these prior rules continue to govern their use.

3.4. A select group of Applicants ("Finalists") will advance to evaluation by the Selection Committee.

3.5 Finalists may be invited to participate to interview with the Selection Committee to further assess their Project. Interviews are currently scheduled to take place on **Sunday, March 23, Monday, March 24, and Tuesday, March 25, 2025**. Finalists are encouraged to be available for this interview.

3.6. The Challenge Parties' decisions regarding grant recipients are final and binding.

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### 4. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS

4.1. Applicants selected to receive the grant will be referred to as "**Grantees**" upon their acceptance of the grant award. Applicants who decline the grant award will not be considered Grantees and will not participate in the Program.

4.2. Grantees must sign a Grant Award Agreement to confirm their participation in the Program and receive grant funds. Failure to execute the Grant Award Agreement within the timeframe specified by the Challenge Parties may result in forfeiture of the grant and withdrawal of the invitation to the Program.

4.3. Grantees must agree to actively participate in the following Program activities:

- Bi-weekly check-ins, once every two weeks, with Program staff from **July 2025 through December 2025**.
- Mentorship sessions and educational workshops organized by the Challenge Parties.
- Attendance at the **Pitch Showcase** in Los Angeles, California, scheduled for mid-November 2025.

4.2. Grantees must submit a final **Grant Closeout Report** by **December 18, 2025**, which could include:

- Full accounting of how the \$25,000 grant was used.
- Outcomes and achievements of the project.
- Materials requested by the Program staff to demonstrate the progress of the Project during the Program.

4.3. Grantees must agree that all project materials, including but not limited to promotional materials and end credits, will include the following acknowledgment: "This project was supported by the 2025 Easterseals Disability Film Challenge Adobe Filmmaker Grant Program."

4.4. Grantees must use grant funds solely for approved purposes. Any deviations from the approved budget require prior written approval from the Challenge Parties.

4.5. In addition to the \$25,000 Grant Funds, Grantees will receive a stipend of \$5,000 to support educational participation and travel expenses.

4.6. Failure to fulfill these requirements may result in suspension from the Program or forfeiture of grant funds.

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### 5. APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITY

5.1. Grantees are solely responsible for:

- All costs, resources, and logistics related to their project, including securing cast, crew, locations, and permits.
- Obtaining all necessary permissions, licenses, and releases for third-party materials used in the project.

5.2. The Challenge Parties are not liable for any claims, damages, or expenses arising from the Grantee's Project or participation in the Program.

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### 6. OWNERSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

6.1. Grantees retain ownership of all intellectual property rights associated with their projects.

6.2. The Challenge Parties retain no ownership interest in the projects but reserve the right to use the Grantees' names, likenesses, and Project details (e.g., titles and loglines, clips) for promotional purposes related to the Program and EDFC.

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### 7. INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS

7.1. By submitting an application, Applicants expressly agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Challenge Parties, their affiliates, officers, directors, agents, partners, insurance carriers, and employees (collectively, the "Program Indemnitees") from any and all claims, damages, expenses, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees), and liabilities (including settlements) brought or asserted by any third party against any of the Program Indemnitees due to or arising out of the Applicant's participation in the Program, or the Applicant's conduct during or in connection with the Program.

7.2. The Program Indemnitees shall not be liable for disputes between collaborators, team members, vendors, talent, or other individuals involved in the application or participation in the Program. Applicants warrant and represent that they will indemnify and hold the Program Indemnitees harmless from any such disputes.

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### 8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

8.1. Any disputes arising from these Rules shall be resolved through binding arbitration administered by JAMS under its Comprehensive Arbitration Rules and Procedures.

8.2. Arbitration shall be conducted in **Los Angeles, California**. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding on all parties, and judgment may be entered upon the decision in any court of competent jurisdiction.

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### 9. FORCE MAJEURE EVENTS

9.1. The Challenge Parties are not responsible for delays or failures caused by circumstances beyond their reasonable control, including but not limited to natural disasters, pandemics, or government actions. In such cases, the Challenge Parties reserve the right to modify, postpone, or cancel the Program as necessary.

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### 10. APPLICANT WITHDRAWAL AND PROGRAM TERMINATION

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10.1. Applicants may withdraw their applications prior to the acceptance of a grant award by providing written notice to the Challenge Parties.

10.2. The Challenge Parties reserve the right to terminate a Grantee's participation in the Program if the Grantee fails to comply with these Rules.

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### **11. MODIFICATIONS TO PROGRAM RULES**

11.1. The Challenge Parties may amend these Rules at their discretion to address unforeseen circumstances or changes to the Program.