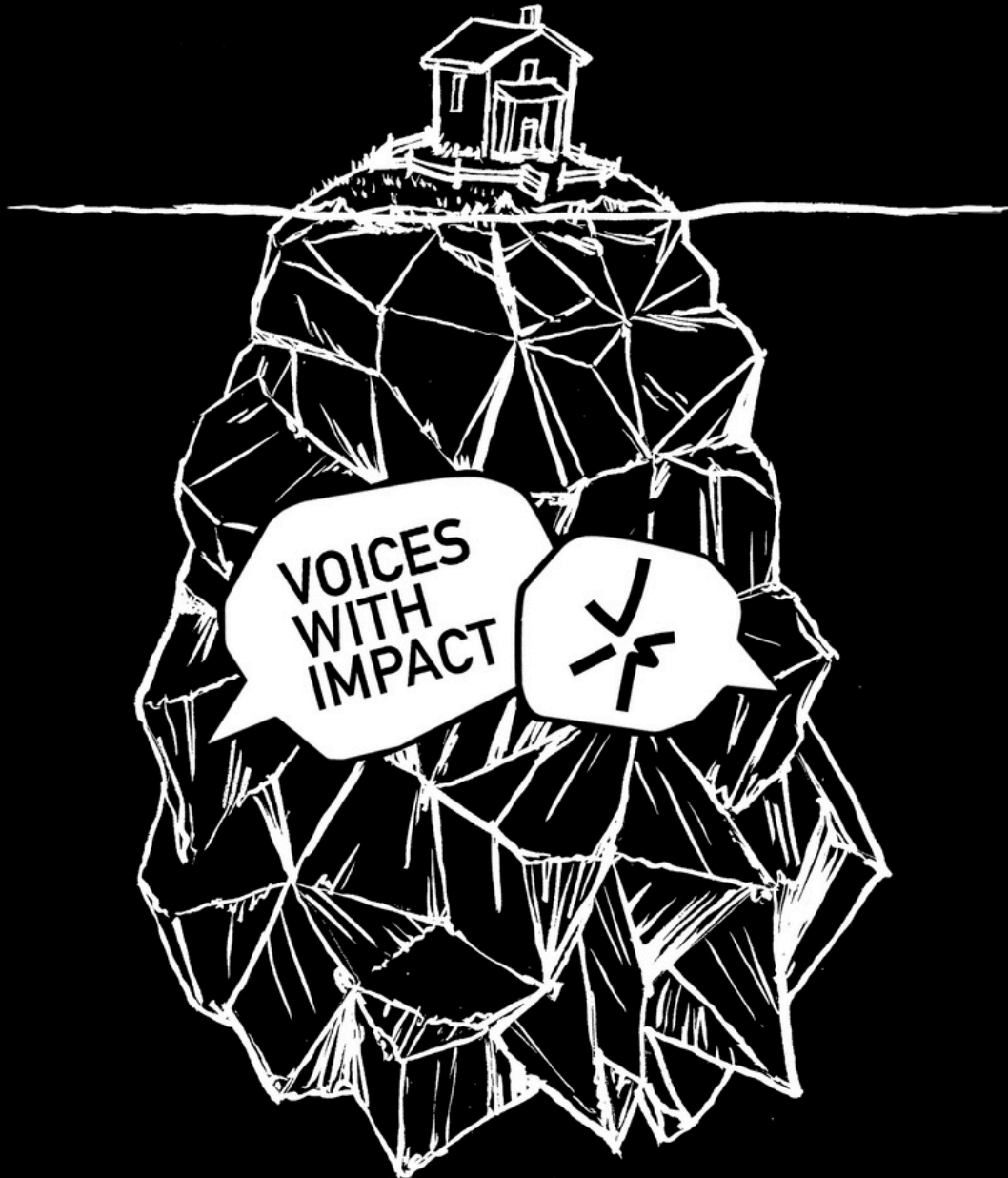


Open Call For Film Proposals



A production grant for 5 minute films
on the topic of mental health.

2026 Theme

Coping, Connection, and Community

Submission Window- Opens: August 1 2025- Closes: Sept 9 2025

GRANT INFORMATION



- Voices With Impact is a Mental Health focused Film Production Grant.
 - We're offering \$7.5k USD Production Grants to make 5 minute films on the topic of Coping, Connection, and Community.
 - Selected filmmakers are supported through the filmmaking process and connected with mentors from our rich network of industry professionals
 - Films are distributed for years to come through our educational programming in partnership with postsecondary institutions across North America
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- Open Call for submissions globally: August 1 2025
 - Submission Window Closes: Sept 9 11am PT 2025
 - Shortlist final interview October 22-24 2025
 - Winners notified by October 30 2025
 - Production: November 2025-April 2026
 - Final Films delivered by April 20 2026
 - World Premiere in June 2026

What are we looking for?

- **Fresh, challenging narratives •**
- **Beautifully memorable visuals •**
- **Underrepresented voices •**
 - **Unresolved endings •**
 - **Enduring relevance •**

The Voices With Impact Jury will be evaluating proposals using the following criteria:

- Unique artistic and creative approach to telling the story
- Accuracy of depictions of mental health issues, stemming from credible research sources and lived experiences
- Consideration of filmmaking techniques and skill level
- Identification/connection with the population within the subject matter and demonstrated cultural sensitivity and awareness around the topic
- Degree to which the film has the potential reduce existing stigma
- If the story could realistically be effective as a film that is five-minute or less
- Filmmaker's demonstrated ability to complete this project with a high level of professionalism

Coping, Connection, and Community



For our 2026 Voices With Impact film grant, we're seeking proposals that explore Coping, Connection, and Community through the lens of mental health.

We're leaving the interpretation of this theme wide open. Whether your vision is personal, poetic, surprising, subtle—or all of the above—we want to see what these words mean to you.

Your film can focus on story, aesthetic, or both. Comedy, horror, documentary, animation, drama, experimental—even westerns or sci-fi, if our jury believes the budget can hold—it's all welcome. The only requirement: your proposal must explore mental health.

To help spark ideas, here are just a few of the ways you might engage with the theme:

- Small rituals of survival: personal strategies people use to stay grounded amid chaos—whether spiritual, absurd, or deeply practical
- Intergenerational coping: how families pass down or disrupt harmful coping patterns
- Art as a lifeline: how creativity, storytelling, music, or humor becomes a lifeline
- Finding connection in unlikely places: online friendships, coworking spaces, support groups, shared grief, dog parks
- Rebuilding connection after rupture: healing after estrangement, betrayal, or ideological conflict
- The politics of empathy: how truly listening can change everything in a polarized world
- Mutual aid and collective care: how people are caring for each other when systems fail
- Spiritual or cultural communities as sites of healing or tension

We're looking for honest, human stories that bring mental health to life—whether through raw emotion, radical joy, and/or everything in between. Above all, we want to fund work that opens space for dialogue, reflection, and connection.

So bring us your boldest, brightest, most curious ideas. We can't wait to see what you'll create.

Proposal Guide



Your Contact Information [\(completed on webform\)](#)

- Name of primary filmmaker (to be main point of contact)
- Email of primary filmmaker
- Location of primary filmmaker (city, state or province, country)
- Social handles & links

Your Previous Work [\(completed on webform & proposal\)](#)

- Three links of relevant past film projects that you've created
 - Please use a file sharing application that means we don't have to download these to view. We love Vimeo links!
 - You can include work from across your team (director, producer & DOP could each offer 1 work sample each to make the total 3).
 - You can include scripts or other works (audio, stage, dance, etc) if you don't have 3 past film works completed.
 - Our jurors will watch max 5 mins per link, totalling 15 mins of content

Your Proposal

The following items should be included in 1 document. You will share a downloadable link such as Google Drive or WeTransfer in the webform. We encourage you to make this proposal document look nice and appealing for our jurors. We prefer proposals around 10 pages long and most importantly so do our jurors.

[Find the template here.](#)

1. You & Your Team

- a. Your bio and resume (we want to see what you've done in film)
- b. Names, bios, and credentials of any identified collaborators (director, director of photography, writer, producer, actors)

2. The Film Idea/Proposal

- a. A Logline: a brief summary of your film idea (max. 75 words)
- b. Project treatment: outline of story, plot, themes, filmmaking techniques. (max. 500 words)
- c. Filmmaking Techniques: What methods you'll use to get across your story (max. 250 words)

3. Mood board or alternative visual inspiration.

- a. What will the film look like?

4. Mental Health Themes

- a. Explain: WHAT mental health themes are explored in the film and HOW are mental health themes explored in the film.
- b. Are you going to collaborate with any organizations or partners?

5. Lived Experience & Your Connection

- a. How are you including lived experience in your film?
- b. Why you? Why this film? Why now?

6. Budget (in USD or CAD)

- a. A realistic and reasonable line-by-line budget for how the \$7,500 USD grant would be used, including any additional funding and funding sources if relevant.

7. Production schedule

- a. Nov 1, 2025 through April 20, 2026 (including any resources, locations, collaborations, etc.)

8. Work Samples

- a. We ask you to include these again in this document for the ease of our jurors.

[Submission Window opens: August 1 2025 Deadline: Sept 9 11am PT 2025](#)