



UNITED
SCENIC
ARTISTS



A JOBS PROGRAM FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN: THE NEW YORK STATE FILM & TELEVISION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The New York State Film and Television Tax Credit program is a unique one-of-a-kind business tax credit program. It is a program that, since its inception in 2004, has resurrected New York's film and television industry, made New York a winner in the world of global competition for production, and put tens of thousands of New York union members to work. It is a program that recognizes that coupling state incentives with New York's talented film and television crews and casts translates into multiple billions of dollars in economic activity for New York while creating Union jobs, jobs with excellent wages and benefits. Without this New York State production incentive program these jobs will be gone!

We urge the Legislature to include an extension to the Film and Television Tax Credit Program in the 2019-20 State Budget. Here's why:

- It is an ESTABLISHED program with a DEMONSTRABLE track record of creating 48,300 middle class jobs across New York State in 2017. That amounts to \$4.3 BILLION IN PERSONAL INCOME in 2017. The program drove \$6.7 billion in local spending just in 2017.

- It is about PEOPLE, not buildings or overhead or entitlements. The program is structured so that the credit goes directly to wages for men and women working on film and television productions. It does not go to executive jobs or Hollywood stars. And, the production company ONLY RECEIVES THE CREDIT AFTER THE JOBS ARE CREATED.
- The people working on these productions are in UNION jobs. The unions help ensure high wages and full benefits. Jobs supported by the credit paid \$90,000/year (on average) in 2017. The unions ensure workers are protected.
- The program helps GROW UNION JOBS in New York State. There has been a 30% increase in production crew membership since 2004. There has been a 24% increase in DGA members since 2004 and a 25% increase in the earnings of SAG-AFTRA members.
- The incentive has attracted substantial TV production which PROVIDES MORE STABLE EMPLOYMENT IN OUR FREELANCE INDUSTRY. 91 TV series and pilots applied for the program in 2017.
- The program is a PATH TO OPPORTUNITY. 44% of the jobs in the industry are available to workers without a 4-year degree.
- OTHER JOBS ARE DIRECTLY TIED TO THIS CREDIT with 30+ soundstages built (or in the active pipeline) since 2016 . That totals over \$550 million in investment.
- Film and TV Productions are not locked into a building. They can shoot anywhere. One-in-5 jobs were located OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY.
- Receiving the credit is directly and irrevocably tied to creating jobs and paying wages in NEW YORK. No jobs no credit.
- The impact is IMMEDIATE because film and TV productions do not take years to be completed.
- There are transparency and reporting requirements that everyone receiving the credit must adhere to.
- The program is a model of how to make the GIG ECONOMY WORK FOR—NOT ABUSE---PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, THE SUCCESS OF THIS TAX CREDIT CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. There is a misconception that New York will always be a destination for film and TV production. The motion picture industry can re-create New York in Canada or London. Toronto was in fact exactly where most film and TV production was located before 2004—even the TV Movie “**9/11**” was shot there.

**THE NEW YORK ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY GUILDS AND UNIONS
ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT**