

Eligibility requirements for the Cultural Fund Online Special funding

As of: November 2025



1. Entitlement to subsidies

All full and associate GEMA members belonging to the professional category of **composers or lyricists** are entitled to subsidies.

2. Object of the subsidy and conditions for receiving it

Every member can file **one** application for subsidy of a project per financial year. **Each project** can be supported with a subsidy only **once**. This also applies if multiple applicants apply in respect of the same project. We therefore recommend that other parties who have an interest in the project, and might also be entitled to apply, be notified in advance when planning to file an application. An application for a subsidy can be filed if the following conditions are met:

- The member making the application must have granted GEMA the management of their online rights. In addition, **revenue amounting to at least €500 must have been generated in the GOP, MOD D and/or MOD S categories** during the financial year preceding the application. The total revenue from these categories over the previous financial year **must also not exceed €15,000**.
- The subsidy is aimed at professional **music authors** who want to develop their **songwriting career strategically** by tapping into new networks of artists and/or business networks, new genres or new markets via organised **writing sessions** in and outside Germany or through prospective participation in **songwriting camps**, thereby developing a growing catalogue of copyrighted works in which they have been involved and are therefore entitled to a share of the proceeds.
- It is furthermore aimed at **creators** who are also **performers** (as solo artists or as part of a band) and who, in this capacity, are planning the **production and online release of an audio recording** (e.g. an EP or album) consisting solely of new own works. **Music producers** who are demonstrably, and to a significant degree, involved as co-authors in such a creation and music production process, are also entitled to apply.

3. Filing the application

Applications for a special subsidy may only be submitted via the GEMA **Online Portal**. Applications for the first funding round may be filed from 1 to 31 December 2025, and may only be submitted **by the actual applicant**. Applications may not be submitted by proxy representatives.

Applicants must provide evidence of their **creative work to date in the form of three works already released online** in which they have an interest. These are to be communicated via links (e.g. to Spotify, YouTube or a comparable platform) in the application form. Applicants must explain their contribution to the creation of these works.

Applicants should also provide a **video no longer than two minutes** for the jury, **introducing** themselves, their creative work to date and the project they aim to pursue with this subsidy. They should also submit a short biography.

Applicants may additionally share links to their social media profiles or songwriting credits. Applicants must state on the application form which **objective** they aim to pursue with this subsidy (the creation/conception and recording/production of one or more new work/s, and through what actions and means). They should highlight here how their project stands out from others (is it a “trail-blazing” project?).

The specific planned use of the subsidy should be set out in a **financing plan**. This must state clearly whether the project is also receiving any support from other sources.

Once the application has been submitted, applicants will receive an automatic confirmation of receipt in their Online Portal mailbox. Applicants will also be notified of the approval or rejection of the

application through a message in their **Online Portal mailbox**. We will not be able to provide information about the progress of the procedure during the intervening period.

4. Subsidy amount and payment

The subsidy amount of €10,000 is paid out as follows: **75 % after approval of the application and 25 % following completion of the project.**

Payment of the first subsidy instalment is expected to take place on 1 March 2026.

The disbursements made should be aligned with those calculated in the financing plan. Proof must be provided of the works created. This may be done by **submitting a recording, providing proof of the online presence** of the work created in the course of the project or by supplying other evidence of the works created (e.g. demo recordings). The jury reserves the right to define further framework conditions for presenting the work created (e.g. presenting it in a video or in the context of a collective event).

This proof must, at the very latest, be provided within six months of receiving payment of the first subsidy instalment.

Should there be indications that the project has not been implemented, or has not been implemented in accordance with the subsidy application, GEMA reserves the right to reclaim the subsidy from the applicant.

5. Awarding the subsidy

Subsidies will be awarded by an **independent jury** consisting of nine full members and three deputy members. The jury will be selected by the GEMA Supervisory Board and appointed for a three-year period.

The jury will decide in a secret ballot on the subsidy applications presented to it, with the composition of the jury varying as described above.

Applications will be processed **in order of receipt**. Once the funds designated for a given funding round have been exhausted, no further applications can be approved.

6. Obligations of the applicants

Applicants undertake to provide correct and complete information when filing an application. Retrospective changes and additions cannot be considered.

Applicants undertake that they will refer to the GEMA subsidy and use the GEMA logo in all analogue and digital releases appearing in the context of the subsidy. They also give permission for GEMA to promote itself with reference to the subsidised project.

7. Data protection

The provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) apply in respect of the processing of personal data. Further information, including the rights of the applicants, is available to view in the GEMA data protection declaration at: **www.gema.de/en/data-protection**.

8. Exclusion of legal entitlement

There is no legal entitlement to a subsidy from GEMA.

9. Period of validity

The above eligibility requirements are valid in respect of the current funding round at the time of their issuing.