



THE KENTUCKY PRODUCTION ADVANTAGE

A FILMMAKERS GUIDE TO ECONOMICS,
INFRASTRUCTURE, AND EXECUTION.

The Macro Opportunity

The industry is shifting. As Los Angeles, New York, and Atlanta become cost-prohibitive or oversaturated, Kentucky has emerged as a premier production destination offering Hollywood-level quality at a fraction of the net cost.

250+

Approved Productions Since 2022

27,000+

Jobs Created Since 2022

\$75M

Annual Program Funding Cap

The KEI Program: A Bottom-Line Financial Core

Standard Credit

30%

Applicable to all eligible Kentucky production costs.

Enhanced Credit

35%

Triggered by shooting in Enhanced Counties OR hiring KY-resident below-the-line crew.

Max Per Project

\$10M

High annual ceiling per production.

Refundable Tax Credit — Productions receive actual cash back against corporate, LLC, or individual income tax, certified after detailed cost reporting.

Production Eligibility and Spend Parameters

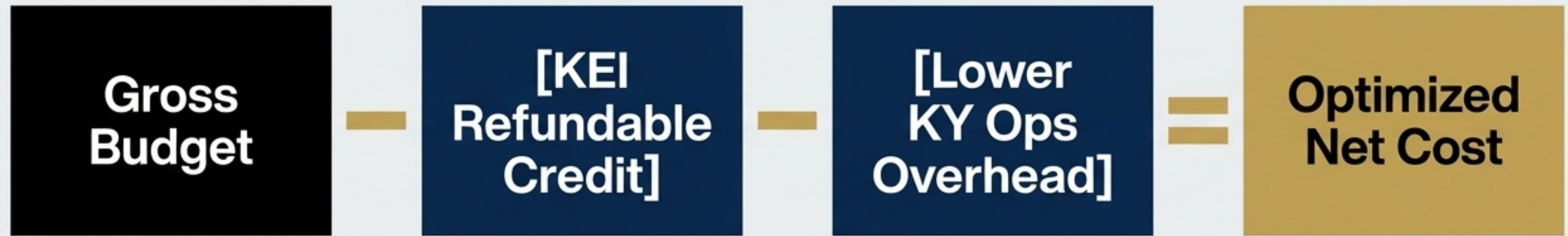
What Qualifies

- ✓ Feature-length films
- ✓ Television series & episodic shows
- ✓ Miniseries, TV movies, and TV pilots
- ✓ Documentaries & Broadway shows
- ✓ Streaming content (Netflix, Hulu, etc.)

The Parameters

- Principal photography must **START** within 6 months of approval.
- Production must **WRAP** within 2 years of start date.
- Continuous episodic productions require \$1.5M+ KY spend per year (from a \$10M+ total budget).

The Equation of Savings



The KEI Factor

Up to 35% cash back on local spend.

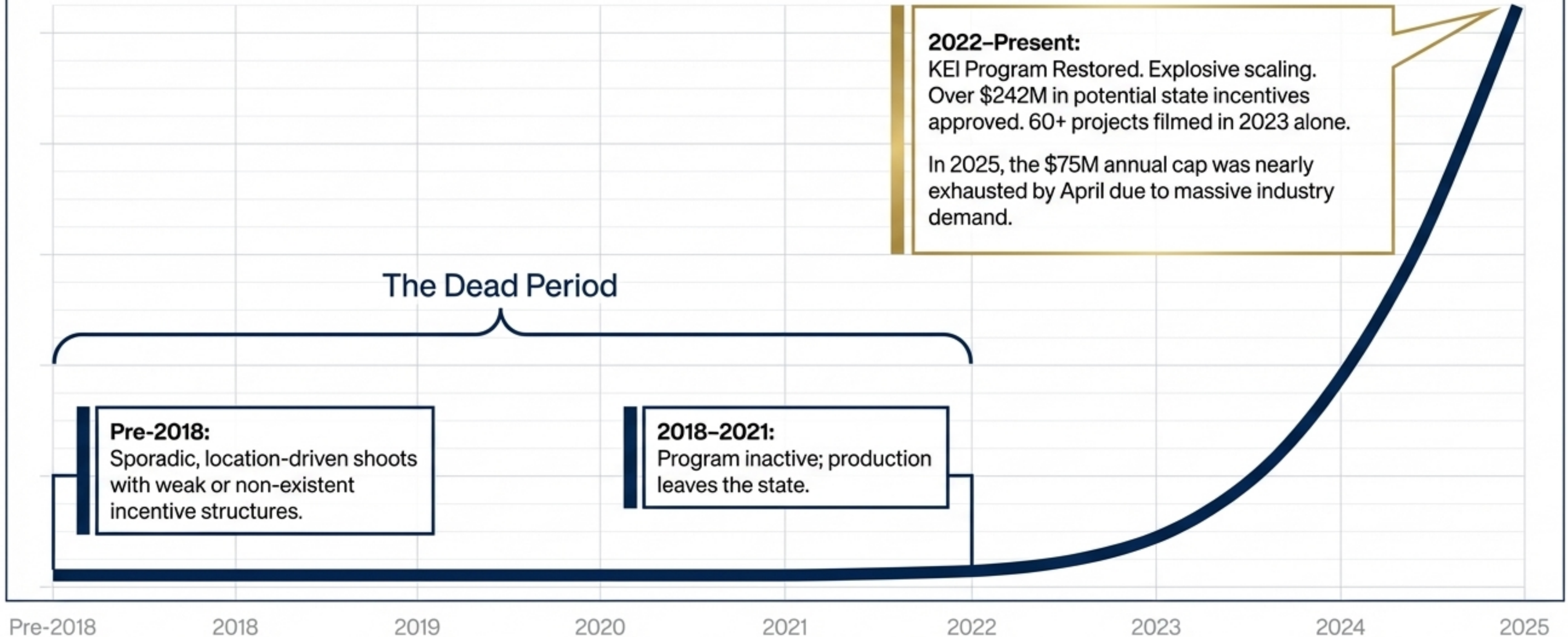
The Overhead Factor

Lower location fees, easier road closures, and reduced police overtime compared to LA/NY.

Real-World Impact

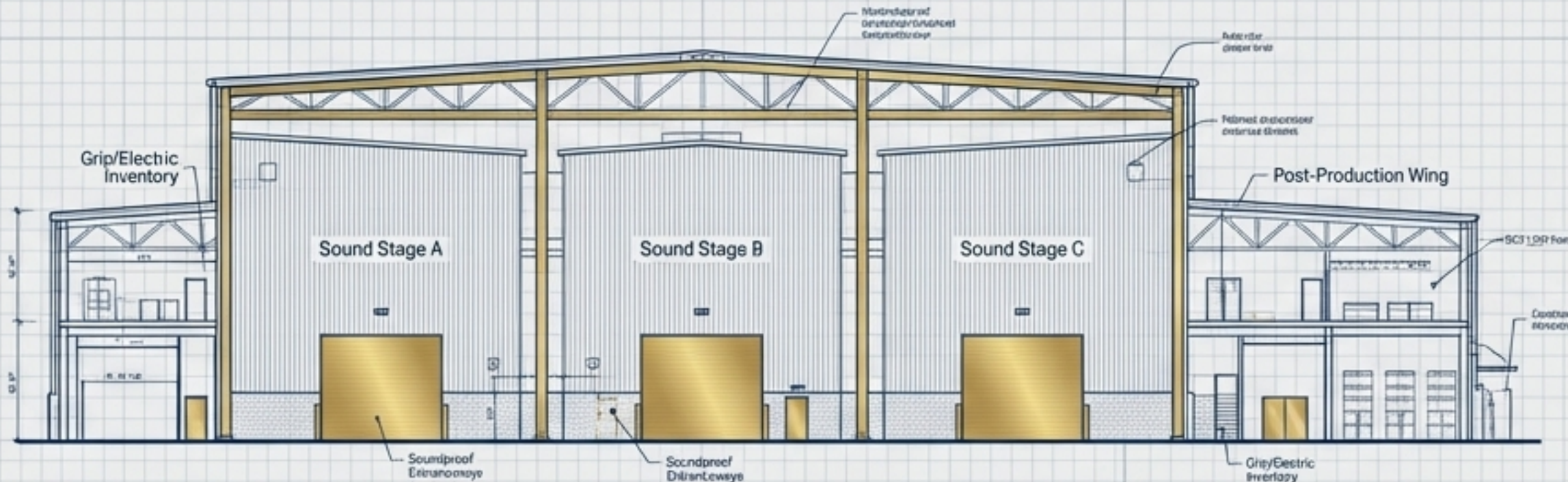
Independent feature Mr. Manhattan saved an estimated \$300,000 purely by shifting its location to Kentucky.

Proven Ecosystem Momentum



The Strategic Basecamp: Lexington Infrastructure

A production is only as efficient as its basecamp. Lexington houses the state's largest, fully operational production facility, eliminating the need to build temporary infrastructure.



LEX Studios - Elevation Plan

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

LEX Studios Capabilities

52,000 total square feet.



3 dedicated sound stages.



On-site grip, electric, and RED camera inventory.



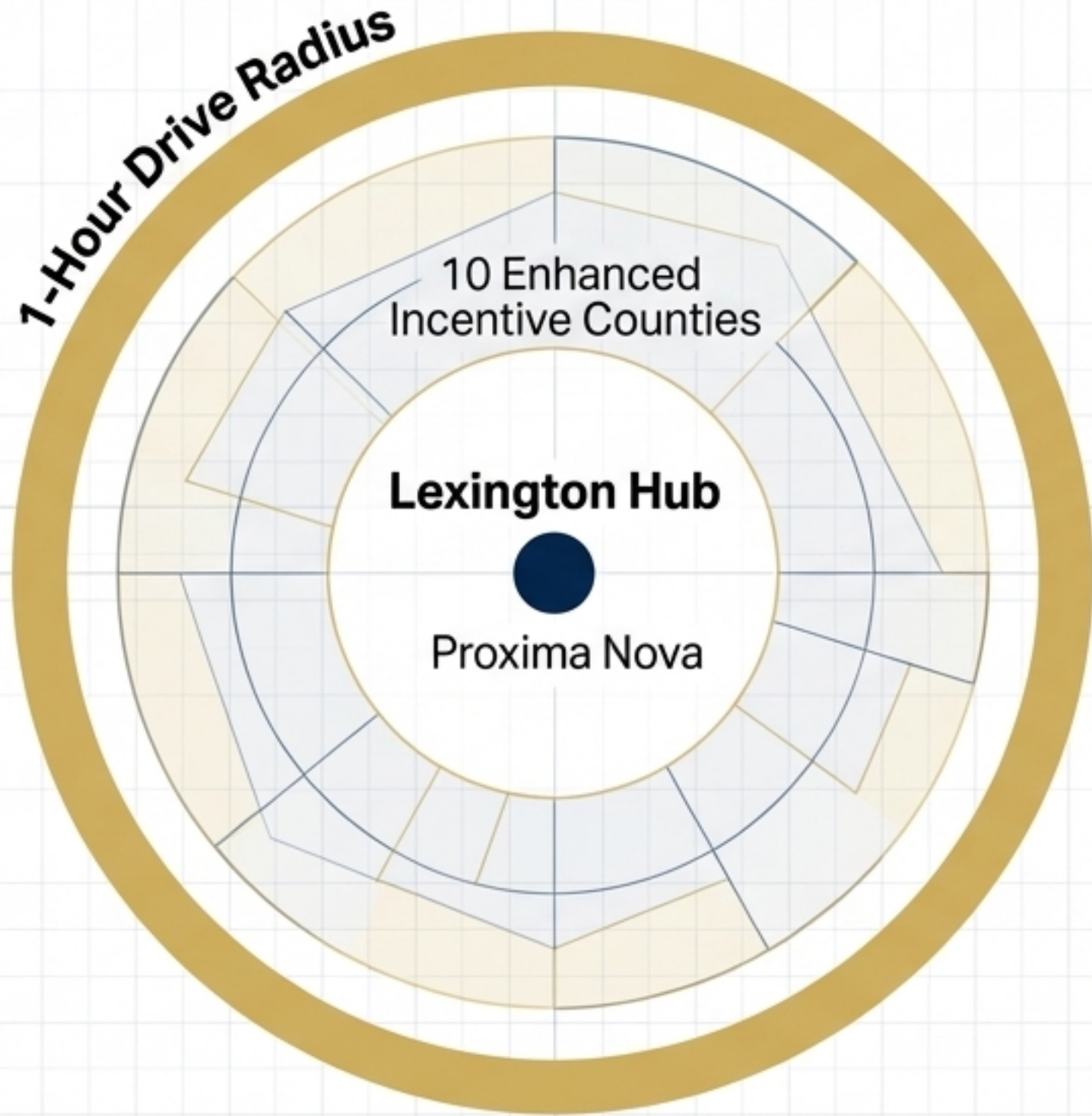
9 Avid edit bays optimized for remote collaboration.



Fully equipped audio recording studio.



The 35% Radius Advantage



Base Here

House your cast, crew, and production office in Lexington's urban center.

Shoot Here

Transport unit vehicles just minutes outside the city limits into any of the 10 adjacent enhanced counties.

Earn This

Trigger the maximum 35% KEI incentive tier effortlessly without sacrificing urban amenities or logistical convenience.

The Regional Production Matrix

	Lexington Basecamp	Crowded Mega-Hubs (e.g., Atlanta)	Other In-State Cities (e.g., Louisville)
Operational Sound Stages	Yes (LEX Studios)	Yes	Under Construction
Crew Competition Level	Low	Very High	Medium
Traffic & Permitting Friction	Low	High	Medium
Proximity to 35% Enhanced Counties	< 1 Hour	N/A	> 1 Hour

Synthesis Takeaway: Lexington offers the infrastructure of a major production city with the low friction and high tax incentives of a regional hub.

Unmatched Location Versatility



Urban Anonymity: Downtown city streets, government buildings, and hospitals capable of doubling for Philadelphia or major metros.



Period Authenticity: Preserved 19th-century small towns and historic estates ready for period/costume dramas.



Iconic Landscapes: Rolling bluegrass countryside and Thoroughbred farms (Keeneland).



Unique Architecture: 18 innovative distilleries, including sunken gardens and limestone castles.

Solving the Crew Factor

Bringing a production to Kentucky shouldn't mean importing your entire crew. Lexington features a growing registry of union-aware, LA-experienced department heads and technicians ready to scale your production efficiently.

Studio Roster

Studio Leadership

Led by industry professionals with 38+ years of major studio experience.

Verified Roster

Verified database of department heads, technicians, and day players.

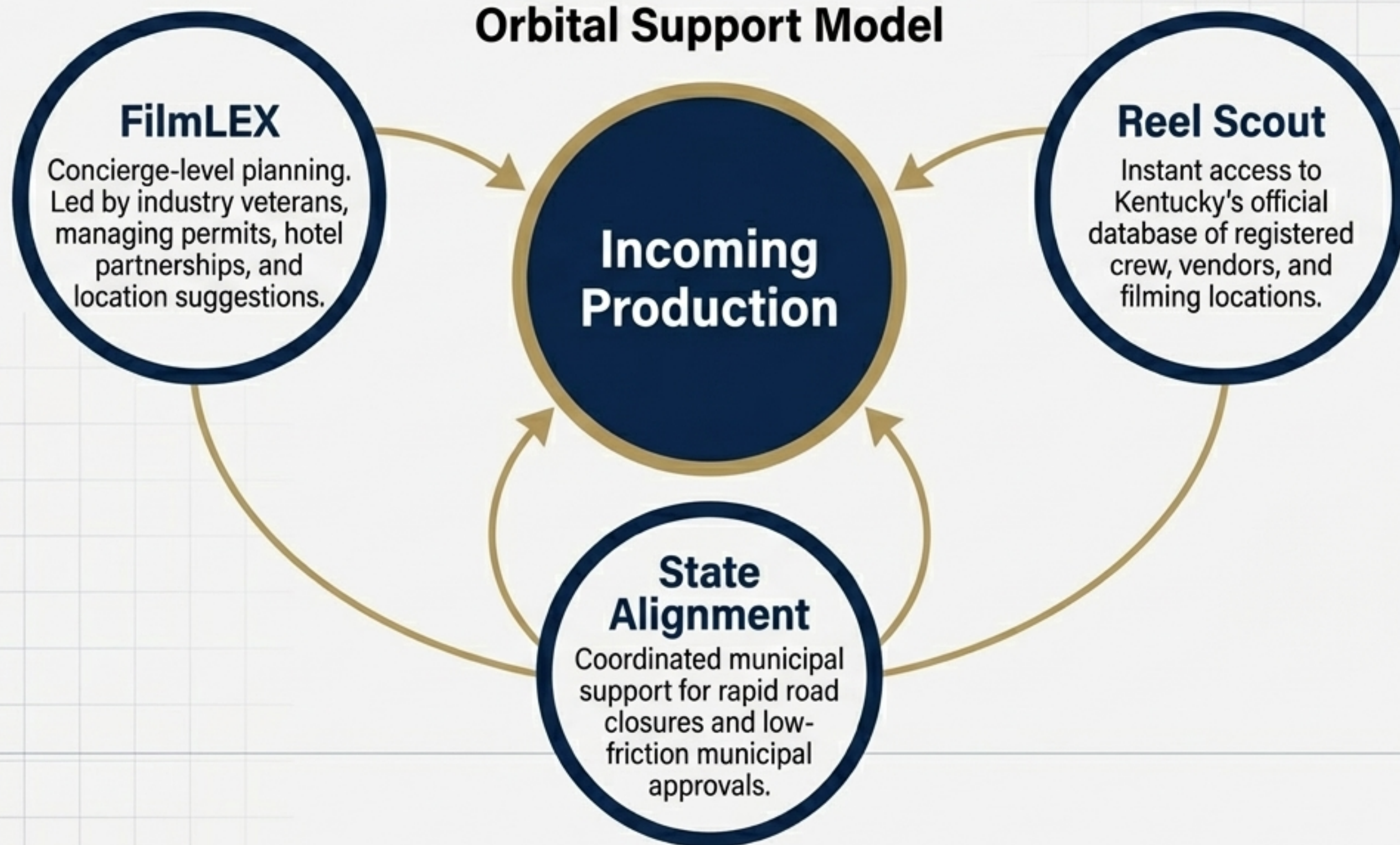
Specialty Expertise

Local specialty expertise (e.g., 44-year LA-veteran makeup FX studios operating locally).

Overhead Reduction

Reduces expensive travel and housing costs by staffing locally.

The Concierge Support Ecosystem



5 Steps to Greenlight

1

Contact KEI

Schedule a free introductory call (CED.KEI@ky.gov) to verify program parameters.

2

Run the Math

Structure the budget using the 30% standard or 35% enhanced tier.

3

Engage FilmLEX

Partner with the Lexington commission to map locations, stages, and hotels.

4

Secure Crew & Stages

Utilize Reel Scout and KY Film Crew to lock in department heads and LEX Studios.

5

Market to the Studio

Present the optimized net cost and Hollywood-level infrastructure to studio executives.

The Ultimate Production Value

Hollywood-Level Production

Access to 52,000 sq ft sound stages, LA-veteran department heads, and versatile urban/rural locations without the friction of mega-hubs.

Kentucky Economics

Capture a 30–35% fully refundable cash-back incentive with a \$10M per-project cap and significantly lower daily operational overhead.

By choosing Lexington, productions do not compromise on infrastructure or crew quality, while capturing one of the most aggressive cash-back incentives in the United States.

Initiate Your Production

Immediate Action Items: Download the KEI Guidelines PDF, explore the Reel Scout directory, and begin budget evaluations.

KEI Program (State Finance)

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FilmLEX (Logistics & Permitting)

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LEX Studios (Infrastructure)

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