

The screenplay is highly Georgia-friendly from a budget standpoint because it is built around contained, repeatable locations: small-town streets, a diner/burger joint, high school interiors, football stadium/field, sheriff's office, church, cemetery, family homes, and rural roads. The opening establishes Johnsonville as a Georgia football town where game day affects storefronts, church life, family life, and community rhythm, which supports a compact regional shoot rather than a travel-heavy production.

Georgia incentive assumptions should be built into the financing model. Georgia's current program offers a 20% base transferable tax credit, a possible additional 10% Georgia Entertainment Promotion uplift, a \$500,000 annual minimum expenditure, and no annual cap. ([Georgia](#)) The Department of Revenue also states that productions must incur at least \$500,000 in qualified costs and go through the mandatory audit process to obtain the credit. ([Department of Revenue](#)) The 10% uplift requires its own application/certification and promotional compliance, including approved Georgia logo or alternative marketing requirements. ([GA Rules and Regulations](#)) Development costs do not qualify, and postproduction expenditures only qualify to the extent tied to footage shot or created in Georgia. ([GA Rules and Regulations](#))

#### LOW TIER GEORGIA BUDGET OUTLINE

Recommended gross budget: **\$1.15M to \$1.35M**

Best working target: **\$1.25M**

Estimated Georgia qualified spend: **\$1.05M to \$1.18M**

Estimated 20% base credit: **\$210K to \$236K**

Estimated 30% credit with GEP uplift: **\$315K to \$354K**

Estimated cash value after sale/monetization at approximately 88% to 92%: **\$277K to \$326K**

Estimated net budget after monetized 30% credit: **approximately \$925K to \$1.05M**

This version treats *Blind Drive Ahead* as a contained independent faith-based sports drama with disciplined production value. It would rely on Georgia local crew, practical locations, limited shooting days, limited company moves, selective extras, and football action staged for emotional clarity rather than large-scale spectacle.

A realistic low-tier schedule would be **18 to 22 shooting days**, with **5 to 6 prep weeks**, **8 to 10 post weeks**, and football sequences consolidated into two or three major field/stadium blocks. The high school, football field, locker room, sheriff's office, church, diner, cemetery, and homes should be clustered within one Georgia county or two nearby counties to minimize transportation, lodging, and company move costs.

Low tier line-item outline:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Range</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Above the Line	\$175K to \$250K	Director, producers, writers, casting, lead cast, supporting cast. Prioritize one recognizable faith/sports-market actor as Coach Rogers, Sheriff Marquez, Linda, or another adult anchor.
Production Staff	\$85K to \$120K	UPM/line producer, AD team, production coordinator, script supervisor, office support.
Cast Payroll / Extras	\$80K to \$125K	Teen ensemble, adult supporting roles, day players, football team, cheerleaders, church congregation, limited crowd days.
Crew Payroll	\$225K to \$300K	Lean but professional Georgia crew. Keep departments efficient.
Locations / Permits	\$45K to \$75K	High school, football field, church, homes, diner, sheriff's office, rural roads, cemetery. Seek community partnerships.
Equipment	\$90K to \$130K	Camera, lenses, grip/electric, sound, limited specialty gear. Football nights require good lighting control.
Production Design / Wardrobe / Props	\$65K to \$95K	Football uniforms, helmets, team branding, sheriff materials, church dressing, school dressing, family home texture.
Stunts / Safety / Football Coordination	\$45K to \$75K	Essential. Includes football coordinator, stunt safety, medical coverage, crash aftermath staging, controlled hits. Avoid expensive vehicle impact photography where possible.
Transportation / Lodging / Meals	\$95K to \$140K	Can be contained if cast/crew are mostly local and locations are clustered.
Postproduction	\$150K to \$210K	Edit, sound design, score, color, titles, deliverables. Faith-based sports drama needs emotionally strong music and clean sound mix.
Insurance / Legal / Accounting / Payroll	\$75K to \$105K	Production insurance, legal, payroll services, audit prep, completion-related paperwork.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Range</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Marketing Assets / EPK / Pitch Deck Materials	\$25K to \$45K	Key art photography, trailer/editorial sizzle, social assets, faith-market outreach materials.
Contingency	\$90K to \$120K	Roughly 8% to 10%. Should not be cut.

Low tier production strategy: keep the story intimate and character-forward. The football action should be framed through Josh, Brandon, Coach Rogers, Candice, and the town’s emotional investment, not through massive sports coverage. Use one strong hero stadium location and redress/angle it for multiple games. Limit night exteriors and rain/wet-downs. Make the crash sequence impressionistic and aftermath-driven rather than stunt-heavy: headlights, football rolling into glass, red/blue lights, fractured sound, and emotional reaction. This aligns with the screenplay’s use of symbolic football, road, and “eyes up” imagery.

#### HIGH TIER GEORGIA BUDGET OUTLINE

Recommended gross budget: **\$3.0M to \$4.0M**

Best working target: **\$3.5M**

Estimated Georgia qualified spend: **\$3.0M to \$3.35M**

Estimated 20% base credit: **\$600K to \$670K**

Estimated 30% credit with GEP uplift: **\$900K to \$1.005M**

Estimated cash value after sale/monetization at approximately 88% to 92%: **\$792K to \$925K**

Estimated net budget after monetized 30% credit: **approximately \$2.58M to \$2.7M**

This version positions *Blind Drive Ahead* as a premium independent faith-based sports feature with stronger cast attachments, more cinematic football coverage, higher production polish, stronger music, expanded marketing materials, and enough production value to compete with faith-based theatrical, streamer, and event-cinema releases.

A realistic high-tier schedule would be **24 to 30 shooting days**, with **7 to 8 prep weeks**, **12 to 16 post weeks**, and dedicated second-unit or splinter-unit time for football inserts, Georgia town atmosphere, church exteriors, road imagery, drone work, and poster/trailer visuals.

High tier line-item outline:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Estimated Range</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Above the Line	\$650K to \$950K	Director, producers, writers, casting, lead cast, supporting cast. Allows 2 to 4 recognizable actors for adult roles and possibly a known young actor for Josh.
Production Staff	\$190K to \$260K	Full production management structure, stronger AD department, production accounting, locations support.
Cast Payroll / Extras	\$250K to \$400K	Larger football crowds, church congregation, school population, mayoral/community scenes, stronger day-player pool.
Crew Payroll	\$650K to \$850K	Full Georgia crew with stronger camera, lighting, art, wardrobe, makeup, sound, and locations departments.
Locations / Permits	\$130K to \$220K	Better stadium access, school control, road closures, church and town square control, sheriff's office build or standing set.
Equipment	\$275K to \$400K	Higher-end camera/lens package, night football lighting, drone, process trailer or controlled vehicle work, additional grip/electric.
Production Design / Wardrobe / Props	\$185K to \$275K	Full Wildcats branding package, uniforms, helmets, town signage, church materials, sheriff office design, family homes, campaign materials.
Stunts / Safety / Football Coordination	\$175K to \$275K	More robust football choreography, stunt coordinator, athletic doubles, medical team, controlled crash aftermath, safety consultants.
Transportation / Lodging / Meals	\$300K to \$450K	More cast travel, more extras days, more equipment movement, stronger basecamp infrastructure.
Postproduction	\$475K to \$700K	Longer editorial, sound design, ADR, 5.1 mix, original score, music licensing, color, VFX cleanup, deliverables.
Insurance / Legal / Accounting / Payroll	\$210K to \$325K	Includes incentive compliance, tax credit audit prep, legal chain of title, E&O, payroll, accounting.

Category	Estimated Range	Notes
Marketing Assets / EPK / Pitch Deck / Faith Outreach	\$150K to \$275K	Trailer, poster shoot, unit photography, social content, church/community discussion guide, faith-market screening materials.
Contingency	\$275K to \$375K	Roughly 8% to 10%. Higher if road work, minors, athletics, and weather exposure increase.

High tier production strategy: spend the money where the market sees it. For this film, that means football atmosphere, authentic Georgia community texture, emotionally cinematic church/family scenes, a polished score, and a clean trailer package. The high-tier version should not become bloated. It should still feel grounded, regional, and spiritually sincere. The extra spend should elevate the theatrical feel, not inflate the footprint.

#### RECOMMENDED BUDGET POSITION

The strongest target for *Blind Drive Ahead* is probably not the absolute low tier. The story has football, teen cast, grief scenes, school/community scale, road/crash aftermath, church sequences, sheriff/political material, and state championship movement. A too-small budget could make the film look underproduced in the exact areas the faith-based sports audience will judge first: football realism, emotional polish, music, and community scale.

My recommended producing target is:

**Gross budget: \$2.25M to \$2.75M**

**Best target: \$2.5M**

**Estimated Georgia qualified spend: \$2.15M to \$2.35M**

**Estimated 30% credit: \$645K to \$705K**

**Estimated monetized value at 90%: \$580K to \$635K**

**Estimated net production exposure: approximately \$1.87M to \$1.92M**

That middle-tier number is likely the healthiest version for this project. It gives the production enough money for credible football sequences, recognizable adult casting, strong postproduction, meaningful marketing assets, and proper safety coordination without forcing the film into a budget class where recoupment becomes harder for a faith-based sports drama.

#### GEORGIA PRODUCTION PLAN

The ideal Georgia footprint would be North Georgia, metro Atlanta-adjacent counties, or smaller towns within practical driving distance of Atlanta crew base. The film needs a believable

Johnsonville: a town where high school football, church, law enforcement, local politics, and family grief all overlap. The screenplay's world is not just a backdrop; it is the moral pressure chamber for Josh, Sheriff Marquez, Brandon, Candice, Coach Rogers, Martha, Andy, Malcolm, and the rest of the town.

Primary location clusters should be:

A high school campus with football field, locker room, cafeteria, hallway, classroom, front steps, practice field, and auditorium.

A church with sanctuary, parking lot, fellowship hall, youth room/classroom, and exterior marquee.

A sheriff's office or controllable municipal building dressed as the Johnsonville County Sheriff's Office.

Two to four family homes, primarily the Marquez house, Peterson house, Luciano house, and Brandon's home/driveway.

A diner or burger joint that can support the teen ensemble and town identity.

One rural road stretch for Doug's accident aftermath, Malcolm/Andy drunk driving setup, sheriff patrol material, and symbolic "Blind Drive Ahead" road signage.

A cemetery and small-town main street.

## INCENTIVE AND FINANCE NOTES

The production should plan to qualify for the Georgia base credit and pursue the 10% GEP uplift unless distribution, faith-market positioning, or contractual obligations make the promotional requirement impractical. The uplift should be addressed early, because Georgia requires separate certification and prior approval for the GEP logo or alternative marketing opportunity. ([GA Rules and Regulations](#))

The budget should carry a separate audit/compliance line because Georgia requires a mandatory audit for certified productions, and audit costs themselves do not qualify toward the credit. ([Georgia](#)) The finance plan should not treat the tax credit as immediate cash. It should be modeled as a transferable credit with a monetization discount, timing delay, audit process, and possible lender/bridge cost.

For investor-facing purposes, I would present the budget in three columns: gross budget, Georgia qualified spend, and estimated net exposure after monetized credit. That gives financiers a clearer view of actual capital at risk.

## PRACTICAL SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

The largest savings will come from clustering school, stadium, and practice field locations into one controllable campus. The second largest savings will come from limiting football coverage to emotionally essential plays. The third largest will come from casting mostly Georgia-based actors for supporting roles while reserving recognizable talent spend for a few strategically valuable parts: Coach Rogers, Sheriff Marquez, Linda, Martha Peterson, and possibly Mayor Luciano.

The production should also pursue in-kind or reduced-cost partnerships with local churches, schools, football programs, civic organizations, and Georgia faith communities. That said, those partnerships should not replace professional line items for safety, insurance, payroll, child/minor compliance if applicable, transportation, meals, and legal clearances.

#### FINAL PRODUCER RECOMMENDATION

For a pitch deck, I would present *Blind Drive Ahead* as a **\$2.5M Georgia-based faith-forward sports drama with a responsible low-tier path at \$1.25M and a premium high-tier path at \$3.5M**. The recommended version is the middle path because it protects the emotional, spiritual, and athletic credibility of the film while keeping the recoupment model realistic.

This project should not be sold as “cheap.” It should be sold as **contained, incentive-friendly, community-driven, and production-efficient**.