Frequently Asked Questions

What is the York County Tourism Grant Program?

The York County Tourism Grant Program was established by Explore York and the York County Commissioners. It is a competitive matching grant program aimed at boosting tourism (visitation from beyond a 50-mile radius) in York County. The program, which is funded through a room tax enacted by the York County Commissioners, will provide financial support to initiatives deemed capable of generating broad and substantial benefit to York County tourism. Grant recipients are selected by a committee comprised of appointed representatives outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between York County and Explore York.

Grant Cycle Schedule:

Each Year
Round 1:
Applications Open January 1 – February 15
No maximum request; minimum request $2,500.
Event Requests: Start date must be June 1 or after.

Round 2:
Applications Open June 1 – July 15
No minimum request, maximum amount $20,000.
Event Requests: Start date must be December 1 or after.

Timely Opportunity Grant: Open all year for qualified applicants.
Contact Elizabeth Waite Fisher at Elizabeth@YorkPA.org for more information.

How do you apply for a tourism grant?

The Tourism Grant Program application is located online: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=yorkvisitors. Through this portal, users have one-window access to draft and submit grant applications, check application status, and manage reports. First-time applicants will need to create an account prior to applying.

How long will it take to receive a decision on my grant application?

Application processing takes approximately 90 days. Upon receiving a decision, additional time will be needed to finalize an award. Please plan to apply 8-10 months in advance of your project start date.

Who is eligible to apply for a tourism grant?

The Tourism Grant Program is open to for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies with innovative projects aimed at expanding and/or improving tourism promotion and development in York County. An individual applicant must apply under a fiscal sponsor or form an LLC.

How do I know if my project idea is a good fit?

Consultations with our Grant Program Manager are strongly encouraged. Projects that increase hotel occupancy in York County are sought after. Email Elizabeth@YorkPA.org to schedule.

Is a match required?

All grant recipients must provide a MINIMUM 25 percent match, cash or in-kind, of the requested grant amount. A match can be derived from applicant dollars, sponsorships, cash donations, and/or leveraging another grant. An in-kind match could include a donated physical item or professional service. Volunteer hours and staff time will NOT be accepted as an in-kind match.

What kinds of expenses does the grant cover?

Grant funds can be utilized for events, research, development, or marketing.

Is there anything that the grant does NOT cover?

Grant funding cannot be used toward projects that would create unfair competition with other private sector (both for-profit and non-profit) York County tourism efforts. Projects should create shared economic impact amongst tourism stakeholders. Grant funding is not designed for payroll or infrastructure expenses.

Can applicants submit multiple applications to the York County Tourism Grant Program?

Yes, there is no set number of grant awards to be made within each cycle. For separate cycles, all necessary paperwork and reporting from existing grants must be submitted before receiving additional funding.

How will my organization know if it has been awarded any money?

All applicants will receive email notification.

Once I have been awarded a grant, what is the next step?

Review your grant contract by logging onto www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=yorkvisitors. Next, schedule a meeting with our Grant Program Manager to review your contract and project details. Explore York requires a meeting prior to finalizing a contract.

What are the requirements for each grant recipient?

Grant recipients will be required to sign a grant contract, provide a certificate of insurance in the amount of $1 million naming Explore York as additional insured, and provide interim reports and post grant reports with receipts. Grant Recipients are required to integrate elements of York County Destination Branding into their projects as well as recognize Explore York as the sponsoring organization. View Grant Recipient Brand Standards online.

How do I get the Explore York and York County Destination Brand logos?

Logos are available for download on the York County Tourism Grant Program website: www.YorkPA.org/Grants.

When submitting expenditures for the post grant report, what is proof of payment?

Grant recipients will need to submit receipts for qualifying program expenditures totaling the grant amount and the 25 percent match. Line item expenses of less than $500 may not require receipts. Itemized, zero-balance receipts from your vendors are highly preferred. You may also submit documentation that shows itemization and proof of purchase using third party documentation. (No internal payable software, internal ledgers, etc.)

Where can I locate additional information?

Additional information on the grant program is located on the Explore York website: www.YorkPA.org/Grants

Who do I contact for additional information?

Elizabeth Waite Fisher, Grant Program Manager
Email: Elizabeth@YorkPA.org
Phone: 717-852-9675 ext. 113
Consultations are strongly encouraged.