

Tourism Grants are made possible by an agreement between the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau and the county of Somerset. The money available for these grants is made possible by the collection of a room tax within the lodging community. This unique program allows for the enhancement and growth of a vibrant tourism product within the Laurel Highlands region. Grants are never a promise, but an opportunity.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- ✓ All tourism grants are required to have a 25% match. The match can be 25% cash or 12.5% cash and 12.5% in-kind match.
- ✓ Applicants with open grants prior to 2017 are not eligible to apply for a 2018 Grant.
- ✓ Events that will not be continued annually do not qualify for grant funds.
- ✓ Applicants must provide the exact information requested in order to not be disqualified. Cooperative grants (more than one tourism entity working together) are strongly encouraged.

For specific questions please contact Grant Administrator, Georgia Robinsky by e-mail at grobinsky@laurelhighlands.org.

***** Deadline for receipt at LHVB Offices: No later than 4:30 PM on FRIDAY, November 17, 2017 *****

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Applications may be mailed or personally delivered to the Laurel Highlands Office.
- ✓ Fax transmittals or e-mails will not be accepted.
- ✓ Any application received after the deadline will be disqualified.
- ✓ Granting decisions will be determined and notification will be announced mid January 2018
- ✓ Note: Handwritten applications will not be considered.

Submit five (5) copies of the application and grant budget worksheet (individually paper clipped) DO NOT staple set together and DO NOT place applications in folders or binders.

For more detailed information refer to the County Tourism Grant Program Criteria.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Key criteria grant committee members will take into account when reviewing and selecting tourism projects for funding:

- ✓ The project has the ability to draw or increase the number of tourists.
- ✓ The project provides a distinctive experience.
- ✓ The project has the potential to appeal to various age groups or to educate/develop appreciation by future generations.

PART 1

Contact Information

Full Legal Organization Name:
(Grant Recipient)

Organization's Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Organization Website: _____

Organization President / Executive Director Name:

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Contact Person (if different than above): _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Organization Information - Applications without proof of the Federal ID # will be disqualified.

Grant checks will be made payable to the holder of the Federal ID #.

501(c)(3): Yes No

Federal ID #: _____

Non-Profit - IRS Federal Type: _____ Federal ID #: _____

For Profit: _____ Federal ID #: _____

Fiscal Sponsor Name and Address:

Fiscal sponsorship is a formal arrangement in which a 501(c)(3) public charity sponsors a project that may lack exempt status.

*****Character counts may be limited per box. Please fit explanation within allowed space.*****

Organization(s) Mission Statement:

Brief Description of Organization:

Has your organization received a tourism grant in the past? Yes No

Grant Proposal Request

Project Name: _____

Description of Project and the need:

Describe the current need, problem, and/or opportunity and address how the grant will help with these issues or meet the goals stated here.

Total Projected Budget for Project: _____ Requested Amount: _____

Cash Match: _____ In-Kind Match: _____

Grant dollars need to be spent by December 31, 2018

Other funding sources and amounts include:

Is this a Cooperative Project?

If a cooperative project involving more than one entity, please list names of additional participants; include organization name(s), contact(s) and phone numbers(s)

How will this project enhance or increase tourism in your County?
(Your response to this question is vitally important to the committee's decision relative to your application)

A large, empty rectangular box provided for the applicant to write their response to the question above.

General Information

If you are a tourist attraction: Please provide your annual visitation numbers for the past 3 years.

2015 _____ 2016 _____ 2017 _____

How are the visitation numbers determined?

What are the visitor center dates & hours of operation?

How will your organization measure the outcome of this project? How will the results/impact be measured?

Please provide a breakdown of work to be provided by in-kind volunteers and that which will be provided by a paid contractor or craftsman.

PART 2

All grant applicants must complete and submit the Grant Budget Worksheet. The worksheet must contain a detailed project budget. Click on link for budget worksheet <http://www.laurelhighlands.org/grants>

Additionally, please provide a supplemental worksheet which details the calculations for wages, taxes, fees and expenses such as: supplies, electric, etc..

PART 3

Sign/date and check appropriate attachment boxes as the last page of your application

Applicants are reminded that this grant is not a permanent allocation and that there is no guarantee of a grant being made at any time in the future.

I/We affirm that all information in this application and all attachments are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge, and that the receipt of any grant funds relative to this request will be used for the purpose detailed within this application. I/We agree to abide by all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. I/We understand that the Tourism Grant Review Committee will require a Second Half Reporting form (if applicable), Final Reporting form, Grant Expenditure form, copies of all expenditure invoices, proof of payment for all expenditures, and copies of materials produced for advertising and printed material, before and after photographs if applicable to verify the expenditure of any grant funds received, and I/We agree to furnish said documentation according to reporting dead-lines. I/We further understand that the expenditure of grant funds received might be subject to audit and/or further verification and I/We agree to cooperate with any such audit or verification process.

I/We agree to the grant terms and conditions as per the 2018 Criteria and Guidelines for the County Tourism Grant Program.

Name (print): _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

*****All Non-Profits must submit a copy of the IRS 501(c)(3) Determination letter.*****

*****All applicants must submit a list of the Board of Directors with addresses.*****

Date received by LHVB: _____

By: _____

Laurel Highlands Visitors Center Bureau, 120 East Main Street, Ligonier, PA 15658