



## **2026 Clinton County Tourism Grant** **Guidelines and Application**

*Take advantage of our annual grant program to help elevate your business and attract visitors to Clinton County!*

The purpose of the grant is to enhance the tourism experience and increase overnight stays within Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Tell us how your project improves the visitor experience. This funding can help make your projects a reality, whether you're looking to renovate, improve signage, launch a new program, or enhance your marketing.

### **Important Dates:**

- December 15, 2025: Grant applications available online.
- March 9, 2026: Deadline for grant applications to be submitted electronically.
- May 28, 2026: Awards announced at the Toast to Tourism Event. Partners must be present to receive grant award.
- July 1, 2026 - July 1, 2027: Deadline for final report and reimbursement (and/or 90 days after project completion date).

Please take note of the following reminders:

- Grant awardees will have approximately one year to complete their projects.
- Grants awarded in May 2026 are for the July 1, 2026 - July 1, 2027 project window.
- No grant project reimbursements will be given before July 1, 2026.
- All completed final grant reports are due no later than September 1, 2027

To ensure the effectiveness of our grant programs, we require repeat projects to provide concrete evidence of success, which can include measurable data like room nights, bookings, and/or increased business.

After reviewing the guidelines and criteria below, please fill out all required fields to submit your 2026 grant application. Please contact us with any questions at [exploreccpa@clintoncountyinfo.com](mailto:exploreccpa@clintoncountyinfo.com) or 570-748-5782.

## CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

- Grants will be awarded to a current member, or combination of members, of Clinton County Economic Partnership (CCEP) that submit an application, no later than the deadline of March 9, 2026. Grant applications will be accepted from for-profit and non-profit businesses - both are eligible.
- Grants must be in compliance with Pennsylvania Act 18, which require a cash or in-kind local match of at least 25%
  - *“Programs, expenditures or grants that are directly and substantially related to tourism or a business, convention or meeting travel destination within the county, augment and do not compete with private sector tourism or travel efforts and improve and expand the county as a destination market as deemed necessary by the recognized tourist promotion agency.”*
- Grants may be awarded in the following three categories:
  1. Capital Projects: Scheduled improvements that benefit tourism and augment the visitor’s experience by developing new or enhancing existing tourist attractions or amenities. Capital projects related to replacing or repairing physical attributes to your business will not be funded if the project is deemed to be “a normal cost of doing business”.
  2. Marketing Projects: Advertising programs must be targeted to media that will reach non-county residents. In keeping with the mission of CCEP, any requests of funds for advertising must be placed a minimum of 50 miles from your Clinton County business. The grant program will not fund advertisements in local publications, local high school sports programs, local dance troupe programs, etc.
  3. Special Programs, Events, Exhibits, Sports Tournaments, or Product Development Projects: Collaborative activities among various CCEP members or single members, that promote overnight stays in Clinton County.
- All projects must carry the current Clinton County Economic Partnership logos which can be found online at <https://www.exploreclintoncountypa.com/>. For any radio or television advertisements, you must include the verbiage “project/event made possible by the Clinton County Tourism grant”.
- Grants will not be awarded for standard operational expenses such as payroll or utilities, religious or political purposes, or websites.

- Priority of awards will be given to applications that:
  - Encourage overnight stays
  - Promote collaboration among lodging and activities
  - Target new markets
  - Include collaboration with additional partners
  - Enhance the visitor experience
- An organization may only apply for one individual grant per cycle. An organization may also be listed as a partner on one other application per year. Previous grant recipients may reapply every year, but new projects will receive priority consideration. It should not be presumed that any applicant will be awarded a grant on an annual basis, nor should the availability of these grant awards be considered an annual part of any applicant's budget.
- A grant committee will review all grant applications after March 9, 2026 and select the awardees, which will be announced at the CCEP Timeout during a "Toast to Tourism" in May 2026.
- The grant review committee may withhold all or part of available grant monies available for annual awards in the event there are insufficient qualified requests for consideration.
- All funds will be awarded upon complete submission of the final grant report. Recipients are responsible to complete a final grant report in the requested format and may be submitted for reimbursement any time between July 1, 2026 - July 1, 2027 and/or no longer than 90 days of project completion date. Criteria and format for the final report will be provided upon award to each recipient and includes a summary, photos, receipts and proof of their 25% match.

### **Application & Submission Instructions**

- Applicants are able to submit additional pages to this application if more space is needed. Please note "See attached pages" in the space provided if additional pages are included.
- The final submitted PDF should be uniquely named for the project as follows: **"ApplicantsProjectName\_ClintonCountyTourismGrant"**. Please replace "ApplicantsProjectName" with your project name before submitting to [exploreccpa@clintoncountyinfo.com](mailto:exploreccpa@clintoncountyinfo.com). Only email submissions will be accepted.

## APPLICATION

### A. Applicant Information

Name of Organization Applying:

Project Contact Person:

Additional Project Contact:

Organization Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Website:

Social Media Links:

Tax ID/EIN Number:

Organization Legal Status (check one):

☐ Nonprofit

☐ For-Profit

Organization Type (check all that apply):

☐ Attraction

☐ Business Association

☐ Arts & Culture

☐ Event Venue (sports, performing arts)

☐ Food & Beverage

☐ Lodging

☐ Municipality / Recreation Authority

☐ Museum / Historic Venue

☐ Retail

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the organization been functioning for more than one year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Is the organization a member of the Clinton County Economic Partnership? If no, membership must be paid upon submission of application.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Briefly describe your organization and mission:

## **B. Project Summary**

Project Type (select all that apply):

☐ Capital Improvements

☐ Marketing & Promotion

☐ Special Programs, Events, Exhibits, or Sports Tournaments

Project Title:

Geographic location/region of the project:

Project timeframe (start–end dates of project and (if applicable date of event)):

How does this project support your organization's mission?

How does this project align with the goals of the Clinton County Economic Partnership to increase tourism and promote economic development?

### **C. Project Description & Assessment**

Provide a detailed description of your project: (what will be done, how, and by whom):

Provide a brief description of the project's goals (e.g., attract visitors, increase overnight stays, enhance visitor experience):

How does the project align with tourism development and the visitor experience? (e.g., marketing efforts, product development, improving visitor experience):

Describe the project's benefit to Clinton County and its impact on the local economy:

## D. Budget & Financials

Provide a brief detailed description of the project's expenses:

Please describe what items will be used towards the 25% match requirement. How do you plan to account for matching funds identified above? (include in-kind descriptions, donated time/value (use the state volunteer rate as the minimum worth of an in-kind labor contribution), vendor quotes, etc.)

Complete the budget table below. An example has been provided for reference.

*Example Budget Table:*

<b>Project Expense</b>	<b>Tourism Grant Request</b>	<b>25% Matching Funds</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Radio Commercials	\$1000.00	\$0.00	\$1000.00
Newspaper Print Ads	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
CU@LH Student Designing Costs	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
<b>Total</b>	\$1350.00	\$450.00	\$1800.00

*Project Budget Table:*

<b>Project Expense</b>	<b>Tourism Grant Request</b>	<b>25% Matching Funds</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$	\$

*Additional pages may be attached if more space is needed than provided above. Please utilize the same format if creating your own table.*



## **E. Tourism Impact**

Please describe your Marketing & Advertising Plan:

Expected number of new overnight stays or out-of-county visitors and/or projected number of people impacted by the project:

How will your organization measure and track project impact? (increased overnight stays, out-of-county visitors, event attendance, social media metrics, etc.):

Describe your plan for evaluating project success (methods may include attendance counts, room nights, website/social media metrics, media coverage, etc.):

How will this project increase or enhance visitation and/or the visitor experience in Clinton County?:

Is this an annual program or event?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, provide a brief history of the program/event, including attendance numbers:

## **F. Key Performance Measures**

What key performance indicators (KPIs) will be used to measure the project's success? (e.g., attendance, hotel rooms, donations collected, social media views and/or engagements, revenue impact):

## **G. Evaluation & Reporting Requirements**

Please review and check the boxes below to acknowledge the evaluation and reporting requirements of the program.

- ☐ I agree with the Grant Criteria and Guidelines outlined in this document.
- ☐ I acknowledge that grant funds must be used only for the approved scope and timeframe.
- ☐ I understand that a Final Grant Completion Report is due within 90 days of project completion or no later than September 1, 2027.

## **H. Application Submission**

By submitting your name below you are signing this grant application and acknowledging that the information herein is accurate. Your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this form.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_