



City of Canal Winchester Bed Tax Grant Application Guidelines

Introduction

In 1997 the City of Canal Winchester implemented a Transient Occupancy Tax (Bed Tax) to be imposed when lodging is furnished to transient guests by a hotel, motel, or similar businesses. This 6% tax is collected by the City of Canal Winchester for two specific uses. One half of the collections (3%) is contributed to Destination: Canal Winchester, the City's Visitors and Convention Bureau, to be used to promote Canal Winchester. The second half of collections has been dedicated by City Council to be used for grants to community organizations to further enhance the City of Canal Winchester and its residents.

Eligible Organizations

Non-profit and private organizations are eligible to apply for funding. Public agencies are not eligible.

Eligible Projects

Projects that are eligible for funding must enhance the City of Canal Winchester for its residents and visitors. Projects that promote Canal Winchester to visitors are highly encouraged.

Applications for funding that will be passed through to another organization or individual are not eligible.

This grant money should not be used for expenses related to a for-profit venture.

Application Guidelines

- Applications must be made for one (1) project only. Applications listing multiple projects will not be considered for funding. Applicants can submit up to three (3) applications per year for three (3) unique projects.
- The total maximum funding awarded to one applicant across all applications will be \$2,000 per year.
- Funds will not be granted for projects that consist of basic operating and maintenance activities including, but not limited to:
 - o Salaries/benefits of organization personnel
 - o Payment of utilities including fuel
 - o Purchase of office supplies
 - o Payment of subscriptions or membership fees
 - o Conference/travel fees
 - o State or local taxes, fees, etc.
- Applications will be eligible for consideration based on the following criteria:
 - o Completeness of Application
 - o Projected Impact of project on city residents and visitors
 - o Availability of other funding to help support project

- Ability of project to continue or expand in future years
- Funding must be used within the calendar year for which it was requested. Unused funding cannot be carried over to the next calendar year and must be returned to the City.
- Funded applications will be required to submit a final report within 45 days of completion of the funded project.

Grant Process

Bed Tax Grant funds are available once each year as allowed by the City's budget. Funding can vary from year to year based on the availability of funds. Applications will be available on October 1st of each year. Applications can be obtained by visiting the City's website, www.canalwinchesterohio.gov, or by email request to the Finance Director, Amanda Jackson, at ajackson@canalwinchesterohio.gov.

Completed applications must be submitted by November 30th to be considered for funding. Applications can be submitted via email to ajackson@canalwinchesterohio.gov or by mail to: The City of Canal Winchester, Attn: Finance Director, 36 South High Street, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110.

Questions concerning the process can be directed to Amanda Jackson at ajackson@canalwinchesterohio.gov or 614-837-6937.

Completed applications will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Finance Committee of City Council. Recommendations of projects to be funded and funding amounts will be made to the Finance Committee with full City Council giving final approval. Approval will occur in December and funding will be provided in January of the following year. Applicants approved for funding will be notified by letter. Unapproved projects will not be notified.

If an approved applicant has previously received funding from the Canal Winchester Bed Tax Grant program, the approval will be conditional upon the receipt of the Final Project Report from the previous grant year. For example, if Organization ABC received funding in calendar year 2014 and the Final Project Report was not due until February 15, 2015 based on the project's completion date, 2015 funding would not be released until receipt and approval of the 2014 Final Project Report.

Eligibility Criteria Descriptions

Completion of Application – Application includes all required documentation. Applicants will not be notified if documentation is missing or does not meet requirements. If a requirement is not applicable to the applicant, a brief explanation (2 to 3 sentences) stating the reason it is not applicable should be submitted. Applicants may be contacted by the City to provide clarification as deemed necessary by the awarding committee.

Required documents:

- Application
- Brief, descriptive narrative (no more than 2 pages) of project which includes background on organization, project information, projected impact on Canal Winchester and its residents or visitors and timeline of project
- Budget for the project or calendar year in which project will occur. Must include all other funding sources secured or expected for the project. Budget should be specific and identify the projected costs to be covered by Bed Tax Grant funds.

Additional supporting documents can be submitted as deemed appropriate by the applicant but are not required.

Projected Impact of Project on City Residents and Visitors – Description of how the project will enhance the City of Canal Winchester. This can be expressed in a written description or numerically with dollars, percentages, etc.

Availability of Other Funding to Help Support Project – Demonstration that funding from the Bed Tax Grant is not the sole source of funding for the project. Applicant should include documentation of other grants organization has applied for, intends to apply for or has been awarded that would help fund the project.

Ability of Project to Continue or Expand – Demonstration that project can become a reoccurring event or expanded in the future and its impact on Canal Winchester. Please be specific as to how this would be achieved and supported. Where do you see your event going over the next two years?

Final Project Report

A Final Project Report must be submitted within 45 days of completion of the project. At a minimum, the report should include the following:

- Organization name and contact information
- Date(s) project occurred
- A summary or comparison of the proposed project to actual outcomes, including the impact on Canal Winchester and its residents and visitors
- Copies of invoices or receipts paid with grant funds
- Financial report showing all revenues and expenses of the project
- Any promotional or advertising materials related to the project, if applicable
- Other materials deemed relevant by the awardee

Failure to submit the Final Project Report within 45 days of the project's completion may result in the applicant being ineligible for future funding. Upon review of the Final Project Report, if it is found that funds were spent on ineligible expenses, the applicant will be required to repay the portion deemed ineligible as calculated by the Finance Director.

Final Project Reports should be submitted to: The City of Canal Winchester, Attn: Finance Director, 36 South High Street, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110.

It is the responsibility of the organization to submit the report on time. No reminders that the Final Project Report is due will be sent.