



City of Spartanburg, SC

Application for Hospitality Tax Grants

FY 2019 - 2020

Hospitality Tax is a 2% tax on the sales of prepared meals and beverages sold in establishments or sales of prepared meals and beverages in the City of Spartanburg.

In order to support efforts of local partners to promote tourism and quality of life in the City of Spartanburg, City Council may designate a portion of the annual hospitality tax revenue for competitive grant awards. Council will decide the amount of such portion annually.

Spartanburg City Council has established the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee to assist with the process, review the applications, and make recommendations for funding to City Council. Applicants may be asked to answer questions and/or make a presentation before the Hospitality Tax Committee, City Council, and City Staff. The City Council makes the final determination regarding grant allocations.

Purpose

The Hospitality Tax grant program seeks to improve the vitality, improve the quality of life, and draw more visitors to the City of Spartanburg.

Process

Once all applications for H-Tax grand funds are received and eligibility is verified, they will be forwarded to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee for review. Applicants will be required to deliver short presentation on their program to the committee at a date to be determined later. The committee will review and score each application based on the evaluation measures described below. The Committee will then submit its funding recommendations for review by City Council, which makes all funding decisions before the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1.

The committee will consider the following when evaluating requests:

- The degree to which the organization, program, project, or event is likely to draw visitors to the City of Spartanburg.
- The impact of the organization, program, project, or event has on the quality of life for City residents.
- The expected direct economic impact of the organization, program, project, or event.
- The impact of the event on the image and marketing of Spartanburg as a dynamic and appealing community.
- The prior success and managerial track record of sponsoring organization.
- The degree to which the organization, project, program, or event is supported by other community partners. Applications should reflect financial support from other local partners – H-tax grants cannot be the sole local fund source for any project, program, or event.
- The completeness of the application information (including reporting on prior year results for those who received funds in prior year).

If your organization, project, program, or event received an H-tax grant in the current year and your request is for an amount larger than that award amount, please explain specifically how the requested increase will result in increased positive community impact of the project, program, or event.

Eligibility

- All applicants for the competitive grant process must have an IRS Not For Profit status or be a governmental agency.
- The organization must reside or the Event/Project must take place within the corporate limits of the City of Spartanburg.
- Grantee organizations may not re-grant City H-Tax funds to other organizations. All funds must be spent on direct expenditures by the organization that receives the allocation.

Instructions

The Hospitality Tax application form must be filled out completely. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Supplemental information may be attached to the application. **Projects and events must take place between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.**

Applications must be received by 5 pm on April 11, 2019 in order to be considered for funding.

Applications must be either returned in person to Spartanburg City Hall, 145 W Broad St. or emailed to James Kennedy, Budget & Accounting Director at jkennedy@cityofspartanburg.org.

Once all applications for H-Tax grand funds are received and eligibility is verified, they will be forwarded to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee for review.

Supporting documents to the applications must include:

Cover letter

Applicant's Financials: Most recent (12-month) financial statements (income statement and balance sheet) for the entity seeking the grant (either in the form of audited statements, a compilation, or externally or internally prepared summary); and/or IRS Form 990.

Project, Program, or Event Financials: In addition to the financial information for the applying entity, the committee seeks detailed revenue and expense information for any specific activity or event to be supported with grant funds. Event/Project financial information should detail all anticipated revenues and expenses associated with the event/project for the upcoming year and the prior year.

Acknowledgement

Any organization receiving City H-Tax funding for event support must list the City of Spartanburg as a sponsoring organization for the specified event in all applicable marketing and promotional efforts.

**Hospitality Tax Grant Application
City of Spartanburg, SC**

A. Organization or Event Name: _____

B. Amount requested: \$ _____

C. Contact Name & Title:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Organizational website address:

- E.** Tax Status: (check one):
 Tax-exempt charitable organization
 Governmental tax-exempt unit
 Other non-profit
ID #: _____

F. Please provide a description of the sponsor organization or mission statement:

- G.** Budget
- a. What is the total budget for this Organization/Event/Project (including requested hospitality funds)?
- \$ _____
- b. What is the requested amount of Hospitality funding?

\$ _____

% of total budget _____ %

H. Describe how the requested funds will be used (i.e., event or project, operational funding, planning, fund-raising efforts, matching funds, marketing, programming, infrastructure/capital expenses).

I. Impact.

a. How many visitors would be brought to Spartanburg as a result of the requested Hospitality Tax grant funding?

b. What measures will you use to assess impact/attendance?

c. How will you attract tourists/non-residents and promote tourism to the city of Spartanburg? (i.e., advertising/promotion)

d. How will you recognize the City of Spartanburg in your advertising/promotions for the event?
