

FY 2025 Charles County Government Grants for Tourism Enhancement Guidelines

To: FY 2025 Tourism Grant Applicants

From: Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, Tourism Division

RE: Grant Application Guidelines and Application

Eligibility to apply for a Charles County Government Tourism Grant

- 1) Applicant must be based in Charles County and be accessible to all customers, including residents and visitors.
- 2) Awarded programs and projects must be delivered in Charles County and completed by **June 30, 2025**.
- 3) Applicant must be an active 501(c)(3) organization, in good standing with the Maryland Secretary of State, accessible (not membership based), and open to the public.
- 4) The applicant must have no active zoning/permitting violations.
- 5) Additional points will be awarded to applicants for projects that enhance county tourism objectives and or show evidence of fostering or strengthening partnerships with other county organizations, attractions or initiatives that enhance the quality of life for Charles County citizens and tourism visitors.
- 6) Funds requested may not be used for operating expenses (including, but not limited to utilities, office rent, maintenance and repairs, office supplies, insurance, internet access), building repairs, staff salaries or social events. They may be used for producing mission-based activities such as programs, exhibits, workshops and special events, strategic planning or marketing activities.
- 7) Funds may be requested to support or match Maryland State and Federal By-ways and Heritage Trail interpretive signage initiatives.
- 8) To receive funding in multiple grant cycles for the execution of a previously funded program, exhibit, workshop, special event, strategic planning or marketing activity, applicant must show significant expansion over previous years activity.
- 9) Applicants who receive funding from Charles County Charitable Trust are **not eligible** to receive grant funding within the same fiscal year.
- 10) Grant recipients that fail to exhaust previously awarded grant funds, or who fail to meet the grant reporting requirements, are ineligible to reapply for additional funding until all requirements for previously disbursed funding are met.

FY 2025 grant application is comprised of four parts.

- 1) Part I: Organization contact information
- 2) Part II: Organization background and grant management history
- 3) Part III: FY 2025 project description and budget
- 4) Part IV: Attachments, copy of 501(c)(3) letter; copy of your organizations most recent 990; copy of your current approved operating budget and year-to-date budget report.

FY 2025 Grant Application Guidelines

- 1) FY 2024 tourism grant funding recipients must close any previous tourism grant projects and submit the required report prior to **October 30, 2024**.
- 2) Applications are due by **Friday, November 1, 2024** no later than 4:30 p.m.
- 3) Applicants must submit one complete application with the required attachments. This may be submitted

electronically or via mail.

- 4) The application cover letter (Part I) should be one page, front only with the amount being requested, a brief project description and how the project will positively support the County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland goals for tourism.
- 5) Please ensure that the grant point of contact can be easily reached and can respond to messages via e-mail within 24 hours.
- 6) Each applicant organization must supply the name and contact information for one board member willing to assist with the grant reviews. This is a commitment of approximately six hours of time.
- 7) Award announcements will be accompanied by a contract to be signed by your authorized signatory. The contract hard copy must be returned with an original signature.
- 8) The Tourism Division must be included in the final proof process of any product and the project must include the tourism logo, county logo and if space allows the words “funding for this project was provided (in part) by the County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland.”
- 9) Charles County Government needs to be recognized with the logos or appropriate wording on each project using county funding.
- 10) To maintain impartiality, the Tourism Division may not subscribe to memberships or make donations to non-profit organizations in Charles County. However, we encourage organizations to add or keep the Tourism Division on their mailing lists for notification of events, newsletters, and other activities.
- 11) A final report should be submitted no later than **July 31, 2025**.
- 12) The final report instructions will be attached to the notice of a grant award.

FY 2025 County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland, Goals and Objectives for the Tourism Division that should be supported by grant awards include:

- 1) 2A.5 Heritage tourism product development in the form of (site) tours, interpretation, including signage and special events.
- 2) 2A.6 Attract out-of-town, overnight visitation through creative partnerships and weekend event development.

Part I**Charles County Government Application for Tourism Grants****Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Tourism Division**

Please submit one (1) original application with cover letter and all related attachments by
November 1, 2024 no later than 4:30 p.m. to:

Brittney Gray, Tourism Outreach Specialist
Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Tourism Division
8190 Port Tobacco Road
Port Tobacco, MD 20677
OR
grayb@charlescountymd.gov
301-932-3464

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 4:30 P.M. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 OR NOT COMPLETE CANNOT BE
CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.**

* Please contact the Tourism Division at grayb@CharlesCountyMD.gov if you would like the Microsoft Word version of this application sent to you. Paper or electronic applications may be submitted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Name: _____

Federal Identification Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Location(s): _____

Phone Number(s): _____ Fax numbers(s): _____

E-mail address: _____ Website Address: _____

Total Funding Requested from Charles County Government: _____
(Total Request Not to exceed \$5,000)

Please provide the information for at least one of the contacts listed below that can answer questions if called Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Name, Title, and Phone Number of Primary Contact for Charles County Grant Application

Name, Title, and Phone Number of Chief Executive Officer

Name, and Phone Number of Volunteer Grant Reviewer from your board of directors (they may or may not be called to assist with the FY 2025 review process)

PART II ORGANIZATION HISTORY AND GRANT MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND:

1. What year was your organization established? _____
2. What year did you begin providing visitor services in Charles County? _____
3. What is your organization's mission statement? _____

4. Tell us about your organization's activities. Include what your group has to offer, tours, outreach programs in Charles County, special events, education programs or workshops, outreach programs that market Charles County, artistic performances, shows or presentations, exhibits and any heritage activities. You may attach a separate sheet of paper, brochures, copies of advertisements for activities web-site address and other supporting material. _____

5. Tell us about your audience. What is your estimated or actual count attendance for the past three calendar years?
_____ 2023, _____ 2022, and _____ 2021

To the best of your ability please tell us where your audience comes from:

What percentage of attendance is from Charles County? _____

What percentage of attendance were from outside of Charles County? _____

What percentage of attendance was from outside of Maryland? _____

What is/are the predominate age group(s)? _____

How did you collect this data? _____

6. Will this specific project or activity encourage out-of-town, tourist type visitors to stay in Charles County overnight? YES _____ NO _____ Please explain why or why not? _____

7. Does your organization have paid staff? If so, please share how many full-time and how many part-time staff. Full-time _____ Part-time _____

8. How many volunteers worked with your organization last year? _____ How many hours did they work in total? _____

9. Did you utilize any other human resources (*students, interns, community service, organized service groups*)? If so, please briefly describe who they were and how they participated with your organization.

10. Describe any partnerships you formed or collaborated with last year. Include who they were and in what capacity you worked together. Examples might include special event coordination, marketing and advertising cooperative opportunities, shared staffing or volunteers.

11. Does your organization have a strategic, interpretive, business or other operating plan to guide your activities? (Y/N) _____

Does your organization conduct itself with an ethics statement? (Y/N) _____ and/or Equal Opportunity Statement? (Y/N) _____

GRANT MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND

12. Please list all successfully completed grant projects you have had in the past three years (Or three of the most recent grant projects you have completed). Please include the grantors name, the date the grant was awarded and the date the final report was accepted, how much the grant was for and what activity or project was supported by the funding. YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PENALIZED IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED A GRANT FUNDED PROJECT.

Granting Agency	Date of Award	Amount of Award	Project Name	Date Completed

PART III
FY 2025 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Name: _____
2. Project Coordinator's Name / Title, daytime phone and e-mail address. Please ensure they can be reached and respond to questions during day-time hours approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (if the same as in Part I you may skip this question. _____)
3. How would you classify your project?

_____	Special Event	_____	Historical Exhibit / Art Show
_____	Workshop	_____	Performing Arts Production
_____	Sports Event	_____	Outdoor Recreation Opportunity
_____	Historical Interpretation	_____	Other: _____
4. Project Budget:
 - Amount requesting from Charles County Government: \$ _____
 - Amount contributed by your organization: \$ _____
 - Amount from other sources (please list both the name of the funder and the amount)

Name: _____	\$ _____

TOTAL PROJECT INCOME: \$ _____

- 4a. If the Tourism Division is not able to fully fund your requested amount, do you have a contingency plan to move forward with a smaller grant award? _____ Yes _____ No

4b. Budget Expense Detail:

Please be as detailed as possible, an explanation of expenses will be helpful to the reviewers. The posting of expenditure(s) to the category of OTHER will require its own detail with breakouts and explanation.

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Materials and Supplies:	\$ _____
Contracted Services:	\$ _____
Marketing and Publicity:	\$ _____
Rental Services:	\$ _____
Printing / Fabrication:	\$ _____
Other (Detailed): _____ _____	
	TOTAL EXPENSES \$ _____

5. Describe the project with a planning, implementation, and expenditure timeline. Be sure to include any partnerships or plans to coincide with other community events that may encourage overnight tourism. Include any supporting material, programs, schedules, lesson plans, drawings, planning meeting dates, photos or other visuals.

6. Have you received Charles County Government Tourism Grant funding for the same project in any previous year?

YES

NO

If YES, please describe plans for significant expansion in FY 2025:

7. What do you hope to achieve with this activity or project? What are your measurable outcomes? _____

PART IV
FY 2025 REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. 501(c)(3) IRS Letter of determination
2. Organizations most current 990 filed with the IRS
3. A copy of organizations current year approved budget

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

1. **Parts I, II, & III**
2. **Part IV- Attachments**
 - a. Copy of your organization's Letter of Determination designating the group as a 501(c) (3)
 - b. Organizations most current 990 filed with the IRS
 - c. A copy of organizations current year approved budget

Please contact the Tourism Division, Brittney Gray, 301-932-3464 or Ashley Chenault, 301-396-5839 if you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two working days (Monday – Friday)

THIS APPLICATION AND THE ATTACHMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY 4:30 PM ON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024

EMAIL: GrayB@CharlesCountyMD.gov

OR

MAIL: CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM, TOURISM DIVISION, ATTN: BRITTNEY GRAY, TOURISM OUTREACH SPECIALIST, 8190 PORT TOBACCO ROAD, PORT TOBACCO, MD 20677.

OR

DROP BOX / RIGHT HAND SIDE OF FRONT DOUBLE DOORS: CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM, TOURISM DIVISION, ATTN: BRITTNEY GRAY, TOURISM OUTREACH SPECIALIST, 8190 PORT TOBACCO ROAD, PORT TOBACCO, MD 20677