

Nebraska EDA Tourism Grant Program Q&A

Q: Am I eligible to apply for this program?

A: A list of eligible Applicants is available on the program's webpage and under section 3.2 of the program manual.

Q: Is my project an eligible project type for the Nebraska EDA Tourism Grant Program?

A: The Nebraska EDA Tourism Grant funds will be awarded to eligible grantees for three different project types: Events and Marketing, Planning and Technical Assistance, and Infrastructure Projects. Details about these project types are available on the program's webpage or under section 3.3 of the program manual. A list of eligible Applicants is also outlined under section 3.2 of the program manual. A map of qualified census tracts is available on the program's webpage.

Q: Will the funds be awarded to just one organization/entity? Is there a minimum amount for a single award?

A: Funds may be awarded to one or more than one organization/entity. There is no minimum amount for a single award.

Q: Why is my county not listed on the Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) Map?

A: Grant funds are restricted to projects within Qualified Census Tracts as outlined in the Program Manual under section 3.3. State Statute requires that the program must follow the definition of a qualified census tract in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-12,240: "For purposes of the Economic Recovery Act, qualified census tract means a qualified census tract as defined in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), as such section existed on January 1, 2022."

Q: Does an Applicant need to be located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) to be eligible?

A: An eligible Applicant does not need to be located in a Qualified Census Tract, but the proposed project or event needs to be located within a QCT. Please refer to section 3.3 of the program manual for more information.

Q: If an eligible Applicant is located outside of a QCT, how should they answer the application question pertaining to their location within a qualified census tract?

A: An eligible Applicant who is located outside of a QCT but has a proposed project within a QCT can select the QCT corresponding to the proposed project's location and use the following narrative question to provide details on the location of the proposed project.

Q: As an eligible Applicant, can I submit multiple applications if I have multiple projects?

A: Yes, there is no restriction on submitting multiple applications. If your organization will be applying for multiple project types, submitting one application per project type is advisable.

Q: I am an eligible Applicant, but my organization has been active for less than 3 years. Can I still apply? How will I submit Form 990s and/or financial statements for the years my organization was not active?

A: Applicants should submit Form 990s and financial statements for the three most recent years available. If the Applicant organization was formed less than three years ago, a brief statement from the Applicant should be uploaded clarifying why the requested information was not supplied.

Q: I am an eligible Applicant. How do I apply?

A: Please refer to the program's webpage for important dates and application submission information. The required actions prior to application submission are listed under section 4.1 of the program manual. The application submission is also detailed under section 4.2 of the program manual. A link to the application can be found on the program webpage.

Q: Do I need an Environmental Assessment for my project?

A: Applicants for Infrastructure Projects are required to submit an Environmental Narrative (EN) along with their application. A template for the EN can be found on the program webpage.

Q: A letter of support is required for non-profit organizations. What type of entity/office will I need to get this letter of support from?

A: See section 4.2.1 of the Program Manual. Non-profits must submit a letter of support from a unit of government stating that Applicant is acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. A **political subdivision** includes counties, cities, townships, villages, schools, sanitation, water and utility districts, and other similar governmental entities.

A letter of support can be a memorandum of understanding or an official letter addressed directly to DED stating that the Applicant is acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. Other forms of verification that a political subdivision supports an Applicant's project may also be considered, so long as the political subdivision has signed off on it.

Q: I have a letter of support from my local municipality, but it is from a previous year. Will I need a new letter of support that is more recent?

A: See section 4.2.1 of the Program Manual. The letter of support must state that the Applicant is acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. Since the Nebraska EDA Tourism Grant Program was launched in late 2022, it is unlikely that Applicants would possess a letter of support for an application to this program from previous years.