



Hotel Occupancy Tax

Request for Funding

State Law: By law of the State of Texas, the County of Orange collects a Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) from hotels, motels, and bed & breakfasts and inns. Under state law, the revenue from the HOT may be used only to directly promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry. **The use of HOT funds is limited to eligibility requirements set forth in Chapter 352 of the Tax Code.**

HOT FUNDS WILL BE DISTIRBUTED TO APPROVED APPLICANTS AFTER THE EVENT HAS OCCURRED, ALL SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND THE REQUEST IS DETERMINED TO HAVE MET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM.

**2025-2026 APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED AUGUST 1, 2025 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025
APPLIED FUNDS MUST BE FOR ACTIVITIES OCCURING OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026. APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED IN OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR
BUT CAN BE SUBMITTED AT ANY TIME FOR SPECIAL REVIEW SHOULD FUNDS BE
AVAILABLE.**

Organization Information

Date: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

Web Site Address for Event or Sponsoring Entity _____

Is your organization: Non-Profit _____ Private/For Profit _____

Tax ID #: _____ Entity's Creation Date: _____

Purpose of your organization: _____

Use of Funds

- ☐ Special Event ☐ Convention Center/Visitor Center ☐ Promotion of Arts
☐ Historical Restoration/Preservation ☐

Name of Event or Project _____

Date of Event or Project:: _____

Primary Location of Event or Project: _____

Amount Requested: _____

How will the funds be used (Be specific): _____

Primary Purpose/Mission/Objective of Funded Activity/Facility: _____

Percentage of Hotel Tax Support of Related Costs

_____ Note Percentage of Total **Event Costs** requested from Hotel Occupancy Tax

_____ Note Percentage of Total **Facility Costs** requested from Hotel Occupancy Tax

_____ Note Percentage of **Staff Costs** requested from Hotel Occupancy Tax

If staff costs are covered, estimate percentage of time staff spends annually on the funded event(s)/activity/operations compared to other activities _____

Check Which Categories Apply to Funding Request and Amount Requested Under Each Category:

☐ **Convention Center or Visitor Information Center:** construction, improvement, equipping, repairing operation and maintenance of convention center facilities or visitor information centers, or both;

☐ **Registration of Convention Delegates:** furnishing of facilities, personnel, and materials for the registration of convention delegates or registrants;

☐ **Advertising, Solicitations and Promotions that Directly Promote Tourism and the Hotel and Convention Industry:** advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourists and convention delegates or registrants to the municipality or its vicinity;

☐ **Promotion of the Arts that Directly Enhance Tourism and the Hotel & Convention Industry:** encouragement, promotion, improvement, and application of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design and allied fields, painting, sculpture

photography, graphic and craft arts, motion picture, radio, television, tape and sound recording, and other arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of these major art forms;

☐ **Historical Restoration and Preservation Activities that Directly Promote Tourism and the Hotel and Convention Industry:** historical restoration and preservation projects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitation and promotional programs to encourage tourists and convention delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums.

☐ **Sporting Event Expenses that Substantially Increase Economic Activity at Hotels:** Expenses including promotional expenses, directly related to a sporting event in which the majority of participants are tourists who substantially increase economic activity at hotels and motels within the county;

☐ **Certain Portions of Sporting Facilities:** Expenses for a certain percentage of a facilities patrons that are directly contributing to increased local hotel activity.

Sporting Related Event Funding:

If the event is a sporting related function/facility: How many individuals are expected to participate?

If the event is a sporting related function/facility: How many of the participants are expected to be from another city or county?

If the event is a sporting related function/facility: Quantify how the funded activity will substantially increase economic activity at hotel and motels within the city or its vicinity?

Questions for All Funding Requests:

How many years have you held this Event/Project/Operation: _____

Expected Attendance/Visitors: _____

How many people attending the Event/Project will use Orange County hotels or motels: _____

How many nights will they stay: _____

Do you reserve a room block for this event at an area hotel and if so, for how many rooms and at which hotels: _____

How will you measure the impact of your event on area hotel activity?

Please list other years (over the last three years) that you have hosted your Event/Project/Operation with amount of assistance given from HOT and the number of hotel rooms used:

| City | Month/Year Held | Assistance Amount | Number of Hotel Rooms Used |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Please list other organization, government entities and grants that have offered financial support to your project: _____

Please check all promotion efforts your organization is coordinating and the amount financially committed to each media outlet:

Paid Advertising _____ Newspaper _____ Radio _____ TV _____

Press Releases to Media _____ Direct Mailing to out of town recipients _____

Other _____

What areas does your advertising and promotion reach:

What number of individuals will your proposed marketing reach that are located in another city or county?

If a permanent facility (e.g. museum, visitor center)

Expected Attendance Monthly/Annually: _____

Attendance that are Staying at Area Hotels/Lodging Facilities: _____

Supplemental Information To Include With Application:

_____ Event Budget

_____ Completed W-9

_____ Schedule of Activities or Events Relating to the Funded Project

_____ Acknowledgement of Qualifications and Procedures

Post Event Documentation:

_____ Copies of Invoices and Receipts

_____ Hotel travel log reports (For multi-day events)

Submit to: Jessica Irvin
Orange County Economic Development Corporation
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jirvin@orangecountyedc.com