



GRANT GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT

PURPOSE OF FUNDS

The purpose of Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau IMPROVEMENT FUND grant is to provide funding that improves existing or creates new visitor attractions and facilities in Madison County. The funds available through this program are provided from the lodging tax revenue funds. The funds are to be used for capital improvements for area attractions or recreational facilities, attracting visitors to and within Madison County, Nebraska Visitors Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 et seq. (as amended from time to time) provides.

USE OF FUNDS

IMPROVEMENT FUND grants shall be used to make grants for expanding and improving facilities at any existing or new visitor attraction, acquiring or expanding exhibits for existing or new visitor attractions, constructing visitor attractions, or planning or developing such expansions, improvements or constructions. Grant funding can be used for multiple-year improvement projects.

Grant Priorities:

Grant Funds shall be used to improve the visitor attractions and facilities owned by the public or any non-profit organization in Madison County, except that no proceeds shall be used to improve a facility in which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted. Only one application from an entity (as defined by tax ID number) will be accepted each grant year.

EXCLUSIONS

No part of the grant funds may be used for:

- General operating expenses
- For additional or current personnel salaries
- For supplies and equipment
- For items not included in the approved grant application
- General Maintenance of an existing facility
- In any manner that would violate the Nebraska Visitors Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 through §81-3724, et seq. (as amended from time to time). All grant are discretionary, based upon available funds, other anticipated uses, and appropriateness and anticipated effectiveness of proposed use.

MATCHING FUNDS

Grantee acknowledges that this is a 25/75 matching grant up to the approved amount. The Grantee will be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of the project (Up to but not exceeding total grant award, while the other 25 percent of the projects must come from the Grantee, and can consist of half in-kind and half cash. For example, for a total project cost of \$25,000, the grant application can be for \$18,750.00 and the match will be \$6,250.00.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For each grant application you must include the completed cover sheet, a project description, budget page, letters of support, contractor bids and proof of nonprofit status. For projects that improve or expand publicly owned facilities, a letter of understanding from the government entity must be included with the application. Failure to complete the entire application may result in rejection of your fund request.

DEADLINES

Guidelines and application for the Improvement Fund grant shall be made available prior to March 1st of each year. The deadline for returning completed applications to the Convention and Visitors Bureau office is the final business day of March each year. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** The Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau & Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee will meet within 30 days of the deadline to consider the applications for the Improvement fund grants. Applicants will be notified of presentation time by the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Upon approval or modification by the Madison County Commissioners, considering the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee recommendation, notification will be made to the successful applicants.

Projects funded through the Improvement Fund must be completed within 18 months of the date of application approval, unless written authorization of deadline extension is received from the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee. For projects not completed within 18 month time frame without written authorization of extension, the grant will immediately be terminated and funds will not be distributed.

PRESENTATION

- Applicants must be present at the Advisory Board meeting at which their application is reviewed.
- Presentation must not be longer than 15 minutes.

CREDITING REQUIREMENTS

At the conclusion of projects funded through the Improvement Fund, acknowledgment of support by the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau will be made through appropriate placement of a plaque or sign stating such.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD

Notification of awards will be mailed.

CONTRACT

All awards are subject to Madison County (Grantor) and awarded applicant (Grantee) entering into a contract detailing each party obligations. If the parties are unable to enter into a mutually agreeable contract, then the awarded grant will be disallowed. The Grantee will obtain all necessary local and state permits.

REPORTING, ACCOUNTING AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

REPORTING

Thirty days after the completion of the project, or the end of the calendar year

For multi-year projects, a report will be submitted to the Visitors Bureau giving final results or progress toward results. The report must outline if the objectives of the project were met, if not, what were the circumstances that lead to the lack of progress. The report will also include copies of all paid receipts. No money will be released until the final report or the end-of-year progress report is presented and approved. Furthermore, no money will be released beyond the paid receipts submitted by the awarded applicant.

PAYMENT

- Upon receipt and acceptance of the final project report or the end-of-year progress report, the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau will request a check from the Madison County Clerk for the final or annual payment of grant funds, depending upon availability of funds.
- The Madison County Board of Commissioners and the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau can only use proceeds from the Madison County Visitors Improvement Funds to fund any project herein and shall not obligate itself to use any money outside the Madison County Visitors Improvement Fund to fund any project herein. Furthermore, the Madison County Board of Commissioners and the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau shall not give multi-year grant(s) (taking into consideration all other grants) that obligates Madison County over and above amounts accruing in the Improvement Fund through the collection of a 2 percent Lodging Tax through the Nebraska Visitors Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 through §81-3724, et seq.

REVIEW PROCESS

Grants are discretionary, based upon available funds, other anticipated uses, and appropriateness and anticipated effectiveness of the accepted project. Furthermore, said project must continue to comply with the Nebraska Visitors Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 through §81-3724, et seq. (as amended from time to time).



Name Of Organization			
Contact Person		Title	
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	Fax	E-mail	
Project Name			
Description of Organization: <input type="checkbox"/> Publicly owned <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)3 <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____			
Amount Requested		Estimated project cost (attach a detailed budget worksheet)	
Please provide a brief description of the project:			
Signature of applicant (I signify that, if awarded, grant funds will only be used for improvements to visitor attractions owned by the public or any nonprofit organization, as the Nebraska Visitors Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 through §81-3724, et seq. (as amended from time to time) provides, as outlined in this application)			
Signature:			Date

For each grant application you must include this completed cover sheet, a project description, a budget page, letters of support contractor bids and PROOF OF NONPROFIT STATUS.

Return to:

Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau
 609 W. Norfolk Ave.
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 402.371.2932

How will this project increase visitation to or encourage visitors to stay longer in Madison County?

What other agencies or groups are co-sponsoring the project?

How will this improvement benefit Madison County?

If this project is not awarded the entire requested amount will you continue with the project?

Improvement Grant Agreement for Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau

In consideration of a grant of _____ for _____ from the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, _____, the undersigned Grantee, agrees:

To use the grant only for the purpose expressed in the Approved Improvement Grant Application:

- _____ 1. Grantee agrees to maintain records of expenditures and receipts.
- _____ 2. Grantee agrees to present a final report with a full accounting on the manner in which the funds are spent, and copies of all paid receipts will be provided to the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau Board of Directors within 30 days of the conclusion of the project. Failure to submit paid receipts will result in a potential loss by Grantee of funds.
- _____ 3. Grantee agrees to periodically update the Norfolk Area Visitor Bureau Board of Directors on the progress of the project including timeline and projected date of completion.
- _____ 4. To credit the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau as a sponsor of this project. For multi-year improvement projects, temporary signage acknowledging the support of the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau will be placed in a prominent location. At the conclusion of projects funded through the Improvement Fund, acknowledgment of support by the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau will be made through appropriate placement of a permanent plaque or sign stating such.
- _____ 5. Not to use any of the grant funds:
 - a. general operating expenses
 - b. for additional or current personnel salaries
 - c. for supplies and equipment
 - d. for items not included in the approved grant application
 - e. in any manner that would violate the Nebraska Development Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701 through §81-3724, et seq. (as amended from time to time). All grants are discretionary, based upon available funds, other anticipated uses, appropriateness and anticipated effectiveness of proposed use. Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-3701-§81-3724, et seq. (as amended from time to time).
- _____ 6. Grantee acknowledge that this is a 25/75 matching grant up to the approved amount. Grantee provides at least 25% of the project funds which can be half in-kind and half cash.
- _____ 7. Grantee agrees to complete the funded project within 18 months of executing this agreement unless written authorization of deadline extension is received from the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau Advisory Committee. For projects not completed within 18 month time frame without written authorization of extension, the grant will immediately be terminated and funds will not be distributed.
- _____ 8. The individual signing this Grant Agreement hereby represents that he or she is duly authorized to exercise such Agreement in the capacity in which he or she is executing the same.

Organization Name, Grantee: _____ Date: _____

Approved by CVB Executive Director: _____