

Hancock County Community Benefits

2024 Grant Program

Application Criteria

1. Non-Profit Status:
 - a. Applicant's agency or organization must be a not-for-profit entity. The organization need not have an official tax free/tax exempt status (501-c-3 or 501-c-5) but all proceeds must be designated to their mission with nominal costs for support staff being considered.
2. Applicant must provide services in one of the 4 categories:
 - a. **Tourism and Recreation:** In this area, applicant's mission must be to serve those in Hancock County who are from away and touring the area or those who use the applicant's services to improve how they recreate.
 - b. **Economic Development:** Agencies applying under this category must demonstrate how their efforts seek to improve the creation/retention of jobs, new industry, and/ or a positive effect on current industry in the area's technical and agricultural settings.
 - c. **Community Development:** Agencies applying under this category must be involved in maintaining or improving cultural, historical, and/or environmental issues.
 - d. **Aid to the Disadvantaged:** This category is for organizations that provide direct services for health, addiction, maintaining a healthy living for the elderly and disadvantaged youth.
3. The maximum amount of this grant for each application will be \$20,000. A portion of this amount will be determined by the score for each application.
4. Scoring each Application:
 - a. Each application will be reviewed for compliance to the category criteria.
 - b. Those accepted applications will be scored with "1" being the lowest value and "10" being the highest.
 - c. Each application will be reviewed and scored based upon their mission's impact on Social, Economic and Financial benefits.
 - d. If an applicant received County funds in the last 1 year, their scoring value will be "2"
 - e. If an applicant received County funds in the last 2 years, their scoring value will be "4"
 - f. Applicants who received County funds in 3 or more years, or who have never received County funds will receive "6" scoring points.
 - g. Lower scoring considerations will be given to applicants who are partially or fully funded by another government entity.
 - h. Lower points will be given if the applicant also serves others outside of Hancock County.
 - i. A higher scoring value will be given when the amount of the award is of a higher ratio to the operating budget for the 2023 operating year. Note that capital project costs in 2023 will not be considered part of the 2023 expenditures.
 - j. Lower scoring points will be given if the applicant has the ability to not only raise their own funds but the discretion to increase their rates or the ability to seek additional funding from their financial support entity.
 - k. Greater scoring will be considered depending on the size of the applicant's service area. Lower values will be given for those agencies that serves only one or two communities.
 - l. Each application may receive a total of 50 points based upon no more than 10 points for Social, Economic and Financial status and no more than 20 points for their discretionary scoring.
 - m. Once a total score has been derived and each applicant has been placed on a list in descending order by category, an award shall be determined for each of the best scoring applicants until the total funds have been exhausted. It should be noted that not all applicants will receive grant funds.