



2026 Quality of Life Grant Application Guidelines

Eligible Organizations:

Cultural, civic, or recreational organizations based in Lehigh County are eligible. Cultural organizations not based in Lehigh County but which serve the Lehigh Valley and which receive a minimum of one-to-one matching support dollars from the from the County government(s) in the other counties served.

Eligible Activities:

A 2026 Quality of Life Grant may be awarded for specific cultural, civic, and recreational programs, in addition to events, capital projects, or operational support.

Definitions:

Civic: Promoting, providing or developing opportunities for community well-being and/or the betterment of citizens through volunteer-based service activities.

Cultural: Promoting, providing or developing an awareness of and/or stimulating participation in artistic or intellectual activities.

Recreational: Promoting, providing or developing non-passive or passive sporting and/or leisure activities and opportunities that enhance physical or mental well-being.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. A grant request must not be more than **25% of an organization's budget.**
2. A grant request must not be more than **25% of the Quality of Life Fund.**
3. A grant request may not **exceed the prior year's grant by more than 5%.**



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4. Organizations applying for the first time may request **up to \$5,000.00**.
5. An organization requesting a Quality of Life Grant must be a cultural, civic, or recreational organization as previously defined, and be recognized as either:
 - a.) A nonprofit organization under **Section 501(c)** of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - b.) A nonprofit organization affiliated with a unit of local government.
6. Arts, cultural, historical, and civic organizations must be in the financial position to provide, through private, non-governmental funding sources, **three dollars (\$3.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) of County funds**, be it in real dollars or services, which the organization is allocated to receive (Any of the organization's non-governmental funds/revenues are eligible to be used for the match). Any organization receiving two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) **or less** from the 2026 Quality of Life Grant in real dollars or services, **is exempt** from this matching requirement.
7. The Evaluation Committee shall give additional consideration to cultural or civic organizations **NOT** based in Lehigh County which support from other County governments for projects serving the entire Lehigh Valley Region.



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8. Taxes

a.) A requesting organization must be current with any taxes due the County. Grants will not be dispersed until delinquent taxes are paid in full.

Delinquent taxes owed by an organization shall herein be defined as “the point when the taxes owed shall become the responsibility of the Tax Claim Bureau to collect.”

b.) If an organization becomes delinquent on taxes owed the County during a year when said organization is budgeted to receive a grant, grant funds shall be withheld in lieu of taxes until taxes are paid in full.

9. If an applicant organization is a lessee of Lehigh County, the applicant organization’s rent must be paid in full as provided for in the terms of the lease agreement.

Financial Information:

For all grant requests over \$2,500.00: In addition to the previous eligibility requirements, as per Ordinance 2017-131, the following information will be posted on the County website and **MUST** be submitted with the application with each item in #1-#5 below **LABELED** and sent as **SEPARATE PDF ATTACHMENTS**.

1. The current and previous fiscal years’ budgets which include the actual revenues and expenditures for the previous years.
2. The **positions** of all employees, officers and board members who receive \$50,000.00 or more in annual compensation, including bonuses, from the organization requesting.
3. The total compensation of the organization’s five (5) highest compensated individuals.



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4. A list of all funding sources from the previous year along with the total amount received from each source.
5. A list of all funding sources for the current year, and a list of all pending applications for funding, **INCLUDING** the amount being requested.

PLEASE NOTE: As per Ordinance 2017-131, “Organizations which cannot comply with these provisions must obtain a waiver recommended by the County Executive and approved by the motion of the Board of Commissioners to be eligible to be considered for grant funding.” A **Waiver for Financial Information Form** is included in the grant application.