



ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LOCAL SPORTS DESTINATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Alachua County Visitors and Convention Bureau
33 North Main Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601
(352) 374-5260

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, November 2¹², 202⁵⁴

Late applications will not be considered.

For programs and activities occurring between October 1, 202⁵⁴ - September 30, 202⁶⁵



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Purpose

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners has allocated a portion of the Tourist Development Tax revenue to aid in the operations and promotions of local sporting events that have, as one of their main purposes, the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the event to tourists.

Use of Tourist Development Tax Revenue are set by the state under the Local Option Tourist Development Act, F.S. 125.0104. An eligible event is one that its main purpose for the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the activity or event to tourists.

A tourist is a person who participates in trade or recreation activities outside of the county of his or her residence or who rents transient accommodations as provided in the Act.

The total estimated award budget for the Local Sports Destination Enhancement grant is \$1530,000.

Application Submission

Applications should be submitted with all requested information. Missing or re-worded questions constitute an incomplete application. Each applicant is responsible for full and complete compliance with all laws, rules and regulations which may be applicable. Applications should be bound/stapled on the left side. **One (1) Original should be submitted.**

Applications should be placed in a sealed envelope and labeled on the outside:
"Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Program"

It is the complete responsibility of the applicant to compile and package its proposals according to instructions.

ALL applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, November 21, 2025 to:
Alachua County Visitor and Convention Bureau 33 North Main Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601
(352) 374-5260

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Inquiries/Questions

Questions regarding any portion of the application or application process must be made in writing via email to the VCB at info@visitgainesville.com. All questions must be submitted no later than 10 calendar days before the proposal due date. All questions will be answered and posted to the VisitGainesville.com website. It is essential that applicants check the website for Addenda.

<https://www.visitgainesville.com/additional-resources/partner-resources/>~~<http://www.visitgainesville.com/partner-resources>~~

Please print the question and answers, sign and include with your application.



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Prohibited Communications

The funding process is not over until the final award decisions are made by the County Commission. To ensure fair consideration for all applicants, the County prohibits communication regarding this funding process, including the funding recommendations to or with any department, employee, elected official, or any other person involved in evaluation of or consideration of the applications, until the County Commission has formalized its funding decision. Communication includes both oral and written, except as set forth above. The County's representative may initiate communication with an applicant in order to obtain information. Except as set forth above.

Acceptance/Rejection of Applications

Alachua County reserves the right to reject any application which may be considered irregular, show serious omission, or unauthorized alteration of form. Alachua County reserves the right to accept any application in whole or in part, to waive technicalities, or to accept applications which, in the County's judgment, best serve the interests of the County.

Public Records

Responses to this grant, upon receipt by the County, become public records subject to the provisions Chapter 119 F.S., Florida Public Records Law.

Program Guidelines/Funding Levels

Applicants are able to request funds based on revenues reported in the organization's last filed 990, up to a maximum of \$50,000. The funding levels are as follows:

Revenues Over \$ 200,000	Maximum request \$50,000
Revenues up to \$ 199,999	Maximum Request 25% of budget
Revenues up to \$ 100,000	Maximum Request 30% of budget
Revenues up to \$ 200,000	Maximum Request 25% of budget
Revenues Over \$ 200,000	Maximum request \$50,000

A minimum of 25% of the award must be spent on out-of-county marketing. Out-of-county marketing is defined as advertising, promotion, direct sales, publicity and sales activities that take place and are directly targeted to persons and groups who live outside the boundaries of Alachua County. To qualify for reimbursement, the marketing must reach at least 51% of the listeners/readers/viewers from beyond the Alachua County borders.



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Eligibility

Applicants must fulfill the following at the time of application.

1. Be a legally established local sports organization or other local organization providing a sporting event.
2. The operations, events and activities must be within the boundaries of Alachua County.
3. The proposed event has as one of its main purposes the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the event to tourists.
4. Have documented IRS non-profit, tax-exempt status. A copy of Active Status from Sunbiz.org must be attached to the application.
5. Governmental and educational organizations are not eligible to apply for local sports program grants.
6. Applications will not be accepted from organizations who have applied for or receive Tourist Development Tax funding through the Gainesville Sports Commission, Sponsorships, Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement Grants and Conference Grants in the same year.
7. Applications will not be accepted for organizations to re-grant or provide funding to individuals or other organizations.

Credit Attribution Requirements

All grantees must include the Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL logo and the following statement, "Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County" on all organizational and promotional materials, including but not limited to print brochures, flyers, programs, posters, postcards, website, digital, radio, television, billboards, and promotional items.

Allowable Marketing and Promotion Expenditures

Out-of-county marketing must reach 51% outside Alachua County, including but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards and websites. Printing and postage of promotional materials distributed to over 51% out-of-county addresses.

Social Media Promotion Guideline

Guidelines for expenditures on social media. Please include screenshots of the promotions as backup with invoices. Facebook / Twitter / Instagram / YouTube / Other social media outlets: Tag post with "Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL" (Text or Logo) and use hashtags #WhyILoveGNV or #WhatsGoodAlachuaCounty

Non-Allowable Expenditures

This grant will not reimburse for the following disallowable expenditures:

1. Salaries, benefits, travel, or expenses of personnel not directly related to the creation of the programs, events or attractions that are open to the public;
2. Payment of any bills of a personal nature, such as rent, mortgage, utilities, personal vehicles;
3. Real property; capital improvements, including but not limited to new construction, renovation, restoration, installation or replacement of fixtures, and tangible personal property;
4. Interest or reduction of deficits or loans, fines, penalties, or cost of litigation;
5. Expenses incurred or obligated prior to or after funding period;
6. Member-only events, entertainment, food or beverages for private events;



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

- ~~8-7.~~ Events which are restricted to private or exclusive participation, including camps and classes;
- ~~9-8.~~ Making payments or reimbursements for goods or services purchased for previous or other events, invoices paid outside of contract period;
- ~~10-9.~~ Advertising, printing or other expenses that omit the Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL logo and/or recognition.
- ~~11-10.~~ Benefits, projects, and fundraisers that benefit organizations other than the contracted applicant;
- ~~12-11.~~ Benefits and projects planned primarily for fundraising purposes;
- ~~13-12.~~ Prize money, scholarships, awards, plaques, certificates, or contributions;
- ~~14-13.~~ Political events;
- ~~15-14.~~ Alcohol;
- ~~16-15.~~ Discriminatory acts or practices, including discrimination based on race; color; national origin; religion; sex; marital status; age; disability; sexual orientation; gender identify or expression.
- ~~17-16.~~ In accordance with applicable law, the funding provided by way of this program or agreement may not be used in aid of a program or event whose purpose is to promote the religion of the provider, be significantly sectarian in nature, involve religious indoctrination, require participation in religious ritual, or encourage the preference of a religion.
- ~~18-17.~~ Any expenditure not authorized by Alachua County Code of Ordinances

Reimbursement

All funds are available on a reimbursement basis only. Copies of paid invoices, cancelled checks, tear sheets, printed samples or other backup information which shows proof-of-payment must accompany all requests for funds.

Invoices for events should be submitted within 60 days of the conclusion of the event. Invoices for ongoing programs should be submitted quarterly.

Evaluation Team Selection

Applications will be scored by the evaluation team who will present their funding recommendations to the County Commission.

Budget Information

1. A complete copy of your most recently filed IRS Form 990 or IRS Form 990EZ
2. Detailed statement of revenues and expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year.
3. For applicants whose primary organizational purpose or mission is not to attract event attendees, a separate event budget with direct expenses and revenues for the program is required. Funding request amounts will be based on that figure rather than the organizational budget.

Failure to provide a complete copy of your filed IRS Form 990 and detailed budgets will disqualify the application.

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Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and provide the following:

- ☐ Grant Application Cover Page
- ☐ Addenda Question and Answers; initialed

Required Budget Documents

- ☐ A statement of revenues and expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year.
- ☐ A complete copy of the most recently filed IRS Form 990
- ☐ Detailed project / event budget for applicants whose primary organizational purpose or mission is not to attract event attendees. (Note: funding request amounts will be based on that figure rather than the organizational budget.)

Required Organizational Documents

- ☐ **Authorized Signatory** – Provide proof of persons authorized to sign contracts by submitting a Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations registration copy, board resolution or other evidentiary document.
- ☐ **Board of Directors** – Provide a list indicating officers and all directors' contact information including name, business affiliation, and contact information.
- ☐ Current **State of Florida Solicitation License** from the Florida Department of Agriculture
(Continued on next page.)



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Attendance (40 Points)

- ☐ Attendance Ratio Score Calculation (see chart below). (34 points)
- ☐ Detailed explanation of how attendance estimates were determined. (2 points)
- ☐ Attendance over previous two years with evaluation report of how is attendance is tracked and verified based on ticket sales, research, surveys, etc. (4 points)

Attendance Ratio Score

Funding request divided by attendance = Ratio Score

4.0 and below = 34 points | 4.1 – 9.9 = 30 points | 10-14.9 = 25 points | 15 and higher = 20 points

Examples:	<u>Funding Request</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Points</u>
	\$10,000	20,000	.5	34 points
	\$50,000	50,000	1	34 points
	\$35,000	6,000	5.8	30 points
	\$25,000	2,000	12.5	25 points
	\$10,000	500	20	20 points
	\$5,000	100	50	20 points

Calculate Your Ratio Score Here:

<u>Funding Request</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Points</u>
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Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Merit and Support (30 points)

1. History of the organization and its contribution to sporting activities in Alachua County. (10 points)
2. Significance of the sporting event in the community and the quality of the proposed event. (10 points)
3. Community support, grants, collaborations and/or in-kind contributions. (5 points)
4. Up to 5 letters of support. (One Point Each = 5 points)

Excellent: 25-30 points: Organizational timeline and contributions clearly demonstrate growth, sustainability, and expansion with specific examples. Projects are well-defined, achievable, unique, and reflect excellence. Clear evidence the organization follows best practices in multi-sourced funding strategies with examples of diversified and broad-based community support.

Good: 20-24 points: Organizational timeline and contributions are defined. Projects are defined and achievable. Funding strategies provide examples of outside support.

Fair: 15-19 points: Little evidence of contributions, sustainability or growth. Programs are not well-defined or achievable. Outside funding sources are lacking and there is little evidence of broader community support.

Marketing and Advertising Plan (30 points)

1. Describe the organization's marketing plan, including out-of-county marketing, and how the proposed event will be promoted to tourists. (15 points)
2. Provide a detailed description with budget breakdown of how 25% of requested grant funding will be spent to attract tourists. (10 points)
3. Additional supporting documents, attach examples of past brochures, programs, reviews, advertising, social media posts, and social media metrics and engagement reports. (5 points)

Excellent: 25-30 points: Well-defined marketing plan to grow attendance and attract tourists. Includes strategic use of multiple platforms (social, radio, web, etc.). Articulates understanding of target markets and the demographic profile of attendees. Includes plans for editorial press coverage. Clearly defines a return on investment for marketing and advertising expenditures.

Good: 20-24 points: Marketing plan to attract and grow attendance. Includes multiple platforms (social, radio, web, etc.).

Fair: 15-19 points: Undefined marketing plan to attract and grow attendance.



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

SCORING AND AWARD RATIOS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Strongly demonstrates public value of the sporting event. Merits investment of Alachua County funding.	90 – 100	Up to 100%
Satisfactorily demonstrates public value of the sporting event. Merits investment of Alachua County funding.	80 – 89.99	Up to 90%
Demonstrates public value of the sporting event. Merits investment of Alachua County funding.	70 – 79.99	Up to 80%
Makes an incomplete and/or inadequate case for the public value of the sporting event. Information is confusing, unclear, and lacks specific details. Does not merit investment of Alachua County funding.	69.99 or below	No Funding

At time of funding, Evaluation Team award recommendations will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. It may be necessary to apply a ratio to the amount each applicant qualifies for. The ratio will be determined by dividing the funds available by the total eligible amount of the applicants. For example: 10 vendors were awarded funding totaling \$1~~58~~0,000.00. You will take the available funding (ex. \$1~~52~~0,000.00) divided by the awarded funding \$1~~85~~0,000.00 giving you a ratio of 0.8~~33~~66. Take your awarded amount and multiply it by the new ratio to give you your actual funding amount.



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Requested Amount: \$ _____

Organization Name: _____

Authorized Contact Name and Phone Number: _____

Board President Name and Contact Number: _____

Project / Activity Name: _____

Project / Activity Dates: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Please attach the following:

- ☐ Grant Application Cover Page
- ☐ Addenda Question and Answers; initialed

Required Budget Documents

- ☐ A statement of revenues and expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year.
- ☐ A complete copy of your filed most recently filed IRS Form 990
- ☐ Detailed project / event budget for applicants whose primary organizational purpose or mission is not to attract audience members and for governmental and educational institutions. (Note: funding request amounts will be based on that figure rather than the organizational budget.)

Required Organizational Documents

- ☐ **Authorized Signatory** – Provide proof of persons authorized to sign contracts by submitting a Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations registration copy, board resolution or other evidentiary document.
- ☐ **Board of Directors** – Provide a list indicating officers and all directors' contact information including business and home addresses and telephone numbers.
- ☐ Current **State of Florida Solicitation License** from the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Application Documents

- ☐ Up to 5 letters of support.

Additional supporting documents, attach examples of past brochures, programs, reviews, advertising, social media posts, and social media metrics and engagement reports.

Attendance (40 points)

1. Attendance Ratio Score Calculation (see chart below). (34 points)
 Funding request divided by attendance = Ratio Score
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Calculate
Your Ratio
Here →



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

2. Detailed explanation of how attendance estimates were determined. (2 points – 250 words)

3. Attendance over previous two years with evaluation report of how is attendance is tracked and verified based on ticket sales, research, surveys, etc. (4 points – 300 words)



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Merit and Support (30 points)

1. History of the organization and its contribution to sporting activities in Alachua County.
(10 points – 400 words)

2. Significance of the sporting event in the community and the quality of the proposed project.
(10 points– 400 words)



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

3. Community support, grants, collaborations and/or in-kind contributions. (5 points – 300 words)

4. Up to 5 letters of support. (5 points – Attach.)

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1. Describe the organization's marketing plan, including out-of-county marketing, and how the proposed event will be promoted to tourists. (15 points—500 words—)

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Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

2. Provide a detailed description with budget breakdown of how 25% of requested grant funding will be spent to attract tourists. (10 points – 400 words)

3. Additional supporting documents, attach examples of past brochures, programs, reviews, advertising, social media posts, and social media metrics and engagement reports. (5 points – Attach.)

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Fair: 15-19 points: Undefined marketing plan to attract and grow attendance.



Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Application

Please initial next to each item below, signifying that you have read and understand the conditions of the Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant program.

- _____ I attest that all information in the application is accurate and that the events and activities to be considered for funding are in compliance with the Alachua County Code of Ordinances and grant program criteria.
- _____ I attest that if awarded, the funding provided by way of this program or agreement will not be used in aid of a program or event whose purpose is to promote the religion of the provider, be significantly sectarian in nature, involve religious indoctrination, require participation in religious ritual, or encourage the preference of a religion.
- _____ ~~I attest that if awarded, the funding will not support or include discriminatory acts or practices, including discrimination based on race; color; national origin; religion; sex; marital status; age; disability; sexual orientation; gender identify or expression. The Applicant will comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, including these grant/program requirements. Failure to comply may subject the applicant to loss of funding or removal of participation in this or a future County tourism development tax-funded grant/program.~~
- _____ I understand that all printed and/or digital collateral and advertisements must include the Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL logo as one of the event sponsors and on any and all advertising/marketing materials, the event website (with link to VisitGainesville.com), programs, and any newsletters or email notifications promoting the event.
- _____ I understand that the event will credit Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL at the level equal to the award amount. For example, if the award is \$15,000.00 and that is a gold level sponsor, Visit Gainesville Alachua County is to be listed as a gold sponsor.
- _____ Tickets for the appropriate level sponsorship must be provided to Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL for promotional activities.
- _____ I understand that all reporting requirements must be satisfied to receive reimbursement funding.
- _____ I understand that the event must be ADA accessible.
- _____ I understand that a statement on letterhead that the applicant is a governmental entity or a copy of the Organization's Active Status from Sunbiz.org must be attached to be eligible for funding.
- _____ I certify that my event is within the boundaries of Alachua County.
- _____ I acknowledge that this application and grant documents submitted to the County, become public records subject to the provisions of Chapter 199, F.S., Florida Public Records Law.
- ~~_____ I understand that I should complete and submit the Sponsorship packet at least 2 months prior to the event date.~~

Signature of authorizing official (Board Chair)

Signature of Contact Person