

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for TACI Grant Application

1. What is the purpose of the TACI grant and who can apply?

The TACI (Spokane Tourist and Cultural Investment) grants are aimed at enhancing Spokane's tourist and cultural environment. Organizations, including non-profit agencies, for-profit agencies, and public agencies, can apply for these grants to fund projects, programs, events, and public or non-profit facilities that promote tourism and cultural investment. These grants are paid through the [Lodging Tax](#).

2. How do I receive funding?

Applications for funding are open twice a year. Jan 1st through June 30th and July 1st through Dec 31st. Once you have received an award letter, there will be instructions for next steps included. It is important to note that TACI grants are typically on a reimbursement basis. This means that reimbursement comes after the event occurs. Funds may be provided upfront in certain circumstances. Please see the 'Upfront Expense Request' section of the application for more details.

3. Who should come to my event? Can I charge entrance fees or tickets to my event?

Your priority should be bringing in tourists as defined as a person residing 50 miles away from the destination. Your event may be ticketed but must be open to the general public to attend or purchase tickets. You may not limit attendance of your event to members only of an organization.

4. What are ineligible expenses?

An ineligible expense is an expense that is not allowed, either by law or condition of the grant. For a TACI grant, these include; Capital equipment purchases (unless it is a facility owned by a municipality or public facilities district), events in facilities that are not ADA compliant, use of funds in trusts, endowment funds, regranteeing, investments, or prize money, events in which fundraising is the primary purpose, events or services intended for private use, events or services restricted to members only of a club or organization, travel, hospitality, or food/alcohol/restricted substance costs, or purchasing of tickets or scholarships for an event produced by the applicant.

5. Can I apply for more than one event?

Yes, however, the Committee will award only one grant per year per organization.

6. Who is eligible for TACI grants?

Non-profit or for-profit organizations, and public agencies can apply. Funds may be used on marketing, operations, and services designed to attract tourists to the City of Spokane. Additionally, funds may be used on improvements to municipal or publicly owned facilities and non-profit facilities that promote tourism.

7. Where does the funding for TACI grants come from?

The funding for TACI grants is derived from the lodging tax, as per state law RCW 67.28.1817. This tax is paid per overnights at hotels, and the collected funds are allocated towards initiatives that increase tourism. It's important to note that according to this law, a tourist is defined as a person residing 50 miles away from the destination.

8. Should new organizations apply?

One of the goals of the TACI committee is to incentivize the creation of new events and projects that promote tourism and cultural growth. Essential to this goal is that new organizations apply to receive these grants that will help grow new programming. New organization needing help can reach out to [Visit Spokane](mailto:grants@visitspokane.com) at grants@visitspokane.com and the committee for any support.

9. How are TACI grant decisions made?

The TACI committee comprises three members from hotel organizations, three members from organizations eligible to receive funds, and a council member. This committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to the City Council on how the funds should be allocated.

10. Why is there an emphasis on attracting overnight stays?

The TACI grant is funded by overnight stay tax and by encouraging overnight stays it helps replenish the grant funds. The requirement to demonstrate how the event will bring overnight stays is mandated by Washington State law. It's crucial for applicants to understand that the lodging tax funds are specifically designated to promote tourism through overnight accommodations. This ensures that the funds are utilized selectively to benefit the local economy.

11. What should be included in the project summary?

In the project summary, applicants should provide a concise overview of their request and what the project aims to accomplish. If the request is part of a larger project, a brief description of the overall project is acceptable, but the focus should be on the element for which funding is being requested.

12. How should the scope of work be described?

The scope of work should elaborate on the project summary by addressing questions such as what the organization intends to do, how the community will benefit, the history of the organization or project, whether the project is new, continued, or an expansion, involvement of other agencies.

13. How does the project contribute to building on community assets?

Applicants should explain how their project leverages existing community assets and contributes to the overall cultural and tourism landscape of Spokane. This could include enhancing infrastructure, promoting local attractions, or fostering community engagement.

14. How does the project align with the City of Spokane's objectives and cultural investments?

Applicants should demonstrate how their project aligns with the objectives outlined by the City and the Tourism and Cultural Investment Committee. This includes promoting cultural diversity, supporting various forms of cultural investment, and creating new opportunities for tourism and cultural enrichment. Cultural activities include sports, arts, street/park festivals, film, culinary, and music.

15. How should projects connect with additional businesses/vendors?

Applicants are incentivized to partner with surrounding businesses and vendors when putting on their grant-sponsored projects. Projects that work with multiple groups will be scored higher during the grant review process. Examples of partnerships could include working with multiple restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, working with athletic organizations, working with local arts organizations, etc.

16. How should the project's relationship to increased tourism be addressed?

Because the grants come from a lodging tax, all projects that receive the fund should have ties to efforts to increase tourism in Spokane. Organizations should think about partnering with local hotels, expanding their marketing beyond the 50-mile radius, and working with Spokane's tourism bureau, Visit Spokane. If organization have concerns about connecting their projects to tourism efforts, they should connect with [Visit Spokane](#) at grants@visitspokane.com for additional support.

17. How should diversity, equity, and inclusion be addressed?

Applicants should describe the communities served by their organization and how they promote inclusion and belonging in alignment with Spokane's motto: "In Spokane, we all belong". This may include outreach efforts, programming aimed at underrepresented groups, and strategies for ensuring equitable access to cultural and tourism resources.

18. What details should be included in the project budget?

The project budget should provide a general breakdown of expected revenue and expected expenses. The application includes budget items as a guide. Committee is interested in seeing if the applicant has a realistic budget and the project/event will be able to be completed.

19. For the insurance requirements is it two million for each occurrence or aggregate total?

One million per occurrence and two million aggregate is the City Contracting insurance requirement.

20. Is this grant only for events?

No, this grant is not limited to events. Per the NOFA "Funding from the hotel beds tax can go to projects, programs, events, and public facilities that promote tourism and cultural investment." However, this grant is not to cover the general operating expenses of your organization.

21. Is the TACI grant limited to within the City Limits of Spokane? The map shown excluded everything outside the City of Spokane. Is this correct?

Correct, the TACI grant is only for events that happen inside the City Limits of Spokane. You can use the following map to check if an address is inside the City Limits (must click layers in the top right-hand corner and apply boundaries to see City limits.) <https://spokane.maps.arcgis.com/>

22. I was not able to attend the workshop, was that recorded?

Yes, the workshop was recorded and is available on the TACI webpage: [Spokane City TACI webpage](#)

23. Can my organization meet with the TACI committee?

No, during the application period organizations may not meet with the TACI committee.