

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for TACI Grant Application - Tourism Perspective

1. What is the importance of tourism to Spokane and why is it relevant to this grant application?

Tourism plays a vital role in Spokane's economy by generating revenue, creating jobs, and supporting local businesses. When tourists visit Spokane, they spend money on accommodations, dining, shopping, and entertainment, which benefit the entire community. Therefore, this grant application focuses on projects that attract tourists and promote overnight stays, as these activities contribute significantly to the city's economic growth and sustainability.

2. How does the TACI grant benefit tourism in Spokane?

The lodging excise tax, as mandated by state law RCW 67.28.1817, provides a dedicated source of funding for initiatives aimed at promoting tourism and cultural investment. TACI grants leverage these funds to grant to organizations to implement programs, and events that attract visitors to Spokane, thereby stimulating economic activity and enhancing the city's reputation as a desirable tourist destination.

3. How does the TACI committee ensure that funded projects contribute to increasing tourism in Spokane?

The TACI Committee carefully evaluates grant applications to ensure that awarded funds are allocated to projects with a high potential to attract tourists to Spokane. Emphasis is placed on initiatives that demonstrate a clear strategy for promoting overnight stays, as these contribute significantly to the overall economic impact of tourism on the city.

4. Why is there an emphasis on attracting overnight stays, and how does it benefit Spokane?

The TACI grant is funded by overnight stay tax and by encouraging overnight stays helps replenish the grant funds. This grant does not exist without overnight stays. In addition, when visitors choose to stay overnight, they typically spend more money compared to day visitors on accommodations, dining, shopping, and other activities. This increased spending contributes to the local economy, supports job creation, and helps sustain businesses in the hospitality and tourism sectors within the city.

5. How can events and festivals leverage overnight stays to maximize their impact?

Events and festivals can enhance their marketing efforts by emphasizing the unique experiences and attractions that Spokane has to offer to overnight visitors. By promoting packages that include discounted hotel accommodations or exclusive lodging deals,

event organizers can incentivize attendees to extend their stay, thereby increasing visitor spending and amplifying the economic benefits for the city.

6. What role do overnight guests play in supporting local businesses and attractions?

Overnight guests contribute significantly to the success of local businesses and attractions by patronizing hotels, restaurants, shops, cultural institutions, and recreational activities during their stay. Their spending not only generates direct revenue but also creates indirect economic benefits through job creation, tax revenues, and investments in community infrastructure and development.

7. How does attracting tourists from outside the immediate area benefit Spokane's economy?

Attracting tourists from outside the immediate area brings new dollars into Spokane's economy, which helps diversify revenue streams and reduce dependence on residents for economic support. By expanding the city's reach to regional, national, and even international markets, Spokane can tap into a broader customer base and capitalize on the growing demand for unique travel experiences.

8. How does the TACI grant program contribute to Spokane's long-term tourism strategy?

The TACI grant program plays a crucial role in supporting Spokane's long-term tourism strategy by investing in projects and initiatives that enhance the city's attractiveness as a tourist destination. By prioritizing funding for projects that attract overnight stays and foster sustainable tourism growth, the program helps position Spokane as a premier destination for leisure, business, and cultural travelers alike. The TACI grant is funded by overnight stay tax and by encouraging overnight stays it helps replenish the grant funds.