

Tourism Funding Information:

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 67.28.080 provides authority for cities to adopt a lodging tax of up to 4% of lodging charges made by hotels and motels. The City of Anacortes has adopted a 1% lodging tax rate and may invest these revenues into events that attract visitors to Anacortes.

The goal of the Tourism Program is to attract visitors to Anacortes, both for overnight stays and daytrips. Overnight stays not only improve the tourist environment of Anacortes; their revenues sustain the Tourism Program budget. Day trippers frequent Anacortes's unique offerings of shopping, quality restaurants, and galleries and thereby assure the economic vitality of these enterprises and the livelihood of Downtown Anacortes and other business districts.

In addition to these major objectives, the TDC has identified the following objectives and criteria that it would like applicants to address:

1. Increase in hotel occupancy in Anacortes by extending length and frequency of overnight stays.
2. Increase in visitors and overnight stays during the off season (October–May).
3. Provides visitor attractions and/or promote the area's existing attractions including the Anacortes waterfront.
4. Partner with other Anacortes organizations including government, nonprofit and for-profit enterprises.
5. Attract more businesses to Anacortes and thereby generate additional business for hotels and motels.
6. Improve the City's overall image to stimulate positive customer awareness.
7. Demonstrate capacity to implement a successful and sustainable event or program.

Tourism Grant Recipient Requirements:

The program is open to applications from virtually any public or private non-profit entity with the demonstrated capacity to accomplish the proposed project. This includes public and private agencies such as museums and galleries, historical societies, art groups, and chambers of commerce. The most basic eligibility requirement is that the applicant demonstrates clearly and convincingly that the proposed project is in compliance with State statutes governing the use of ATP funds. In addition to State statutes, applications must satisfy several other criteria:

- The application must demonstrate that the project proponent will supply at least 25% of the total project cost. The matching requirement may be met by a cash contribution, in-kind services, or a combination of both.

Projects must be of no more than one year's duration or one year's budget.