

**Dauphin County Local Share Gaming
2023-2024 Grant Process
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: I have questions about the grant application? Who should I contact?

A: Please direct all inquires to:

Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board
c/o Brooke Echevarria, Grants Coordinator
Dauphin County Department of Community & Economic Development
3211 N. Front Street, Suite 301-C
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-780-6250

Q: Who is eligible for grants?

A: Those eligible for grants include East Hanover Township, municipalities contiguous with East Hanover Township and located within Dauphin County (Derry, Middle Paxton, Rush, South Hanover and West Hanover Townships), and Dauphin County. Non-contiguous municipalities within Dauphin County may be eligible if they are sponsored by one of the aforementioned municipalities or Dauphin County.

Q: I have a project idea, but my organization is not a municipality. Can I still apply?

A: Non-municipal entities may only apply if their project is sponsored by an eligible local municipal government or Dauphin County. **No consideration will be given to projects that are not sponsored by an eligible municipality or Dauphin County.**

Q: I represent a municipal authority, is the authority eligible to apply?

A: No, unless its application is sponsored by an eligible municipality or Dauphin County. Municipal authorities are not “municipalities” for purposes of the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act. In the local share gaming grant process, municipal authorities are considered non-municipal entities and require sponsorship in order to seek grant funds.

Q: How can I learn about the requirements related to sponsorship?

A: Consult the *Guidelines for Sponsorship of Local Share Municipal Grant Applications*. The Guidelines can be found at Appendix A to the Local Share Municipal Grant Application, which can be obtained from the County’s website or the Dauphin County Department of Community and Economic Development.

Q: How much will be available in grants?

A: Available funds are tied to gaming revenues, and since gaming revenues will fluctuate, available funds are estimated and subject to change according to casino performance and formulas established by state law. Total municipal grants awarded have consistently been in excess of \$6 million.

Q: How much will one municipality be able to secure?

A: The Dauphin County Commissioners have always indicated that local share gaming money should have a broad impact and benefit many areas of Dauphin County. Applicants should be mindful that the desire to make large requests must be balanced against this priority. While a maximum grant amount has not been established, the program guidelines provide guidance for formulating requests. Applicants who seek funds in excess of recommended grant amounts will be asked to provide justification for the request in their Local Share Municipal Grant Application Narrative.

Q: When are grant applications due?

A: **All applications must be postmarked or delivered no later than close of business at 4:30 p.m. EST on Friday, September 1, 2023.** No exceptions will be granted.

Q: Are there any steps I have to take before submitting an application?

A: All potential applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a pre-application conference with program consultants and/or staff for the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board (DCGAB). The conferences will help interested parties ensure they are eligible and provide an opportunity to answer questions about the process. As explained in the Local Share Municipal Grant Application, a conference is not required, but applicants who do not participate in a conference will experience a substantial loss of points in the scoring of their application and may be precluded from fully participating in the grant review process. Applicants that have participated in the Local Share process in the past will have the opportunity at the pre-application conference to provide an update on their prior grant awards, if applicable.

Q: Where should we submit our applications?

A: Applications must be submitted to the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board (DCGAB) in care of the Dauphin County Department of Community and Economic Development at the above-listed address.

Q: How many copies of the application should be submitted?

A: Please submit one (1) unbound paper copy of the application.

Q: Should we provide anything beyond the requirements in the application?

A: We will accept any additional items that will be helpful in the review and consideration of the application, including news articles and photographs related to the project. **However, applicants must include proof of sponsorship, where applicable, and a project budget in order to avoid the application being automatically rejected.**

Q: When will the grants be awarded?

A: We anticipate all grants will be awarded on or about March 1, 2024.

Q: Who will award the grants?

A: The Dauphin County Commissioners, with the advice of the DCGAB, will award the grants.

Q: What is the process for approving grants?

A: Beginning in September 2023, we expect the DCGAB to use the following process, which is anticipated to take about six (6) months:

- **60-day application review.** This will determine whether grant applications satisfy eligibility requirements set by state law and County guidelines. **The County wants to ensure all applicants have the information necessary in order to be eligible.** Please refer to the requirements in the grant application, as well as the questions above. Any further questions can be directed to the Dauphin County Department of Community and Economic Development.
- **Public presentations of eligible applicants.** Once eligibility is determined, applicants will be required to make a public presentation explaining their project. Presentations may be made during special public hearings according to a schedule set by the DCGAB. **The general public will have an opportunity to comment on projects of interest. Written comments will also be accepted.** The DCGAB reserves the right to excuse applicants from the presentation requirement or to set an application funding amount threshold for the presentation requirement. The lack of a presentation, under such circumstances, will have no bearing on the consideration of applications.
- **Follow-up hearings and requests.** After all hearings are complete, the County reserves the right to schedule follow-up public hearings or request additional information. Such hearings would be held to ensure all questions about applications are satisfied. **Additional hearings will not be seen as a positive or negative when rendering final decisions.** The DCGAB will establish a deadline for submitting written comments or materials.
- **Final grant review.** After all public presentations and written comments have been received, an approximate 30-day review process will begin. **Grant awards**

will be announced during a public meeting of the Dauphin County Commissioners on or about March 1, 2024.

- **Grant Agreement.** If approved for a grant award, applicants must enter into a **Grant Agreement containing any conditions placed on the award by the Commissioners, as well as terms deemed appropriate by the county.**

Q: How will I know if I am eligible and my application has been accepted?

A: The DCGAB will send a letter to any ineligible applicants advising them that their application has not been accepted. Eligible applicants will receive a letter advising them that their application has been accepted and informing them of the schedule for the public presentations.

Q: The Local Share Municipal Grant Application asks volunteer and career fire companies and EMS/ambulance companies to state whether or not they have applied for a grant from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) under the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program. Where can I get information about this grant program?

A: Information about this grant program, which is also funded with gaming proceeds, is available from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, 1310 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone (717) 651-2200 or Toll Free in PA 800-670-3473, and may be found online at

<https://www.osfc.pa.gov/GrantsandLoans/Volunteer%20Fire%20Company%20And%20Ambulance%20Grants/Pages/default.aspx>.

Q: How will gaming funds be transferred to those projects that are selected?

A: The Dauphin County Industrial Development Authority (DCIDA) will administer the municipal grants and closely scrutinize the use of gaming funds. Awards will not be disbursed through block grants, but rather on an as-needed basis. **The DCIDA will reimburse projects for their expenses after receiving detailed receipts or pay third-party invoices for qualifying expenses directly.** Any remaining money after the completion of a project will revert to the County.

Q: Must projects that receive grant awards begin immediately?

A: All grant recipients will be required to sign a Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement will include conditions on the recipient, including but not limited to, deadlines for initiating the selected projects. **It is anticipated that the Grant Agreement will require that work must be initiated on all winning projects within ONE YEAR of the grant award (on or about March 1, 2024).** Projects that fail to meet this deadline, or breach other requirements of the Grant Agreement, will have their funding revoked.

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