***LEHIGH COUNTY***

***Public Information Office***

***Government Center***

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 ***South***

***Seventh Street***

***Allentown, PA***

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***Phone:***

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***Press Release***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MEDIA CONTACT:** Adrianna Calderon March 28th, 2023 610-782-3002

**Lehigh County Reopens 2024 Tourism Development Grant Program**

**LEHIGH COUNTY, PA-**Lehigh County’s Department of Community and Economic Development is currently requesting applications for the 2024 Tourism Development Grant Program. The grant will provide funding to organizations who are promoting tourism on the regional level, and who encourage visitors to plan extended excursions through Lehigh County. Regional tourism venues that are a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization or government entities are eligible to apply for a Tourism Development Grant.

Grants may be awarded for projects occurring in Lehigh County that encourage substantially large events or improve facilities, are regional in nature, and are likely to draw a significant amount of people. Capital projects which promote tourism, events, or conventions are also encouraged to apply. Projects that pertain to general maintenance are not eligible.

Organizations that receive this funding are not eligible to receive any other grant funds from Lehigh County within the same year for the same project. If the project spans between Lehigh and Northampton Counties, a one-to-one funding match will be required. All awarded grants must be completed within two years and are paid on a reimbursement basis.

All applications are due by Friday, April 28, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. Applicants may upload their applications via the County’s website, email their application to lccommdev@lehighcounty.org or physically mail in their submissions to:

Department of Community and Economic Development

Lehigh County Government Center

17 S. 7th St., Room 519

Allentown, PA  18101

The review committee’s recommendations for awards will be included in the County of Lehigh 2024 budget that will be presented to the Board of Commissioners by August 31, 2023. Grantees will be notified of their awards in December 2023.

Applications and a complete list of guidelines for the 2024 Tourism Development Grant Program can be found on the Lehigh County’s Department of Community and Economic Development webpage at <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Grant-Programs/>.

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