



ENCI TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT

SPRING 2026 APPLICATION PACKET

Purpose:

Explore Newnan-Coweta, the destination marketing organization for Coweta County, is solely funded through funds collected from a local occupancy tax on lodging sales. The goal of ENCI is to promote Coweta County as a preferred visitor destination with emphasis on leisure travel, sporting events and tournaments, meetings and conferences, corporate and transient travel, cultural activities, film and special events.

ENCI has established a **reimbursement grant program** to assist local partners in marketing tourism attractions, projects or events exhibiting positive tourism potential for the Coweta County area and attracting new overnight visitors. Partners can apply for up to \$5,000 to make specific tourism marketing enhancements to a particular project or event, research potential product development or to generally promote, or enhance the promotion of, a tourism location. Decisions on funding are made by a team of grant reviewers along with the ENCI staff. Final grant recipients are approved by the ENCI board of directors. The goal of these funds is to attract new visitors to Coweta County and therefore stimulate an increase in hotel/motel occupancy, expenditures by visitors to Coweta County, and to promote a positive image and increased visibility of the county's assets.

An investment in tourism provides a trickle-down effect for the community: a stronger, more diverse economy, an influx of substantial revenue, increased sales tax collection, lower taxes and an improved quality of life for Coweta County residents who partake in restaurants and retail operations, cultural and recreational attractions, and entertainment options that are supported and sustained through visitor spending.

Timeline:

- All application materials must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 16th, 2026. ***Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.***
- All projects, events or marketing strategies must happen within **January 1, 2026 and July 31, 2026**.
- Application and all materials **MUST** be emailed to info@explorenewnancoweta.com. *(Please do not mail applications)*
- Award notices will be made on or before January 30, 2026.
- Grant project phase runs thru July 31, 2026.

The following tourism related projects/activities/assets/events qualify:

Event/Meeting/Conference/Convention

A one-time event that brings out of town/overnight guests to a community. Examples include large car shows, sports tournaments with national/regional teams, regional or national association annual meetings, concerts with regional/national appeal, industry conferences, etc.

Tourism Program

An ongoing series of offerings or events that brings out of town/overnight guests to a community. Examples include a summer racing series, promotion of a live performance venue's season (as a whole – not individual shows), new visitor experience at existing attraction/business or social media ad placements promoting a farm's seasonal events that have regional appeal.



Tourism Asset/Product Development

A permanent business or location that provides an ongoing (or potential) opportunity for visitor interaction and experience or future investment in tourism product development. Qualifying expenses include research/feasibility studies, marketing strategies that increase overall awareness, access and education about a business that enhance its ability to attract more/new visitors. This could be elements of an ongoing awareness campaign, such as a website, brochure or digital ads for a hotel, museum, event facility, retail establishment or restaurant.

Guidelines and Requirements:

- Applicants must be based within Coweta County
- All projects, events or marketing strategies must happen within the time period of **January 1, 2026 and July 31, 2026**. (Two grant cycles happen annually)
- The promoted event, business or organization must hold a valid business license or occupation tax certificate and all appropriate permits.
- Events must show proof of liability/medical insurance.
- The primary goal of an CVB funded projects must be visitor facing (at least 50%) tourism programs, events, projects or marketing. While residents may benefit from the funded project/programs, they cannot be the primary audience.
- A marketing plan (if applicable) must be submitted for the project/event.
- Businesses may submit applications for more than one marketing initiative/event, but they must be submitted on a separate application. For events, there can be no overlap between the applications.
- All advertising must be targeted outside of Coweta County (the exception is billboard signage along major interstates). Print advertising and radio ads whose reach and distribution include Coweta County are acceptable as long as greater than 50% of the target audience is outside the county.
- Events must be open to the general public (ticketed events are accepted as long as the public has the opportunity to purchase tickets).
- No event-related marketing efforts may promote facilities or properties located outside of Coweta County.
- A detailed plan for the funding request **MUST** be included in the application. General requests will not be awarded.
- Execution of the project will be the sole responsibility of the business requesting funding.
- ENCI does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), first amendment-protected activity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in reviewing applications submitted for Tourism Product Development Grants.
- All applications will be judged using the **Grant Rubric** (see website link for reference).



Examples of Eligible Grant Program Projects:

- Production of promotional pieces to be distributed outside of Coweta County. These pieces may include brochures, posters, direct mail pieces, etc. Applications must be specific on methods of distribution, production costs or any other expenses.
- Website development/upgrades (If an upgrade, application must demonstrate how the upgrades will enhance the event/business's ability to attract new visitors)
- Graphic design services (for marketing collateral)
- Video production
- Marketing Photography (for tourism-related businesses or events)
- Digital or print advertising placements (must be targeted at least 50 miles outside Coweta County)
- Paid social advertising (must be targeted at least 50 miles outside Coweta County)
- Research for tourism product development viability or feasibility study (primary target audience must be visitors outside Coweta County and applicant must show potential to generate NEW visitor growth/overnight lodging stays)

Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Any event expenses not approved for funding in the application
- Infrastructure costs for a business or an event
- Advertising or promotional pieces placed within Coweta
- Website development or enhancement for non-visitor facing websites
- Promotional items
- Signage or kiosks
- Logo or brand development
- Trade Show registration or attendance
- Fees associated with the hiring of a marketing or public relations company
- Event tickets or passes used in marketing or PR projects. (i.e. in-kind costs)
- Salaries and other monetary compensation to staff or talent
- Food and beverage
- Mileage or gas expenses due to distribution of materials

Funding and Reimbursement:

- Grant funds are capped at \$5,000 per project/event per fiscal year.
- Grant funds are meant to enhance, not replace, existing funding
- An indemnification agreement must be signed and on file with ENCI before funds are distributed.
- **Funding will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis.** Proof of marketing materials or research results and paid invoices/proof of payment must be presented with final report.
- Applicants who receive grant funds must submit a Grant Usage Report regarding the return on investment (ROI) of the funds, using the metrics presented in the grant application, in order to receive reimbursement.
- All final reports/documents are due to ENCI within 30 days of the end of the grant cycle for which grants were approved or within 30 days of the end of the event/program.
- ENCI may terminate or adjust funding if applicants do not adhere to the application parameters or post-reporting agreement.



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(Fill out form in its entirety with details in appropriate fields. Applicants may include supporting materials or additional pages for explanations if needed.)

DATE: _____ AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____

APPLICANT (LEGAL NAME OF BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION):

POINT OF CONTACT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION (CHECK ONE):

- FOR PROFIT
NON-PROFIT - 501(c)(6)
NON-PROFIT - 501(c)(3)
OTHER _____

IF NON-PROFIT, TAX ID #: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

WEBSITE (BUSINESS/EVENT): _____

YEARS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS: _____

TOURISM PROJECT/ACTIVITY TO BE FUNDED (SELECT ONE):

- EVENT/MEETING/CONFERENCE/CONVENTION ___ TOURISM PROGRAM ___
TOURISM ASSET/PROJECT/PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ___



PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION/PROGRAM/EVENT AND INCLUDE DATE IT WAS ESTABLISHED

PLEASES DESCRIBE THE PROJECT TYPE FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING THE GRANT. (Include specifics such as video, design services, marketing, research, etc. If event, what type?)

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM/EVENT/ASSET OF WHICH THE PROJECT IS TIED TO. INCLUDE MISSIONS, GOALS, AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. IF THIS REQUEST IS PART OF A LARGER PROJECT, PLEASE DESCRIBE THAT PROJECT AND HOW THIS COMPONENT IS INTEGRATED.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO TOURISM?



DESCRIBE THE TOTAL BUDGET AND TIMELINE FOR THE PROGRAM/ASSET/EVENT.

Horizontal lines for budget and timeline description.

DESCRIBE ALL MARKETING INITIATIVES (if applicable) FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING FUNDS, HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND WHY YOU CHOSE THEM.

Horizontal lines for marketing initiatives description.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

(Age groups, special interest, geographic regions, etc.)

PLEASE LIST THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUR INTENDED AUDIENCE (Female/Male, Families, Retirees, etc):

PERCENTAGE OF OUT-OF-TOWN ATTENDEES/AUDIENCE:

TRACKING METHOD(S):

TOTAL # EXPECTED:



IS YOUR EVENT TICKETED (if applicable)? Y_____ N _____

IF YES, LIST TICKET PRICES:

PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS YOU FEEL WE SHOULD KNOW REGARDING THE APPLICATION:

Four horizontal lines for providing additional details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

_____ I acknowledge I have read and understand all criteria for applying for a Tourism Grant.

_____ I understand that all reporting requirements must be met in order to receive reimbursement.

NOTE:

- BE SURE TO INCLUDE A MARKETING STRATEGY/PLAN WITH APPLICATION (if applicable)
• REVIEW GRANT RUBRIC PRIOR TO SUBMISSION
• EMAIL ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO INFO@EXPLORENEWNANCOWETA.COM

Questions regarding the application may be sent to info@explorenewnancoweta.com.