



616 Bradford Street
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-4189

IMPROVEMENT (BRICK & MORTAR) FUND GRANT GUIDELINES

– OVERVIEW –

Application due 45 days prior to start of project

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding that promotes, encourages and attracts visitors to the travel and tourism facilities and attractions within Seward County. The funds available through this program are provided from the Seward County lodging tax revenue collected via the improvement fund. The funds are to be used for capital improvements to new or existing attractions or recreational facilities that are open to the public and are of educational, cultural, historical, artistic or recreational significance, and that promote and/or stimulate the Seward County economy by encouraging overnight stays in hotels, motels, and campgrounds.

CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE:

- Grants from Seward County Visitors Committee (SCVC) Improvement Funds shall be available for any visitor attraction in Seward County owned by the public, any nonprofit organization, or privately owned entity involved in tourism.
- Grant applications are due 45 days prior to the start of the project.
- Grants are discretionary, based on available funds.
- Grant funds must be used for projects that will attract tourists.
- Grant funds may not be used for on-going operational expenses such as, but not limited to: taxes, utilities, wages, maintenance, etc.
- Applicants must present projections for all construction expenses involved with the project.
- The proceeds of the SCVC Fund may be used to IMPROVE EXISTING visitor attractions and facilities in Seward County, except that no proceeds shall be used to improve a facility in which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted.
- The grantee will obtain all necessary local and state permits.
- Grant applicants must complete the attached grant application and letters of support from three or more entities that will benefit from the project
- Ninety days after the project completion, a report must be submitted to the SCVC, along with all receipts, giving the final results.
- Permanent, visible acknowledgment will be placed within any facility receiving SCVC Improvement Funds to be determined with each grant.
- Projects must provide matching funds for this grant.
- Grant funds shall be used to assist with facility improvements or new construction.
- Improvement fund grant awards are capped at \$2,500

NOTE:

Applications for grant funding from the VISITORS IMPROVEMENT FUND will be accepted by the SCVC beginning March 2018 and are due 45 days prior to beginning the project. The SCVC will review the applications at their monthly meetings to consider grant requests (except December).

Applications for grants are available at the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership (SCCDP) offices and online at www.cultivatesewardcounty.com. After completing the application, applicants should return to the Seward County Visitors Committee, in care of the SCCDP for placement on the agenda for consideration by the SCVC Board of Directors. A representative of the entity submitting an application for Visitor Improvement Funds will be requested to make a personal presentation the SCVC Board of Directors upon submission of their application.

The SCVC requests a year lapse between grants.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

Include a one-page summary of your proposal addressing the following:

- *Is this project profit-generating? If so, where does the profit go?*
- *What is the long-term impact of this project?*

Fill out the official application. Make sure you provide proper documentation and be specific.

- The committee meets monthly and needs your completed application 45 days prior to your event of when your project begins. The committee meets the third Tuesday of the month, except in December.
- Your application will be reviewed and you may get some suggestions back to make your application stronger.
- Once your application has been submitted, you'll be contacted to make a presentation in front of the SCVC to answer any questions.

Questions regarding the Grant application, contact:
SCVC, c/o Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership

Meetings held every third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m., at the Civic Center. (Except December)

All correspondence should be made to:
SEWARD COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE
616 Bradford St., Seward, NE 68434
www.cultivatesewardcounty.com



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IMPROVEMENT (BRICK & MORTAR) FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Date of application: _____

Entity applying for grant: _____ Tax ID Number: _____

Contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address (required) _____

Entity applying for grant is a 501 (c) 3: ___ Yes ___ No

If no, what type of organization (private, non-profit) is the grantee? _____

Feel free to use additional sheets of paper to properly explain your request.

You will be asked to complete a W9 form.

Name, date and location of improvement: _____

(Please provide additional sheets if necessary for the following questions.)

Describe the improvement: _____

Total amount of funds requested: _____ Total estimated costs: _____

Please provide a detailed overall budget for project with this application, along with printed quotes/bids. _____

Describe the current facility, location, expansion and improvement plans, significant to tourism and estimated date of completion. _____

Who is the target market for this project? _____

Are other agencies or groups are co-sponsoring this project? _____

Return grant applications to:
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For questions, please call: 402-643-4189