



Travel Nevada FY26 Special Projects Grant

FY26 Request for Applications

Applications Open: **October 1, 2025**
Applications Due: **November 14, 2025 (5:00 pm)**
Anticipated Award: **December 9, 2025**

Questions should be directed to:

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or

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Pursuant to NRS 231.260, the Division of Tourism is empowered with the authority to provide and administer grants of money to governmental subdivisions of the State, to fair and recreation boards, and to local or regional organizations that promote travel or tourism. These guidelines have been established to assist applicants in developing proposals for the Travel Nevada Destination Development Demonstration (3D) Project. The Division of Tourism hereby reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. This rejection may be based on the availability of funding and the quantity of proposals submitted. The Division of Tourism further reserves the right to waive any irregularities in any proposal if it is in the best interest of the Division and the State of Nevada to do so.



Please give careful attention to the entire application packet.
Applications will be evaluated in light of all requirements described
within these guidelines.

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Program Overview

I. Program Description

Travel Nevada's Special Projects Grant program aims to further Travel Nevada's strategic priorities. The FY26 Special Project grant will center funding around accessibility and inclusivity. Eligible entities must choose between two project categories: **2 YEAR Project - Enhancement and/or expansion of tourism infrastructure to be more accessible/inclusive** or **1 YEAR Project - Improving accessible/inclusive visitor experiences**. Only one option may be requested and only one application may be submitted per entity. The applicant must also show how their specific project ties back to at least one of the industry strategic initiatives outlined below.

The Americans with Disabilities Act sets a minimum standard for accessible infrastructure, but in order to create truly welcoming experiences for the 61 million adults (26% of the population) who live with a disability in the U.S., the travel industry must take additional steps to ensure that those who experience physical, sensory, or other disabilities are able to experience all our state has to offer in safety and comfort.

Total funding available for the **FY26 Special Projects Grants program is \$500,000**. Of that total, \$100,000 will be dedicated to improving accessible/inclusive visitor experiences. **Requests between \$5,000 to \$50,000 will be accepted**. No cash match is required. Applications that show additional funds provided through cash or in-kind contributions may be given preference.

The Division of Tourism operates within the [Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs](#) to help achieve the Governor's strategic priority of a vibrant and sustainable economy by effectively promoting and developing statewide tourism to enhance the economic vitality of Nevada.

To this end, Travel Nevada administers grant programs to facilitate tourism development across rural Nevada. The over-arching goal of Travel Nevada's grant programs is to support our industry strategic initiatives:

IMPROVE quality of life for Nevadans through community-focused tourism development and placemaking/keeping efforts that convey authentic experiences that reflect local culture and values;

INCREASE revenue and job opportunities for rural communities through increased visitor spend as a result of extended length of stay due to increased bookable product, enhanced tourism assets, and robust destination infrastructure;

EMPOWER local communities to advocate for and adopt policies and practices to ensure the sustainability of their tourism economy, minimizing negative impacts on environmental

and cultural resources through destination care and stewardship strategies and messaging;
EXPAND state partnerships to benefit Nevada residents through increased capacity, technical expertise, and availability of resources;
BUILD the adaptive capacity of rural Nevada communities through long-term tourism planning, to include hazard mitigation and crisis management strategies, economic diversification, infrastructure improvements, and workforce development;
FOSTER a welcoming culture towards all residents and visitors by centering accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion in infrastructure, marketing, and in-market messaging statewide.
ESTABLISH an understanding of the ways in which local tourism products and services are fundamental to a vibrant quality of life for all Nevadans, ensuring mutual benefits for visitors and residents;
ENCOURAGE visitation through positive awareness and perception of Nevada as a globally recognized brand amongst global travel trade professionals and travelers.

II. Project Timeline

Key dates are summarized below:

Opening of project application period: October 1, 2025

Project application deadline: November 14, 2025

Project Award Announcement: December 9, 2025

Project period – 1 YEAR Projects: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026 for IMPROVING ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCES.

Project period – 2 YEAR Projects: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2027 for ENHANCEMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Applicant Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for consideration for the Travel Nevada Special Projects Grant Program:

- a. Official Travel Nevada Territory organizations.
- b. A regional or local unit of government in a Nevada community with a population less than 30,000 (2020 U.S. Census).
- c. Non-profit organizations based in communities of less than 30,000 population (2020 U.S. Census) regardless of the county in which the community is located. Applicants must demonstrate in their application that they are a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) non-profit organization.
- d. Tribal government entities and non-profit organizations based on Tribal Lands located within the state of Nevada.
- e. The Division of Tourism WILL NOT consider applications from any entity out of compliance with a current contract, policy, or agreement with the State of Nevada.
- f. All applicant organizations must be domestic entities and shall be owned, operated, and located within the State of Nevada.
- h. Applicants are encouraged to create partnerships with public or private, non-profit, or for-profit entities, and/or other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, and local government agencies “Organizational Partners” for the purposes of providing additional resources and strength to the proposed project.

2. Project Eligibility

Eligible projects must clearly show alignment with tourism infrastructure that is accessible/inclusive or improving accessible/inclusive visitor experiences. While not all-inclusive, the projects listed below are examples of the types of projects that are eligible for funding.

Project categories include:

A. ENHANCEMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE.

Eligible projects include:

- Access point improvements and facility improvements on existing recreational facilities.
- Removal or mitigation of physical barriers and/or obstacles for visitors with mobility or sensory restrictions.
- Improvements to structures, pathways, gates and doorways at tourism-related facilities.
- Multi-language, accessible interpretive signage or wayfinding.

- Planning/feasibility studies for tourism-related facilities (includes attractions, public spaces, visitor experiences).

B. IMPROVING ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCES.

Eligible projects include:

- Assistive technology infrastructure (including adaptive devices) that service a variety of needs to enhance the visitor experience.
- Content development that supports accessible tourism marketing, including photography and video.
- Adding accessibility features to an existing website.
- Development of programming, products and/or materials to support accessibility.
- Accessibility and walkability audits.
- Equipment, such as adaptive recreation equipment.
- Workforce training that supports accessibility and inclusion in the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation industries to improve the skills and job opportunities for workers.

C. INELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following activities are not eligible for grants:

Mobile app development

Deferred, regular or ongoing maintenance and upkeep

- Operational expenses, including administrative support or salaries of existing personnel.
- Cannabis or tobacco tourism-related projects
- Restroom construction or improvements
- New recreational trail construction (with the exception of access improvements of the entrance to a trailhead)
- Costs incurred prior to Nevada Division of Tourism authorization of the award.
- Awards to individuals and for-profit entities
- Advertising or promotion on behalf of for-profit entities or private companies
- Funds used to subsidize or defray the operating costs of for-profit businesses.
- Rent, utilities and other preexisting overhead expenses (e.g. administrative costs, supplies, fees, insurance, legal fees, web hosting)
- Ongoing or recurring costs without a plan to sustain said costs beyond the project period (e.g. event fees, subscriptions)
- Staff food or lodging, entertainment or transportation
- Administrative postage and bulk permit fees
- Non-budgeted expenses and cost over-runs

- Indirect or expenses not directly in support of the proposed project

If the applicant elects to propose project activities besides those described above, the applicant must provide a detailed project description and budget narrative, and the project will be evaluated by the selection committee.

Decisions about project eligibility will be made exclusively by the Nevada Division of Tourism in accordance with established program priorities and guidelines, and any such decisions will be final.

III. Application and Submission Information

1. Before You Begin

The following information will be necessary to complete your application:

The applicant organization's Nevada Secretary of State Corporate ID Number. If they have not already done so, Applicants should register for a Secretary of State Corporate ID number by visiting <https://www.nvsos.gov/sos>

For non-profit entities, the applicant organization's IRS-issued Federal Tax ID number. This number is assigned to non-profit entities and can be found by visiting

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>. If your organization is not already incorporated as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6), visit

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4220.pdf> to learn about how to become a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) organization.

2. Content and Format of Application Submission

Only ONE application will be accepted per organization. If an application incorporates multiple organizations, a "lead" organization must be designated.

Applications for the Travel Nevada Special Projects Grant program will be accepted exclusively through the Submittable platform.

Applicants may create an account on Submittable by clicking the link on the travelnevada.biz website. After registering, a confirmation email including instructions and next steps will be sent to the address used to create the account. Submittable will generate an organizational log-in which may be used to access your application.

3. Submission Date

Applications are due November 14, 2025, by 5:00 pm PT. Applications submitted after this time will be ineligible for consideration to receive a Travel Nevada Special Projects Grant. Application materials received after the deadline, including supplementary materials and attachments, will not be considered as part of the submission. Concessions will not be granted for late receipt of application materials, regardless of cause. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your application.

4. How to Submit an Application

Once you have created a Submittable account, you will be able to access the application. Applicants will be able to save and return to your application to continue editing until clicking Submit, at which time the application will no longer be available for editing. Please answer every question on the application completely, accurately and to the best of your ability.

Applications in Submittable must be complete to be considered. Failure to complete the application in its entirety will render the applicant ineligible for funding.

The application sections are as follows:

- 1) Organizational Information – Complete the required fields regarding the Applicant organization.
- 2) Organizational Partnerships – (not required but recommended) If you will be working with partner agencies or organizations to implement your project, list them here. Letters of Commitment from partners specifically detailing their role or anticipated contribution to the project are required for each partner listed in this section. Letters of Commitment must be uploaded as .pdf files using the Letters of Commitment form in Submittable.
- 3) Letters of Support - A minimum of three additional Letters of Support from partners not directly involved in implementation of the project must be uploaded as evidence of community support for the proposal. Letters of support should demonstrate that the proposed project has the support of local or regional elected decision-makers, civic organizations, community groups and/or key community/destination organizations. Each letter should be unique and reflect the specific nature of the author's support for the project. Applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to their Territory about the grant project idea and request letters of support to enhance their overall application.
- 4) Public Land/Landowner/Property Owner Assurances (for ENHANCEMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE **only.**)
 - A. For projects on public lands, check this box and attach any applicable written agreement with any government entity having jurisdiction over that land, including permits, leases, easements, and rights-of-way.
 - B. If all or part of the project will take place on Federal funds or Land and NEPA is required, check the box to indicate which document was produced, and attach the decision document to this application:
Do I need NEPA? Here's a hand guide: chrome-extension://https://www.imba.com/sites/default/files/resource_1/IMBA_Intro_NEPA_FINAL.pdf
 - a. Record of Decision (ROD)
 - b. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Decision Record (DR)

- c. Categorical Exclusion (CX)
 - d. SHPO 106 compliance/concurrence letter
 - e. Other compliance documents already completed.
 - f. Not applicable
 - g. The required assessments have not yet been completed for this project.
- C. For projects on privately owned land/property, the Applicant must attach a letter from the Landowner/Property Owner stating that:
- a. Landowner/ Property Owner has read the Request for Grant Application package.
 - b. Landowner/ Property Owner agrees with the application and the terms of the grant.
 - c. Landowner/ Property Owner holds an interest in the subject land/property that is sufficient in scope and authority to allow the applicant to complete the proposed project and operate and maintain the proposed project after its completion.
 - d. Landowner/ Property Owner is legally committing to maintain the facility and will allow access to such facility for 25 years or the normal life of the project; and
 - e. Landowner/ Property Owner agrees to provide any match or other tasks in the application that are assigned to Landowner. (Click here to download the Land/Property Owner form letter from TravelNevada.biz)

5) Impacts – Describe the need for this project and how this funding will improve accessibility for visitors to your community.

5) Proposed Scope of Work – Please describe exactly what work will be completed utilizing grant funds.

6) Project Deliverables - Please describe projected quantitative outcomes for your project.

7) Stewardship – Travel Nevada cares about protecting and preserving the special places around our state and is committed to ensuring a positive and authentic travel experience for generations to come. Describe how your proposed project supports preservation and protection of sensitive resources.

8) Project Budget – Upload your proposed project budget worksheet. (Excel)

9) Project Timeline/Workplan – Attach your completed Project Timeline/Workplan. For Infrastructure projects, the project timeframe is 2 years. For non-infrastructure projects, the timeframe is one year.

10)Project Supplemental Information – Provide additional files that help to illustrate your proposed project. For infrastructure projects, include good photographs of the project location, engineering drawings and design files help the review panel and the Commission to understand the location, depth and breadth of your project. For non-infrastructure projects, include any additional information that would help the review panel and the Commission to better understand your project.

Project Agreement – Check the box to certify the Lead Applicant’s willingness and ability to commit to the expectations of the project.

5. Submission Checklist

Prior to submitting your application, please review the following checklist to ensure that you have included all the required documentation with your application.

1) Completed Special Projects Grant Application on Submittable with responses to all questions (Required)

2) Attachments:

- a. Organizational Partner Letters of Commitment for each partner listed (If applicable)
- b. 3 Letters of Community Support (Required)
- c. Landowner/Property Owner Assurances (If applicable)
- d. Budget (Required)
- e. Project Supplemental Information (If applicable)

6. Application Review Information

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. The selection committee will score all applications using the criteria outlined below in (7). The selection committee will submit the top scoring applicants for consideration by the Nevada Commission on Tourism. The decision of the Nevada Commission on Tourism regarding awardees is final.

7. Application Criteria

The Division of Tourism is interested in funding projects that will yield positive and welcoming traveler experiences, support communities through increased tourism, foster local and regional collaborations, catalyze tourism growth in rural places, and create sustainable benefits for Nevada's economy.

Applications will be reviewed and decisions to award will be made based on the following:

- Likelihood of the proposed project to positively impact both local residents and visitors.
- Ability of Applicant to manage the project and steer it through implementation.
- Applicant demonstrates a satisfactory record of integrity, judgment, and performance, especially with prior performance upon grants and contracts.

- Alignment with Travel Nevada's industry strategic initiatives.
- Demonstrates an immediate need for the project that is recognized by the community/stakeholders.
- Ability of the project to support development in early-stage Nevada tourism destination(s).
- Demonstrates the ability to complete the project in the required timeline (by December 31, 2026 for IMPROVING ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCES and by December 31, 2027 for ENHANCEMENT AND/OR EXPANSION OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE/INCLUSIVE).
- Demonstrates that applicant and project meet the eligibility requirements of Section III and that the application is complete and contains all information required by these grant guidelines.

Preference in scoring may be given to projects that:

- Are identified as the result of an assessment or planning process.
- Have already received required permitting (if needed).
- Show additional funds provided through cash or in-kind contributions. While not required, a match may strengthen the application.
- Ability of the project to showcase diverse cultures or support diverse communities/businesses.
- Demonstrate collaboration with multiple partners.

Travel Nevada reserves the right to award grants in amounts totaling less than all funds available under the Special Projects Grant Program, to award a different amount than is requested in a grant application, to make changes to the Grant Guidelines or to cancel the Program in its entirety.

IV. Award Conditions

Applicants who are awarded a grant will enter into a contract with Travel Nevada that includes agreements to comply with all guideline requirements and to complete the project as approved.

COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE, TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) Projects must be compliant with all applicable zoning, building, and permitting laws and codes.

2) If applicable, projects must align with guidelines and standards such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. For projects that do not require compliance, these standards should be referenced as best practices.

3) Projects must identify and take appropriate steps to preserve protected areas, sensitive sites, and cultural heritage.

FUNDING USE/BUDGET AND TIMELINES

Projects will be monitored by Travel Nevada. Grant recipients shall maintain accurate records of how dollars are spent and must agree to provide Travel Nevada with access to these records in a timely manner, when requested.

Grant recipients will be required to keep an ongoing, updated timeline and budget throughout the lifetime of the grant. Grant recipients are required to spend awarded funds by the end of the project period for their award. Any unspent funds will be returned to Travel Nevada.

PROJECT DESIGN

Grant recipient shall visibly display on all finished grant projects (publications, websites and other significantly visible project activities) the acknowledgement: "This project has been funded in part by a grant from Travel Nevada." Travel Nevada will work with grant recipient to ensure proper usage and placement of the Travel Nevada logo. Do not place Travel Nevada logo unless authorized by Travel Nevada to do so.

For printed materials, Grant recipient must submit designs to Travel Nevada for review prior to production and placement. Grant recipient shall allow at least two weeks for Travel Nevada to review the project design and provide feedback (timing will depend on the complexity of the project).

V. Reporting Requirements

In order to remain in compliance with the requirements to receive this funding, awardees are asked to provide reports on project status to the Division of Tourism. Prior to applying for funding, please review these requirements to ensure that your organization is capable and willing to complete and submit the necessary reports as outlined below.

1. Financial Reporting and Disbursement Procedures

a. Disbursement Procedures –

i. Awardees will receive their initial disbursement of funds, equal to one half of their award amount, upon execution of the signed Project Agreement. In order to receive this disbursement of funds, awardees must be a registered vendor with the State of Nevada.

ii. Subsequent disbursements of funds may be requested from the Nevada Division of Tourism by the awardee during the project period by submitting a Disbursement Request. The Disbursement Request Form must be completed by the awardee and must be accompanied by:

- a) an Outlay Report detailing previous award expenditures, including receipts as documentation of expenses incurred, and the amount of project funds remaining, and;
- b) an estimate of expenditures for which the disbursement is being requested.

- c) Disbursement Requests must align with approved project expenses and must be supported by activities in the Project Timeline.
 - d) The Disbursement Request, along with all required documentation, must be scanned and uploaded to Submittable.
- b. Awardees must create a separate budget account for these funds.
 - c. The final Outlay Report must be received by the Division of Tourism within 1 month of the completion of the project or the end of the approved project period, whichever is sooner.
 - d. Overspending – Awardees are solely responsible for any and all expenses that exceed the original award amount.
 - e. Returning Funds – Any unspent funds at the end of the project period must be remitted to the Nevada Division of Tourism. If a grantee becomes aware that they, for any reason, cannot expend any portion their award, they should contact the grant administrator as soon as possible so that the funding can be re-allocated. Failure to notify the Division of Tourism of unspent funds may result in denial of any future funding.
 - f. Grants may be audited at any time by the Division of Tourism or its representatives. Performance on past projects will be considered by the organization in advisement to any future funding awards.
 - g. In order to receive disbursements, the grantee must be in compliance with project reporting requirements.

2. Performance Evaluation – Quarterly and Final Project Reports

- a. Quarterly Reports. On a quarterly basis, grantees must submit a Progress Report to the Division of Tourism. A link to the reporting form will be sent to the email address on the organization’s Submittable account. The due date for the report will be 30 days from the date it is sent by the Division of Tourism. Awardees will be provided a Quarterly Report Template and a Work Plan Template which must be updated quarterly. In the Report, grantees should include updates on milestones included in the Project Timeline, progress on outcome measures outlined in their Evaluation Plan, and barriers encountered during the implementation of the project. Awardees are encouraged to submit supplemental information as attachments, such as earned media, visitor or resident feedback, or room tax receipts.
- b. Final Reports. At the close of the project, awardees are required to submit a Final Report/Project Evaluation accompanied by the final outlay report. The Final Report/Project Evaluation will include a summary of the completed project activities, project outcomes, and the impact and success of the project based on the metrics established in the Evaluation Plan. Additionally, grantees will be asked to reflect on lessons learned and next steps for destination development in the community. Awardees should complete the Final Report/Project Evaluation template on Submittable no later than one month after the completion of their project or the end of the two-year project period, whichever is sooner.

VI. Project Amendments

If a grantee wishes to amend their original project, they may request to do so by contacting the grant administrator. Project amendments must include rationale for the change, any budgetary changes, and an updated project timeline. Project amendments will be granted at the discretion of Nevada Division of Tourism. Project amendments may not exceed the original award amount. Project amendments may not change the overall scope/purpose of the project. In order to receive disbursement for expenses that are included in a project amendment, expenses must not be incurred prior to approval of the amendment.

VI. Noncompliance

All recipients of this funding are required to comply with all policies and requirements laid out in this document as well as any Division of Tourism or State of Nevada policies or requirements further clarified in Q&As, memoranda, or other relevant documents. Travel Nevada Staff are available to support grantees to avoid instances of noncompliance. Awardees will be notified in writing of instances of noncompliance and will face serious repercussions for repeated instances of noncompliance, including forfeiture of grant funds and ineligibility for future funding opportunities through the Nevada Division of Tourism.