



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tompkins County Tourism Program Announces Fall 2015 Funding Opportunity: Grant Applications Due September 21st

Tompkins County organizations planning Community Celebrations or projects with potential to draw visitors from outside Tompkins County are invited to apply for financial support from the Tompkins County Tourism Program. Grant guidelines and applications are available online: www.tompkinscountyny.gov/tourism.

Applications for the following grant programs will be due online by 11am, Monday September 21st, 2015:

New Tourism Initiative Grants are for projects that have occurred less than three years in a row and that support implementation of the [County's Strategic Tourism Plan](#). Maximum award: \$25,000

Community Celebration Grants provide assistance to events and programs endorsed by a municipality that are free and open to all and planned by community members as a benefit to the community. Applicants for celebrations taking place between January and April 2016 should apply in this fall 2015 grant round. Maximum award: \$2,000.

Tourism Project Grants and Tourism Marketing and Advertising Grants are not being offered in the current round. Those grant categories are expected to be available again in the spring 2016 grant cycle. Tompkins County also offers two other tourism grant programs with separate funding cycles and application requirements: Tourism Capital Grants, and Arts & Culture Organizational Development Grants.

The overarching goals of the Tompkins County Tourism Program are to promote economic development and enhance quality of life through tourism development. Oversight and strategic direction are provided by the Strategic Tourism Planning Board, with these grants awarded by the Tompkins County Legislature and funded entirely by County hotel room occupancy tax dollars. Tourism grants have supported the activities of dozens of local organizations contributing to local tourism and community vitality. As an industry, in 2014 tourism in Tompkins County supported 3,500 local jobs and generated \$190 million in local economic activity and more than \$14 million in local tax revenues.

A workshop for potential grant applicants will be held on Wednesday 9/9 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce at 904 East Shore Drive, Ithaca. The workshop is free and open to all. RSVPs appreciated to tknipe@tompkins-co.org.