



Summary of FY25 Grant Program Changes

1. December 2023

a. Eligibility

- i. As used in other Florida counties to assist in the eligibility review process, consideration of a County eligibility checklist or review panel for any applicants deemed ineligible by the County remains.

b. Application & Guidelines

- i. Clarify how funding can be used Oct-Dec 2024 to support any Bicentennial programming. This question will not be included in the rubric.
- ii. Add guideline language to areas of the application to better guide the applicant.
- iii. Change “City Funds” to “Local Community”

c. Marketing

- i. Keep change from FY24, allowing Cultural Grant applicants to request an additional \$3,000 in funds for marketing efforts outside of Tallahassee/Leon County.
- ii. Continue to allow applicants to apply for the Marketing Grant only.

2. March 2024

a. Application & Guidelines

- i. Reformat and updated calendar of grant deadlines (page 4)
- ii. Rearrange sections of pre-existing text to clarify the three grant programs, including funding source, eligibility and request amount (pages 5-14)
- iii. Possible funding level considerations to reflect available FY25 funding pool (pages 13-14)

FY24 Guidelines				FY25 Guidelines			
Allowable Operating Income	Group #	Max % of Operating Income	Maximum Request	Allowable Operating Income	Group #	Max % of Operating Income	Maximum Request
\$0 - \$50,000	4	50%	\$14,000	\$0 - \$74,999	4	50%	\$30,000
\$50,000 - \$499,000	3	20%	\$50,000	\$75,000 - \$499,999	3	20%	\$85,000
\$500,000 - \$1,499,999	2	10%	\$90,000	\$500,000 - \$1,499,999	2	10%	\$150,000
\$1.5 million+	1	10%	\$200,000	\$1,500,000+	1	10%	\$325,000

b. Leon County Feedback

- i. Request an additional week for the County to conduct their eligibility review; COCA staff will have guidelines available for the public and the application portal open on **April 24** instead of **May 1**.
- ii. Revise word choice for clarification (all pages).
- iii. Request a member of the Tourist Development Council to serve as a grant panelist.
- iv. Request that the Local Community Grant be separated from the Cultural Grant/Cultural Tourism Marketing Grant entirely.