



REGIONAL ASSETS FUNDING COMMITTEE

County of Erie
140 West Sixth Street
Erie, PA 16501
Phone 814.451.6200
www.eriecountygov.org/rafc

SPECIAL EVENTS: GRANT GUIDELINES (Section 1)

Applications close Wednesday, April 1, 2009 for activities commencing after April 1, 2009 and completed by March 31, 2010.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Assets Funding Committee (RAFC) was formed by County Council to establish a dedicated, secure and substantial public funding source for Regional Assets throughout Erie County. The RAFC will recommend grant disbursement from a portion of Erie County's unrestricted Gaming Revenues. A Regional Asset, as defined by the Erie County Gaming Revenue report, is "a civic, arts, or cultural organization, or facility (including, but not limited to, zoos, museums, and performance arts organizations and facilities), which is owned by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or is an IRS designated Section 501(c)3 organization, or with respect to which a political subdivision or 501(c)3 organization has operational and financial responsibility."

Our Regional Assets enhance the quality of life in our communities. The RAFC grants will be used to extend the reach and maintain and improve the quality of our Regional Assets. There is **one grant round** per year for all three categories of RAFC Grants – Dedicated Assets, Community/Other Assets and Special Events. All grant awards are subject to approval by Erie County Government through the normal legislative process.

This application is to be used by Special Events include festivals, parades, and performances that significantly enhance the region economically and culturally. The fund may be utilized to fund no more than 30% of the total event budget and will require a 50% match (in-kind goods and services cannot exceed 10% of the required match).

"Dedicated Assets" may only apply for "Special Event" funding if they are co-sponsoring an event with a location outside the traditional venue of the "Dedicated/Major Asset."

RAFC grants provide funding to support arts programming, exhibits, special events, performances and arts related projects in Erie County. Funds are distributed on a competitive grant basis.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant's principal office/activities must be located in Erie County, PA.
- The project must occur in Erie County, PA.
- The organization must be tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3), as demonstrated by a copy of the applicant's IRS determination letter, or must be owned by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- The organization must not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status, gender or gender identity in any program or activities receiving public funds.
- The applicant must be in good standing in accordance with RAFC requirements and must have provided all contract reporting required to date.
- The project must be open to the public.
- Special Events will be eligible to apply for annual unrestricted gaming funds designated for Regional Assets and must use the Special Events Application.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Any asset which fails to serve a significant number of persons who are not residents of the city, borough, or township within which the asset is located; any health care facility; any institution that predominantly provides elementary or secondary education or other training; any state or federal parks; any airports or public transportation systems or facility; all libraries; and all paid public safety organizations and facilities.

Application Guidelines

1. All applications must be submitted using the current Regional Assets Funding Committee application forms. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Erie County Regional Assets Funding Committee at the following address:

The Regional Assets Funding Committee
c/o Carolyn E. Gold, Esquire
Gaming Revenue Manager
County of Erie
140 West Sixth Street, Room 503
Erie, PA 16501-1081
(814) 451-6200
cgold@eriecountygov.org

Applications must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2009.
No applications will be accepted after the deadline.
Applications will not be accepted by email or fax.

2. Applicants must meet the specific guidelines for Special Event Project Grants.
3. Only partial support for specific projects will be provided. No more than 30% of the total budget will be funded and applicants are required to have a 50% match for this funding from other sources.
4. Full project budgets should be included in this application – see budget form.
5. No awards will be made to individuals.
6. **PLEASE NOTE:** While the maximum grant request amount is 30% of the total project, only the most exemplary projects will receive awards of that caliber. **Full funding of any grant request is highly unlikely. Applicants must not request more funding than is needed.** The amount requested should have a direct correlation with the scope of the project.