



FAQ: Occupancy Tax (OT) Grants

Town/Village of Lake George Occupancy Tax Grant Committee

The Frequently Asked Questions below will explain how the Joint Occupancy Tax Committee grants money from its share of the Warren County OT Funds.

- 1. What is the Occupancy Tax and what is the purpose of the OT Grants?** The OT, sometimes referred to as “Bed Tax,” is levied on rooms in places of lodging—i.e. Motels, Hotels, B&B’s, Inns, etc. Revenues from this tax are returned to towns and village, like Lake George, for the express purpose of promoting tourism.
- 2. How are these revenues distributed?** Monies are awarded as grants for programs, projects and events that will attract tourists (non-resident participants) to Lake George. Grants may not be used solely to serve residents. Preference is given to applications which specifically encourage overnight stays. An application must be completed and submitted to the Lake George OT Committee for review by the stated deadlines.
- 3. Who may apply?** Individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations, clubs and groups, sole businesses and business consortiums in Lake George. Note that grants cannot be used for normal operating expenses or for capital improvements not directly related to tourism.
- 4. What types of activities are eligible for funding?** A wide range---from special one-day events like concerts, fairs and shows, to weekend events like car shows, festivals and town-wide sales, to permanent tourist attractions like guided tours, maps, signage and adventure activities like hiking, biking, fishing, boating, etc. Only your imagination---and the purpose of the grants, tourism---limit the possibilities.
- 5. What percentage of the event budget will the grant monies cover?** A grant award may be given for a single item (i.e. advertising banner or promotional material) or provide a major portion of the budget. In all cases, it is expected that the applicant contribute substantially to the event in terms of money, human resources and in-kind contributions. An OT Grant may not be the sole support of a project.
- 6. What is the application deadline?** Grants are accepted up to December 31 of the year preceding the event. Some exceptions will be considered for new events.
- 7. Where can I get an OT Grant application form and final report form?** Please contact the Supervisor’s office at the Town Center for all necessary paperwork. (518-668-5722, x1) or the Lake George Village Hall (518-668-5771 x1).
- 8. Committee decisions will be made in January of each year.** A representative of your group may be asked to attend the Committee meeting to answer questions.

9. **Depending on amounts granted, checks will be issued for 50% of the grant when funds are received from the County and the balance 30 days before your event.**