

Community Connect Program

*Assist with Advertising and Marketing Expenses Only
Designed for Small Events • Does not require matching funds •
Maximum Award: \$500 • Special consideration given to events taking
place outside City of Findlay limits
Applications are due 30 days prior to the start of the event.*

Application Timeline

- **Submit Application** - Applications are due 30 days prior to the start of the activity. Limit of 3 Community Connect Awards per year per organization.
- **Notice of Approval** - Within 15 business days of the receipt of a successful application
- **Have a Successful Event** - We want to ensure you have a great event, let us know how we can assist!
- **Submit Request for Reimbursement** - Reimbursement form, related receipts, and proof of logo usage are due within 60 days after the completion of your activity.
- **Reimbursement Processed** - Within 30 days of the receipt of the completed reimbursement request and materials you will receive your reimbursement check

Application and Reimbursement Checklist

- **Fill out application and budget worksheet** - Complete all sections of the application. Attach extra sheets, if necessary. *We understand this is your projected budget, and may change during the course of event planning. Just give us your best estimate.*
- **Call the CVB or set up a meeting** – The CVB wants to help you have a successful event. Schedule a meeting to create a marketing plan, recommendations for vendors, and any questions you may have. The Community Connect Program is designed to assist organizations in growing their events to utilize the Co Op Advertising for additional funds.
- **Submit application** – Submit at least 30 days before the start of your event. You will be notified within 15 days if your program has been approved.
- **Submit your event to the Visit Findlay Calendar** – Go to VisitFindlay.com/Events to fill out the form.
- **Keep copies of all receipts, quotes, and invoices for eligible items** – They must be attached to the Reimbursement Request for payment.
- **Submit reimbursement request** – Submit no more than 60 days after the conclusion of the event or program. Must include your actual financial outcome, copies of receipts, and proof of logo usage on marketing and promotional materials. After review, your check will be processed within 30 days.
- **Watch the mail** – After review, your check will be processed within 30 days.

Media Release

As part of our grant programs, from time to time we will produce media releases to announce the recipients of grant programs. Please indicate below if you wish to have your information shared with our media partners:

Yes

No

Complete every page of the application and worksheet! Make sure to read the fine print on page 5 to see if your organization is eligible, priority areas, eligible expenses, documentation and more.

**Contact Visit Findlay with any questions you may have:
info@visitfindlay.com & 419-422-3315**

2020 Community Connect Program

Application Guidelines and Fine Print

Who May Apply: Any organization seeking to produce or promote an event or program that has the potential to create a positive image in the Findlay-Hancock County Area. In order to be considered for funding, all activities must be open to the general public or have non-exclusive membership. Preference will be given to non-profit organizations and special consideration will be given to events taking place outside of the City of Findlay. No more than three Community Connect applications may be submitted by any one organization, per calendar year.

Amount Requested and Use: This program is for Marketing and Advertising funds only (See list of eligible expenses below), and requests up to \$500. Award amounts will be based on need and marketing plans outlined in the application. Only cash expenses are eligible, in-kind monetary amounts do not count toward eligible Advertising & Marketing Expenses. Payment is processed after Reimbursement Request, and copies of receipts and promotional materials are submitted.

Marketing and advertising expenditures covered by this grant may include:

- Radio spots
- Television
- Billboards
- Postage and mailing fees
- Print ads (Newspaper, magazine, newsletter, etc.)
- Website and Social Media advertising
- Event brochures, flyers and posters
- Other expenses as approved by the CVB

Application: The application, including the budget worksheet, must be completed at least 30 days before the start of the event or program. Applicants are also required to meet or hold a teleconference with CVB staff to clarify any questions about the grant program, and to increase understanding of other support offered by the CVB. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for approval.

Documentation and Payment: A Reimbursement Request form will be provided to you along with approval notification, and is available at VisitFindlay.com. Within 60 days of the end of the event, please fill out this form with information about its outcome and success. Proof of payment, paid invoices, copies of checks and original artwork or photographs of VisitFindlay logo in advertising materials must accompany the Reimbursement Request form in order to receive reimbursement. Email documentation separately if using online form. Payment will be issued once this document is received and processed.

CVB Logo: The current Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau logo and/or website must clearly be presented in all marketing materials, press releases, and presentations. Failure to acknowledge the CVB and/or failure to use correct CVB logo in event promotions will disqualify the organization from receiving reimbursement funds. Failure to comply could also limit the organization's ability to apply for future funding from the CVB. Correct Visit Findlay logos can be downloaded at VisitFindlay.com/VisitFindlayLogo or requested by emailing info@visitfindlay.com.

Special Circumstances: If the program or event is cancelled for any reason, all unused funds must be returned to the CVB. In the event your organization has special requests outside of the realm of the program guidelines, the CVB Grant Committee will review and present a recommendation to the CVB Advisory Board for approval. Applicants will be notified if special procedures are needed.

The Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Board and Staff have the right to refuse any or all applications, if they are deemed outside the boundaries of the mission of the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

All decisions are final

Disbursement of funds is dependent on the receipts collected from the bed tax from year to year

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

An electronic signature above signifies that this document is complete, and all information within is accurate.

Return Completed Application to:

Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Attn: Community Connect Program

MAIL: 123 East Main Cross, Findlay, Ohio 45840, **FAX:** 419.422.9508 or **EMAIL:** info@visitfindlay.com.

Note: Completed application must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the start of the event.

A complete application consists of: Completed original application form, completed Event Budget, and supporting documents or other pertinent information for consideration, if applicable.

Questions? Contact the CVB at 419.422.3315, or email info@VisitFindlay.com.