

VisitMercerCountyPA Beautification Grant - FY 2024/25 Information and Guidelines

The goal of the beautification grant is to enhance the visual appeal of Mercer County by improving natural and built landscapes. The grant is available to assist downtowns, city centers, main travel corridors, and public spaces to become landscapes that are beautiful, welcoming and visually uplifting for visitors and residents. Our hope is that this grant will help communities create what we call the “wow factor” throughout Mercer County. The expected outcome of this program is to leave a positive impression on visitors, increasing the potential of their return, while at the same time fostering pride among residents of Mercer County, PA.

1. Funds Available

- There is a total of \$100,000.00 available for the program for FY 2024/25. Up to \$20,000.00 is available per approved project. Each approved project must provide a 25% match.
- Inclusive and equitable distribution throughout Mercer County will be a priority in the grant approval process. We can accommodate requests totaling \$20,000.00 from each municipal area. Starting May 1, 2025, any remaining funds become open without regard to previous allocations.

2. Who Can apply

- Government or non-profit organizations (501-c3 or 501-c6)

3. How does the program work

- Submit the completed application to VisitMercerCountyPA. Applications are accepted on a regular basis and must be approved prior to the beginning of the project. The board of directors can review submitted applications in July, September, November, January, March and May of each year.
- Where possible the VisitMercerCounty logo must be displayed at the project’s location (s)

4. Eligible Project Costs May Include (but are not limited to)

- Lighting
- Public Art
- Benches
- Streetscape Improvements
- Plantings
- Decorative signage
- Landscaping

5. Taxes

- Any federal, state, or local taxes related to the grant are the responsibility of the applicant to declare and remit.

6. Disbursement of Funds

- The beautification grant can be disbursed with a proforma invoice once the matching portion of the project from the approved application has been spent. Proof of the expenditure of the matching portion will need to be provided to our organization.
- The grantee can also pay the total project costs and turn in receipts to receive reimbursement of the approved project amount.
- Applicant must be a member of VisitMercerCountyPA prior to disbursement.

**VisitMercerCountyPA Beautification Grant - FY 2024/25
Application**

1. Applicant Organization: _____

Authorized Official (Name and Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Email: _____

2. Applicant's F.E.I.N.#: _____

3. Applicant Organization Status: ___ 501-c3 ___ 501-c6 ___ Government

4. Project Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

5. Project Title: _____

6. Anticipated project initiation and completion dates:

From: _____ **To:** _____

7. Total Cost of Project: \$ _____ **Grant Request:** \$ _____
(Please attach an Itemized Budget)

**To the best of my knowledge and belief, information in this application is true and correct,
and the governing body of the Applicant Organization has duly authorized this document.**

Signature of Authorized Official/Title/Date:

The following 4 items must be addressed by organizations applying for the VisitMercerCountyPA Beautification Grant

- A. Provide a description of the project and location details

- B. Provide Itemized Budget for the project

- C. Describe how the project will be maintained

- D. Provide proof of the 25% match. A letter from your financial institution, bank statements, etc. is acceptable.

Application should be sent to:

**VisitMercerCountyPA
50 North Water Ave.
Sharon, PA 16146
Email: mcpa@VisitMercerCountyPA.com
Phone: 724-346-3771**