

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEET IN NEW YORK GRANT PROGRAM

Program Overview

To assist with the revitalization of the meetings and events industry in New York State, Governor Hochul has allocated \$25 million for the **Meet In New York Grant Program**.

Empire State Development's Division of Tourism will award grants to qualifying New York State event venues and lodging properties as they competitively bid on new meeting and event business. The program will subsidize a portion of negotiated client discounts, up to \$2 million dollars, on meeting space rental fees and group overnight lodging rates. To capitalize on the economic impact of the program, eligible event types will be limited to those that drive tourism and visitors to New York State.

This grant:

- ✓ Does not require a match
- ✓ Is not a loan, and does not need to be paid back
- ✓ Is open to all venues that host conferences, meetings, convention, tradeshows and events
- ✓ Is for events that take place prior to 12/31/25

For assistance with the application process, consultations with an application advisor are available by calling 518-292-5206.

Eligibility

To be eligible for grants, applicants must:

- ✓ Be incorporated in New York State, or licensed or registered to do business in New York State;
- ✓ Have experienced economic harm resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidenced by a year-to-year decrease of at least 15% of gross receipts and/or gross wages between 2019 and 2020; and
- ✓ Have event facilities that accommodate a minimum capacity of 50 people.



Completed applications are due by June 30, 2023.

Application Process

Meet In New York applicants submit project proposals through an online application system. The first step in the process is completion of an eligibility screening tool. If eligibility requirements are met, an email will be sent with the next steps on how to submit an application. The application will auto-calculate the final grant award. Please see the links at the end of this document for additional information.

Required Documentation:

The application will require accompanying documentation, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Proof of at least 15% Gross Receipts loss or 15% Gross Wages loss as shown on 2019-2020 Business Income Tax returns;
- ✓ Completed IRS Form 4506;
- ✓ Description of the type of event; along with an executed contract or a detailed written proposal as presented to the meeting producer or event planner, demonstrating an event will occur and/or rooms booked after the Program start date and before December 31, 2025;
- ✓ Verification of hotel "standard" and "discounted" booking/rack rates;
- ✓ Evidence that this a new event that has not been held in New York State in the last four (4) years;
- ✓ Evidence that this event has at least 35% of their attendees come from at least 50 miles away, or at least 35% of event participants are staying overnight in licensed lodging facilities.

For a complete list of requirements, go to:

<https://esd.ny.gov/meet-new-york-grant-program>

Completed applications due by 6/30/2023 | Required event completion date 12/31/2025

Program Website: <https://esd.ny.gov/meet-new-york-grant-program>

Program Contact: MeetInNewYork@esd.ny.gov



Empire State
Development