



Local Share Municipal (“Gaming”) Grant Criteria 2026-27 Grant Cycle

The Dauphin County Commissioners have established a goal of proportionally allocating available Local Share Municipal (“Gaming”) Grant funds across the following project categories eligible under state law:

- **Public Safety & Emergency Services:** 35%
- **Facilities, Infrastructure, & Transportation:** 25%
- **Health & Human Services:** 20%
- **Other Projects in the Public Interest:** 20%

This summary is intended to serve as a starting point for evaluating grant applications for projects within these eligible categories.

PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Before an application is scored, staff will determine whether the applicant and proposed project satisfy all eligibility requirements established by applicable law and the Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant Program Guidelines.

This preliminary eligibility review will include, as applicable:

- Confirmation that any required municipal applicant, sponsor, or co-applicant has been properly identified.
- Confirmation that the applicant is an eligible municipality or nonprofit organization. For-profit entities are **not eligible** to apply.
- Confirmation that the proposed project falls within at least one eligible project category
- Submission of all required forms, resolutions, certifications and supporting documentation.
- Confirmation that the proposed use of funds is eligible.
- Confirmation that the applicant is in compliance with prior Local Share grant agreements and reporting requirements.
- For human services projects involving a partnership, contract or other interaction with the Dauphin County Department of Human Services, submission of the required letter from the DHS Director or their designee.

- For fire and emergency services projects, demonstration that the proposed project is consistent with the recommendations and findings of the Comprehensive Review of Fire and Emergency Services Resources.
- For applications supporting a fire company, submission of adequate proof of appropriate and consistent use of PennFIRS.

An application that does not satisfy the preliminary eligibility requirements may be deemed incomplete or ineligible and may not proceed to scoring.

SCORING RUBRIC

The purpose of this Scoring Rubric is to promote a fair, consistent, transparent, and merit-based evaluation of all applications submitted to the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board. The Gaming Advisory Board will evaluate each application based on the totality of the scoring criteria contained in this Scoring Rubric. Unless otherwise noted, scoring determinations shall be based upon the information and documentation submitted by the applicant.

Category		Points
A.	Location	10
B.	Connection to Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course	10
C.	Public Need & Community Benefit	20
D.	Project Scope, Budget, & Cost Effectiveness	15
E.	Leveraging of Other Funds	10
F.	Project Readiness & Timeline	10
G.	Alignment with Public Sector Strategic or Comprehensive Plans	5
H.	Professional Support & Documentation	5
I.	Municipal, Community, & Partner Support	5
J.	Project Outcomes & Long-Term Impact	10
K.	<i>Bonus:</i> Pre-Application Workshop	2
Maximum Points Available		102

The assignment of points under any individual criterion shall not, by itself, guarantee or preclude funding. Rather, funding recommendations shall be based upon the applicant's overall score, the complete application, and any additional information obtained through the application review process, including applicant presentations or interviews conducted by the Gaming Advisory Board.

In formulating its recommendations, the Gaming Advisory Board will not be limited to strict mathematical calculations. Point totals are provided to indicate the level of significance ascribed to each criterion, and not for literal application. It is not necessarily expected that a project will earn points for every criterion.

The Gaming Advisory Board may recommend funding that differs from the ranking established by the numerical Scoring Rubric when, in the judgment of the Board, the totality of the information presented demonstrates that such a recommendation better serves the purposes of the Gaming Grant Program. Any recommendation that materially deviates from the numerical ranking should be accompanied by a written explanation describing the basis for the Board's recommendation.

A. LOCATION

10 POINTS MAX

A primary eligible municipality must be established. The applicant must provide a clear basis for selecting its application and indicate the level of municipal support for each project for which a grant application is submitted.

Consistent with the purpose and historic administration of the Gaming Grant Program, projects associated with East Hanover Township and municipalities contiguous to East Hanover Township shall receive modest additional consideration.

Scoring Criteria:

10 Points:

Dauphin County, East Hanover Township, and municipalities contiguous to East Hanover Township and located in Dauphin County, identified as Derry Township, Middle Paxton Township, Rush Township, South Hanover Township and West Hanover Township.

7 Points:

Municipalities that are non-contiguous with East Hanover Township and located within Dauphin County.

B. CONNECTION TO HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT PENN NATIONAL RACE COURSE

10 POINTS MAX

The application must describe and document the relationship, if any, between the proposed project and Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, including the project's location, costs, use, public need or anticipated benefit.

Consideration may be given to:

- The extent to which the proposed project addresses a direct or documented impact associated with the licensed gaming facility.
- The extent to which the project serves the licensed facility, surrounding municipalities, employees, patrons or points of ingress and egress.
- The extent to which the project addresses health, safety, transportation, infrastructure, public interest or human services needs associated with the licensed facility.
- The strength and credibility of the documentation provided demonstrates the connection.
- Scoring shall reflect the strength of the demonstrated connection rather than the applicant's assertion that a connection exists.

Applicants seeking funding must satisfy any additional legal or program requirements regarding association with or impacts resulting from Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

Scoring Criteria:

10 Points:

Direct, substantial and well-documented connection.

7 Points:

Moderate and reasonably documented connection.

5 Points:

Limited or indirect connection.

0 Points:

No meaningful connection demonstrated.

C. PUBLIC NEED AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT

20 POINTS MAX

The application must provide a clear narrative describing existing conditions, the public need to be addressed, the population or geographic area to be served, and the anticipated public benefit of the proposed project.

Consideration may be given to:

- The severity and urgency of the documented need.
- The number and characteristics of residents, municipalities or organizations that will benefit.
- The extent to which the project improves public health, safety, infrastructure, transportation, economic opportunity, quality of life or access to services.
- Whether the project addresses an underserved population, geographic area or unmet community need.
- Whether the project provides a broad public benefit rather than a limited organizational or private benefit.
- The expected duration and significance of the project's benefits.

Scoring Criteria:

20 Points:

Compelling, urgent and well-documented need with substantial public benefit.

15 Points:

Significant need with clear public benefit.

10 Points:

Moderate need or limited public benefit.

5 Points:

Minimal documentation of need or benefit.

0 Points:

Need or public benefit not adequately demonstrated.

D. PROJECT SCOPE, BUDGET, & COST EFFECTIVENESS

15 POINTS MAX

The application must provide a complete and clearly defined project scope and a detailed budget identifying all anticipated sources and uses of funds from project initiation through completion, including all project phases, if applicable.

Consideration may be given to:

- The completeness and clarity of the proposed scope of work.
- The reasonableness of projected costs.
- The inclusion of credible cost estimates, proposals or professional estimates.
- The relationship between the amount requested and the anticipated public benefit.
- Whether Local Share funds are necessary to complete the project.
- Whether the requested amount is appropriately limited to eligible and necessary expenses.
- Whether ongoing operating, staffing and maintenance costs have been identified.
- Whether the project represents an efficient and responsible use of public funds.

Scoring Criteria:

15 Points:

Complete, well-supported and highly cost-effective proposal.

10 Points:

Generally complete and reasonable proposal with minor concerns.

5 Points:

Material budget, scope or cost-effectiveness concerns.

0 Points:

Incomplete, unsupported or unreasonable budget or scope.

E. LEVERAGING OF OTHER FUNDS

10 POINTS MAX

The application must identify all funding sources associated with the proposed project, including municipal contributions, organizational funds, private contributions, state or federal grants, loans and other committed or pending funding.

Consideration may be given to:

- The amount and percentage of project costs supported by sources other than Local Share funds.
- Whether identified funds are committed, awarded, pending or speculative.
- The applicant's own financial participation in the project.
- Whether the Local Share award will enable the applicant to secure or preserve additional funding.
- Whether the applicant has made reasonable efforts to pursue other available funding sources.

The absence of matching funds shall not automatically disqualify a project when the applicant demonstrates financial hardship, limited access to alternative funding or an urgent public need.

Scoring Criteria:

10 Points:

Substantial committed outside funding or significant financial leverage.

7 Points:

Meaningful outside funding, with most sources committed or reasonably likely.

4 Points:

Limited outside funding or primarily pending sources.

0 Points:

Little or no effort to secure additional funding.

F. PROJECT READINESS & TIMELINE

10 POINTS MAX

The grant agreement will require work to be initiated within the period established by the applicable program guidelines or grant agreement.

The application must provide a detailed and realistic timeline and demonstrate the applicant's ability to initiate and complete the project.

Consideration may be given to:

- Completion of preliminary planning, engineering or design.
- Site control or access to the project location.
- Status of permits, approvals and regulatory reviews.
- Procurement requirements.
- Identification of responsible project personnel.
- Realistic construction or implementation schedules.
- Anticipated obstacles or dependencies.
- The applicant's demonstrated capacity to administer and complete the project.

Scoring Criteria:

10 Points:

Project is fully developed and ready to proceed.

7 Points:

Project is substantially developed with minor outstanding steps.

4 Points:

Project requires significant additional planning or approvals.

0 Points:

Project is conceptual or unlikely to meet program deadlines.

G. ALIGNMENT WITH PUBLIC SECTOR STRATEGIC OR COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

5 POINTS MAX

The application must describe how the proposed project is consistent with applicable local, county or regional comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, hazard mitigation plans, transportation plans, recreation plans, economic development strategies, designated areas of need, or other formally adopted planning documents.

Consideration may be given to:

- Specific identification of applicable goals, recommendations or priorities.
- Consistency with adopted municipal and county plans.
- Whether the project has been identified as a local or regional priority.
- Coordination with other planned or existing public investments.
- Whether the project advances cooperation among municipalities or public entities.

Scoring Criteria:

5 Points:

Strong and specifically documented consistency with adopted plans.

3 Points:

General consistency with applicable plans.

0 Points:

Limited or unsupported planning connection.

H. PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT & DOCUMENTATION

5 POINTS MAX

The application should provide professional, technical or expert documentation appropriate to the size, type and stage of the project. For example, an infrastructure project may include engineering plans or specifications, while a project addressing food insecurity may include a regional needs assessment or study identifying food deserts.

Supporting materials may include:

- Engineering or architectural studies.
- Feasibility studies.
- Needs assessments.
- Traffic, environmental or public safety studies.
- Formal cost estimates.
- Inspection reports.
- Demographic or service data.
- Professional recommendations.
- Other credible documentation supporting the project's need, design, costs or anticipated outcomes.

Scoring Criteria:

5 Points:

Strong, relevant and project-specific professional documentation.

3 Points:

Some relevant supporting documentation.

0 Points:

Little or no supporting documentation when such documentation would reasonably be expected.

I. MUNICIPAL, COMMUNITY, & PARTNER SUPPORT

5 POINTS MAX

The application should demonstrate meaningful support from the municipal applicant, sponsor or co-applicant and, where applicable, affected community organizations, public agencies, residents, businesses or project partners.

Consideration may be given to:

- The strength of the relationship between a non-municipal applicant and its municipal sponsor or co-applicant.
- The municipality's involvement in project planning and implementation.
- Financial, operational or in-kind commitments from project partners.
- Evidence that affected residents or stakeholders have been consulted.
- Letters that provide substantive information regarding the need for or benefit of the project.

The number of form letters, political endorsements, editorials or news articles shall not, standing alone, determine the score.

Scoring Criteria:

5 Points:

Strong, substantive and well-documented municipal and community partnership.

3 Points:

Adequate municipal support and some community or partner involvement.

1 Point:

Minimal or largely ceremonial support.

0 Points:

Required municipal relationship or support not demonstrated.

J. PROJECT OUTCOMES & LONG-TERM IMPACT

10 POINTS MAX

The application must identify the results the proposed project is expected to achieve and explain how the project or service will have an impact following the expenditure of Local Share funds.

Consideration may be given to:

- Clearly defined and measurable outcomes.
- Identification of the population or geographic area to be served.
- The useful life of funded facilities, infrastructure or equipment.
- Plans for maintenance, staffing, operations and future replacement.
- Identification of future funding sources.
- The applicant's ability to report on project results.
- The likelihood that the project will produce lasting public value.

Scoring Criteria:

10 Points:

Clear, measurable outcomes and a credible long-term impact.

7 Points:

Generally appropriate outcomes and future impact.

4 Points:

Limited outcome measures and concerns over long-term impact.

0 Points:

No meaningful outcomes measured or credible future impact.

K. BONUS: PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

2 BONUS POINTS MAX

2 additional bonus points will be given to applicants that attend a pre-application workshop or individual pre-application consultation conducted by staff for the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board during the designated application period. Participation is intended to improve application quality, explain program requirements, and provide technical assistance to prospective applicants.