

ARROW ROCK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT 2024-25

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Application deadline: March 27, 2024

BACKGROUND In 2017, Saline County voters approved a one-half cent sales tax to support economic development. A portion of these revenues are to be allocated to communities within Saline County for economic development.

The Arrow Rock Board of Trustees established the Arrow Rock Improvement Committee (ARIC) to solicit and review proposals for projects to be funded in whole or part with these funds. Recommendations by ARIC are subject to review by both the Arrow Rock Board of Trustees and by the Saline County Sales Tax Advisory Board.

PURPOSE Completed projects will promote economic development and improve the economic vitality of Arrow Rock. Funding will be awarded to projects that develop and support a variety of initiatives, including:

- programs
- facilities
- infrastructure
- historic and cultural enhancement

APPROACHES AND OUTCOMES The committee welcomes proposals from both for-profit and not-for-profit entities. Proposals may include a variety of approaches and methodologies. The committee may recommend one-time awards or multi-year grants to the Arrow Rock Village Board. Proposals that include matching funds (other grants, contributions, cash or in-kind contributions, tangible resources) will be given special consideration. Those that include collaboration with other organizations will require letters of support and affirmation by those organizations.

TOTAL AWARDS Funds available for 2019 grant cycle totaled \$98,000. In 2020, funds available totaled \$153,000. There can be no assurance that any funding will be available to the individual communities in years ahead, although some funds are expected to be available through 2037, when the ballot approved tax expires.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA Preference will be given to applicant organizations that have an existing relationship with Arrow Rock. They may include educational institutions, private entities, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

OUR EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT Arrow Rock is committed to providing everyone a fair and just opportunity to participate in our community in this grant award program.

ACTIONABILITY proposals can be translated into practice through programs, initiatives and projects that demonstrably improve the economic vitality and well-being of our town & county residents.

NEXT

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

OVERALL Arrow Rock has as a key metric the number of annual visitors. Our local economy is built almost entirely on tourism, so all proposed projects will be viewed in the context of sustained or increased visitorship.

ECONOMIC IMPACT how does the project support and extend the reach of current programs and initiatives? How will the project increase the number of visitors that Arrow Rock hosts?

FEASIBILITY are the project sponsors adequately organized and staffed to ensure that the project is successfully completed? Are the budget and timeline predictable and realistic?

SUSTAINABILITY what are the residual benefits to Arrow Rock beyond the immediate grant period? Are ongoing costs associated with the project accounted for and funded?

KEY DATES, DEADLINES & DELIVERY

**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 (4:00 PM CT)
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS – TBD, 2024**

**SUBMISSIONS MUST BE ONLINE – ARROW ROCK.ORG
UNLESS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE**

ARIC WILL NOT PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

**INQUIRIES ABOUT FUNDING DECISIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE
ARROW ROCK TOWN BOARD**

PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES TO:

**Kirby McCullough, ARIC Chair (interim)
kirby.mccullough@gmail.com**

Approved by ARIC 11/17/2023