

EL PASO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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County Approves Hotel Occupancy Tax Policy

Court votes to implement regulations for the use of funds toward historic preservation and tourism.

EL PASO, TX: On February 10, 2020 the El Paso County Commissioners Court approved the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Policy, which will guide how the County reviews and approves grants for special events .

Under the new policy, HOT funds can be used towards: Entertainment and performance fees, the preservation and maintenance of historical assets, projects and events that are geographically located in the County, and marketing and promotion of El Paso as a tourist destination. Sports events are excluded.

“HOT funds ensure that we have a steady source of funds set aside specifically for projects and events which help raise El Paso’s national and international profile,” said Andrea Hutchins, Economic Development Director. “This new policy provides a framework for systematically and fairly approving grants using these funds.”

The HOT policy separates potential grant applicants into a four tiered organization system based on the type of event and the applicant organization. Events must prove that they will attract substantial overnight visitors and are required to provide a post-event report for evaluation.

The El Paso County Economic Development Department processes applications and ensures compliance for several County incentive programs. It is also responsible for assisting numerous projects related to tourism and the promotion of our historical heritage. These efforts serve to enhance the quality of life for all residents. For more on El Paso County’s Economic Development opportunities, visit epcounty.com/economic

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