



**CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS**

P.O. Box 384 511 Mercer Street Dripping Springs, Texas 78620 (512) 858-4725

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Grant Applications for Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds are due March 30***

Date: March 2, 2009

**Editors Note:** If you have any questions regarding this press release, please call City Administrator Michelle Fischer or Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught at 512-858-4725.

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – The March 30<sup>th</sup> application deadline for thousands of dollars worth of tourism related grants is fast approaching.

The City of Dripping Springs Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee provides financial support annually to local organizations and businesses that directly enhance or promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry in the City or its extraterritorial jurisdiction. The funding for the program comes from a seven percent Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) that is collected from anyone who stays in an area hotel, motel or bed and breakfast inn.

To be eligible for the competitively allocated funds, projects must clearly demonstrate that monies will be utilized directly for convention or visitor information centers, programs that enhance the arts, historical restoration or preservation programs, or sporting events which will increase overnight stays in the area. The tax revenues can also be utilized to pay the administrative costs for facilitating convention registration or tourism-related advertising and promotion of the City or its vicinity.

In addition, guidelines require that applicants applying for the HOT funds to advertise an event, must target visitors outside a 100-mile radius of Dripping Springs.

Awards are based upon tourism impact for the region and the amount of funds that are available during the grant period.

Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught said “the City is excited to be able to offer this opportunity to the tourism community and its many partners.”

The guidelines and grant application for Local Hotel Occupancy Tax is available at City Hall, 511 Mercer Street, or on the website at <http://www.cityofdrippingsprings.com>. Applications must be submitted to the City of Dripping Springs by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for the review process.

Organizations may be notified to provide a presentation on their funding request at the April 2nd HOT Committee meeting. The committee will then make their project recommendations to the Council Members at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Please call 512-858-4725 if you have any questions regarding a possible project or the competitive grant allocation process.