



Special Event Subsidy Framework Proposal

January 2026



Special Event Subsidy – Fee Waivers/Reductions

- The OSRPC has the authority to approve or deny fee waiver requests for Special Events
- Our goal is to offer a consistent, transparent, and equitable approach for evaluating special event subsidy (fee waiver) requests in Washoe County parks and facilities. This guide should support you in exercising your authority by outlining the key values and considerations that may inform decisions about whether, and to what extent, a subsidy is appropriate.



Eligibility Requirements

- Event occurs on County-owned parks/facilities and meets permit requirements.
- Applicant is in good standing (no outstanding balances; compliant with past permits).
- Event includes a publicly accessible component (not exclusively private).
- For repeat events: post-event reports submitted as required.



Criteria for Consideration

1. Community Impact
2. Economic Impact
3. Financial Need of Promoter
4. Operational Impact



Community Impact

- Expected attendance (local vs. regional)
- Public Access & Inclusivity
- Equity & Community Benefit
- Impact on Everyday Park Access
- Community Engagement



Community Impact

- Potential Questions to ask:
 - What is your anticipated attendance? Percentage of local vs out of town?
 - Is the event open to the general public?
 - Are there physical accessibility considerations for people with disabilities?
 - Is it affordable for attendees (free or low-cost admission, sliding scale, free community tickets)
 - How much of the park is restricted for general public use during the event?
 - How long will the public be displaced?
 - Does the organizer have a plan for outreach to neighbors or user groups?
 - Is there a plan to address community concerns?
 - Does the event create opportunities for local vendors or nonprofits?



Economic Impact

- Revenue Generation for the Community
- Job Creation & Workforce Development
- Long-Term Economic Value
- Local vs Regional Economic Benefit



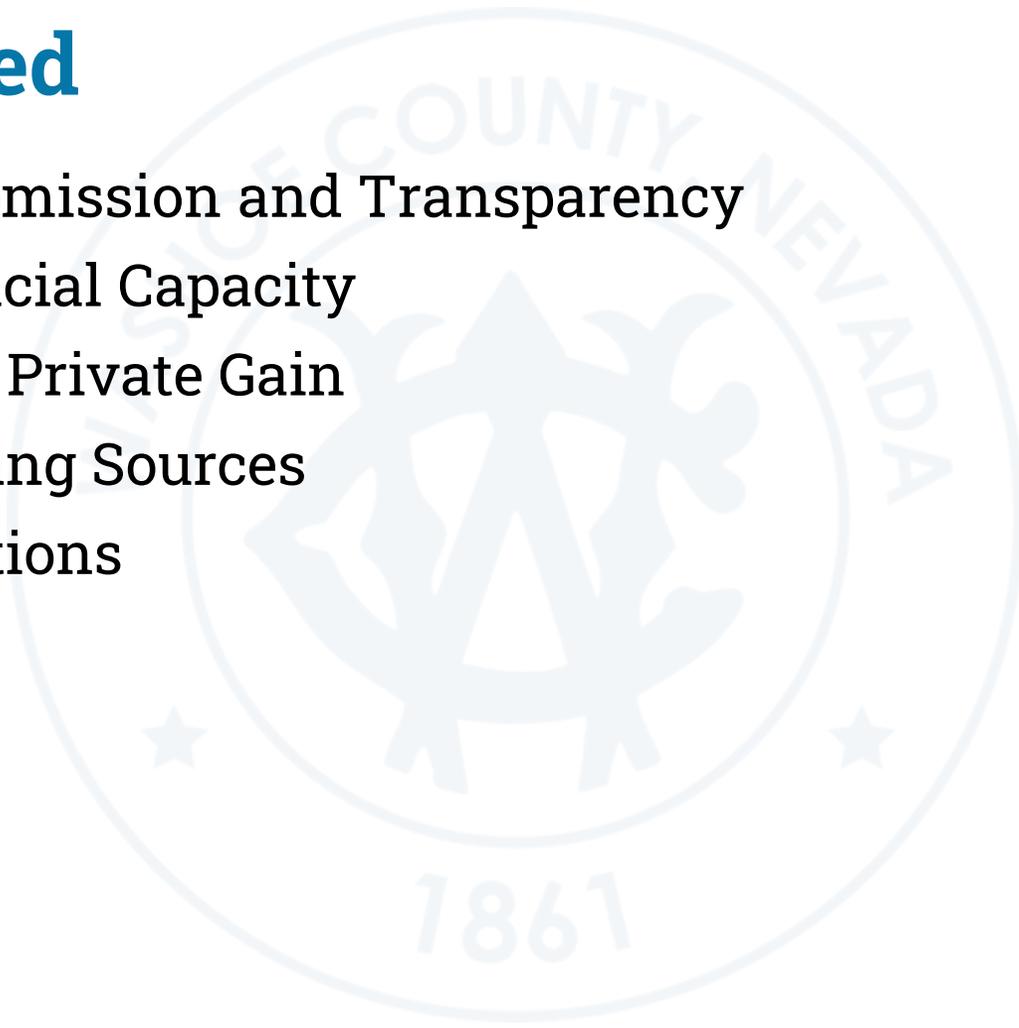
Economic Impact

- Potential Questions to Ask:
 - Number of local vendors, artisans, or food trucks participating?
 - Is there use of local contractors or service providers?
 - Are there opportunities for small or emerging local businesses?
 - Will it drive traffic to nearby commercial districts?
 - Will it create repeat visitation to the park or region?
 - Are there temporary jobs created (event staff, security, production)?
 - Are there volunteer or youth employment program opportunities?
 - Does the event enhance the region's reputation (cultural, recreational, tourism)?
 - Does it support ongoing economic development goals for the community?



Financial Need

- Event Budget Submission and Transparency
- Organizer's Financial Capacity
- Public Benefit vs. Private Gain
- Alternative Funding Sources
- Equity Considerations





Financial Need

- Potential Questions to Ask:
 - Has the organizer provided a complete and accurate budget?
 - Is the organizer a nonprofit, community group, or small organization with limited resources?
 - Does the organizer rely heavily on volunteers?
 - Does the event depend on public support to remain accessible?
 - Is the event primarily mission-driven or commercial?
 - Has the organizer pursued grants, sponsorships, or partnerships?
 - Is the subsidy request proportional to demonstrated need?
 - Would the event be reduced or canceled without County support?
 - Does the subsidy help remove financial barriers for underserved communities?



Operational Impact

- Park Capacity & Resource Use
- Impact on Park Operations & Staff
- Environmental & Infrastructure Impact
- Safety & Risk Management
- Logistics & Feasibility
- Disruption to Regular Park Use



Operational Impact

- Potential Questions to Ask:
 - Does the event fit the physical capacity of the park?
 - How much space is required (acres, fields, parking lots)?
 - Does the event require exclusive use of facilities (pavilions, restrooms, trails)?
 - What is the level of staff support required (rangers, maintenance, security)?
 - What is the quality of the event's safety plan (crowd control, emergency access)?
 - What is the expected wear on turf, trails, or facilities? Potential damage expected?
 - What is the plan to deal with waste generation? Is there a recycling plan?



Final Questions to Consider:

- Does the community benefit justify the cost of the subsidy?
- Is the event accessible, equitable, and aligned with County values?
- Is the organizer demonstrating responsibility and transparency?
- Will the event place an unreasonable burden on parks or staff?
- Does the event enhance the community in a meaningful way?

Thank you

