



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
FY 2025-26 Waterways Accessibility for Tennessee Recreation (WATR) Grant FAQ

What marinas qualify for the grant?

Marinas that are not owned by or leased from the State of Tennessee or city/county municipalities and remit an annual payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) as well as a property tax assessment through the county in which the marina is located. Email andi.grindley@tn.gov if you are unsure if your marina qualifies.

How much can I apply for?

Marinas can apply for up to \$50,000. The number of grants awarded will depend on available funds and the number of applications received.

What types of projects qualify?

- Infrastructure projects must enhance the visitors' experience to the marina.
- Marketing projects are geared towards visitors from at least fifty (50) miles away.
- Examples of *eligible* projects:
 - Permanent stage for music, theatre, etc.
 - Lighting/electrical for public spaces
 - Boat docks or ramps
- Projects must be completed between July 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026.

What projects do not qualify?

- Examples of *ineligible* projects:
 - Routine maintenance expenses such as landscaping or laundry
 - Office supplies or basic operating costs
 - Prizes or prize money, scholarships, awards, plaques, t-shirts, uniforms, certificates, or any other promotional items

TDTD reserves the right to reject any project inconsistent with the program goals. For consideration of a project outside of the definition or if you have any questions about eligibility, please contact Andi.Grindley@tn.gov.

What documentation is needed?

- Application – document typed, fully completed and emailed to Andi.Grindley@tn.gov
- Marina must be on the list of eligible marinas provided by TVA and the Army Corps of Engineers. If you are unsure if your marina qualifies, please email andi.grindley@tn.gov to confirm.
 - If the marina is not on the list provided by these entities, copies of the lease, invoices and cleared payments will be required.
- Evidence of registration with the Secretary of State. Please [search for your business here](#), click on the "details" button for the relevant entry and include a screenshot or printout of this page with the application
- 2024 County property tax invoices and proof of payment
- Images of the overall site as well as specific areas of work (3 pages max)
- Copies of project invoices from vendors
- Proof payment has cleared for project invoices
 - Bank/card statements, copies of cleared check backs or a statement from the vendor showing the payment received and a zero balance due are acceptable forms of proof of payment.
 - Please note, we cannot accept handwritten notes on invoices, QuickBooks-type reports, copies of the front of the check only or the check stub as proof of payment
- Completed reimbursement template spreadsheet

When will funds be dispersed?

Once contracts are fully executed. It typically takes at least 30 days for the state to process and pay an invoice.

If I do not pay PILOT, am I eligible to apply?

No, this grant program is limited to marinas that remit an annual payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) and meet all other eligibility criteria.

Who should I identify as the main contact for this application?

We suggest the person that will be responsible for managing the project.

For questions or additional information, contact:

Andi.Grindley@tn.gov, 615-487-5867