

Allocation of Accommodations Tax Funds

(SC Code of Laws 6-4-10)

- *The first \$25,000 must be allocated to the general fund and is exempt from all other requirements of this chapter.*
- *5% of the balance must be allocated to the general fund and is exempt from all other requirements of this chapter.*
- *30% of the balance must be allocated to a special fund and used for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop and increase tourist attendance through the generation of publicity.*
- *The remaining balance (65%) plus earned interest must be allocated to a special fund and used for tourism related expenditures.*

Darlington County does not place any of the first \$25,000 or any of the 5% balance into the general fund. During FY92/93 Darlington County Council elected to give all Accommodations Tax funds received to tourism related events resuming back to FY85/86.

Darlington County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Meetings

6 p.m.

**Courthouse Annex/EMS Building
1625 Harry Byrd Hwy, Darlington
843-398-4100**

jbishop@darcosc.com

- Thursday, March 22
- Thursday, March 29; Applicants can make a 5 minute presentation.
- Additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Darlington County Council will consider the Committee's recommendations on May 7, 6 p.m., 1625 Harry Byrd Hwy, Darlington.

All meetings are open to the public.

Eligible applicants/sponsors include public and private non-profit organizations. Applicants must submit: an application; Applicant/Sponsor Federal ID number; Certificate of Incorporation or Charter; IRS 501(C)(3) or 501(d) certification letter; and SC Secretary of State's public charity registration letter (non-profits). Applications available at www.darcosc.com/onlineforms/.

Tourism Expenditure Review Committee serves as the oversight authority on all questionable tourism related expenditures and has statutory authority to impose fines and withhold funds.

803-898-5400

www.atax.sc.gov

QUICK REFERENCE BROCHURE

FY2012/2013 Accommodations Tax Process

***Darlington County
Accommodations Tax
Advisory Committee***

Use of Accommodations Tax Funds

Definition of Travel & Tourism

- *SC Code of Laws, 6-4-5(4) ~ the action and activities of people taking trips outside their home communities for any purpose, except daily commuting to and from work.*
- *Tourism Expenditure Review Committee (TERC) ~ activities associated with all overnight trips away from home in paid or unpaid accommodations and day trips to places 50 miles or more, one way, from the traveler's origin. Plus, the expenditures must be used to attract or provide for tourists.*

TOURISM RELATED EXPENDITURES

1. Advertising and promotion of tourism so as to develop and increase tourist attendance through the generation of publicity.
2. Promotion of the arts and cultural events;
3. Construction, maintenance, and operation of facilities for civic and cultural activities including construction and maintenance of access and nearby roads and utilities for the facilities;
4. The criminal justice system, law enforcement, fire protection, solid waste collection, and health facilities when required to serve tourists and tourist facilities. This is based on the estimated percentage of cost directly attributed to tourists;
5. Public facilities such as restrooms, dressing rooms, parks, and parking lots;
6. Tourist shuttle transportation;
7. Control and repair of waterfront erosion; and
8. Operating visitor information centers.

Additional Guidelines for Tourism Related Expenditures

- *A-tax must be used to attract & provide for tourists, and must be spent on tourism related expenditures.*
- *A-tax may not be spent on purely local functions.*
- *To qualify as a tourism related expenditure: (1) the expenditure must be used to attract or provide for tourists, and (2) expenditures cannot be used for an item that would normally be provided by the county or municipality.*
- *Certain tourism related expenditures must be awarded on a "percentage of tourism" basis.*
- *Refer to Questions and Answers in the SC Revenue Ruling #98-22, the Dept. of Revenue's official advisory opinion on how laws administered by the Dept. are to be applied to a specific issue or a specific set of facts, and is provided as guidance.*
- *Refer to "Frequently Asked Questions" from the TERC.*