

# **Events Trust Fund & Major Events Reimbursement Program**

**Guidance regarding Statutory Suspensions and  
Texas Administrative Code Waivers Relating to the  
COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation**

**May 2020**

# Suspension/Waiver Overview

The below direction is provided for informational purposes only. It should not be construed to supersede any guidance provided by, or direction issued by, the Office of the Governor as to the permissibility of a particular event or type of event.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a disaster proclamation relating to the threat of COVID-19. In connection with the disaster proclamation, as of May 21, 2020, the Governor has temporarily suspended on a going-forward basis certain application and OOG action deadlines in the Events Trust Fund (ETF) and Major Events Reimbursement Program (MERP). See Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes Art. 5190.14, §§ 5A (b-1) and 5C (b) and (j). The Office of the Governor (“OOG”) has also waived, on a going-forward basis, certain sections of the Texas Administrative Code to provide applicants additional time to submit information to the Economic Development and Tourism Office (EDT) within the OOG in relation to events. See 10 T.A.C. §§ 184.12(f), 184.13(a), 184.22(f), 184.23(a), and 184.23(b).

The modified temporary application deadlines for ETF and MERP are included below.

## Events Trust Fund Timeline

Action	TEMPORARY DEADLINE UNDER SUSPENSION/WAIVER	STANDARD DEADLINE
Application is submitted	No later than 31 days before the first day of the event.	No later than 120 days before the first day of the event.
Applicant is notified by EDT of the Award Amount	No later than 30 days after a complete application is received.	No later than 30 days after a complete application is received.
Event Support Contract is submitted	Before the first day of the event.	Before the first day of the event.

## Major Events Reimbursement Program Timeline

Action	TEMPORARY DEADLINE UNDER SUSPENSION/WAIVER	STANDARD DEADLINE
Application is submitted	No later than 31 days prior to the first day of the event, but not earlier than 1 year before the event.	No later than 45 days prior to the first day of the event, but not earlier than 1 year before the event.
Applicant is notified by EDT of the Award Amount	No later than 30 days after a complete application is received.	No later than 30 days after a complete application is received.
Event Support Contract is submitted	Before the first day of the event.	Before the first day of the event.

*All deadlines are 11:59 pm CST. Early submission for all items is encouraged.*

The statutory suspensions for ETF and MERP remain in effect until the earlier of their termination by the OOG or until the time the Governor’s March 13, 2020, disaster proclamation relating to the threat of COVID-19 is lifted or expires. The administrative rule waivers relating to ETF and MERP remain in effect until the earlier of their termination by the OOG, the termination of the suspension of the relevant statutory provisions, or until the Governor’s March 13, 2020 disaster proclamation relating to the threat of COVID-19 is lifted or expires.

These suspensions and waivers provide program applicants with additional flexibility in submitting applications due to conditions caused by COVID-19, while also continuing to provide definitive parameters for EDT to thoroughly analyze the information provided in those applications. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact EDT with any questions regarding this guidance by calling (512) 936-0100 or by emailing [eventsfund@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eventsfund@gov.texas.gov).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Q: What is the new deadline for ETF and MERP applications?

A: In accordance with the suspensions/waivers related to COVID-19, the temporary deadline to submit applications for both ETF and MERP is now 31 days before the first day of the event.

### 2. Q: When will this temporary deadline end?

A: The deadline suspensions/waivers for ETF and MERP remain in effect until the earlier of their termination by the Office of the Governor or the lifting or expiration of the Governor's March 13, 2020, disaster proclamation relating to the threat of COVID-19 is lifted or expires. Applicants are encouraged to submit their event for consideration as soon as possible and not to wait until the 31<sup>st</sup> day before the first day of the event.

### 3. Q: Are there changes to the other program deadlines occurring after the event is held?

A: No, the deadlines for the Event Support Contract, Attendance Certification, Local Share, and Disbursement are unchanged as set under Article 5190.14, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes and the Texas Administrative Code, Title 10, Part 5, Chapter 184.

### 4. Q: What event applications are eligible for the deadline suspension?

A: All events that meet the eligibility requirements for applying to Events Trust Fund and the Major Events Reimbursement Program as determined by Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes Art. 5190.14 and the Texas Administrative Code, Title 10, Part 5, Chapter 184 will be eligible to submit event applications under the revised 31-day timeline so long as the suspensions/waivers have not been lifted. Applicants are encouraged to submit their event for consideration as soon as possible and not to wait until the 31<sup>st</sup> day before the first day of the event.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please email the team at [eventsfund@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eventsfund@gov.texas.gov) or call (512) 936-0100 and ask to speak with a staff member about the Events Trust Fund/Major Events Reimbursement Program.