



Grant Extension Request

Organization Name: Haywood Independent Restaurant Association

Organization Contact: Samantha Kearney

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Project Name: Haywood Festival

Reason for Extension Request: After thoughtful evaluation of our planning timeline and partner coordination, a strategic decision has been made to postpone the Haywood Festival to the 2027 season to ensure the event launches at its strongest and most impactful capacity.

As planning progressed, it became clear that additional time is needed to solidify organizational infrastructure, deepen restaurant participation, strengthen sponsorship commitments, and fully engage with the marketing channels necessary to ensure Haywood Festival's success.

Rather than moving forward on an accelerated timeline that could compromise long-term sustainability and visitor impact, we believe an extension will allow us to deliver a more robust, well-coordinated culinary event that better serves Haywood County's tourism economy.

We respectfully request an extension to roll awarded funds into the 2027 event cycle so that we may execute the project at a scale, quality, and impact consistent with the original vision and the intent of the grant. We are also happy to provide any necessary paperwork and/or documentation of completed actions to show you the direction this is heading.

On a personal note, I am deeply passionate about the long-term

success of this event, as well as HIRA. I'm excited for the opportunities it will bring for our local restaurants, partners, and community.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

Original Project
Completion Date: 04-18-2026

New Estimated Project
Completion Date: 04-25-2027

Today's Date 02-11-2026

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. K.', written in a cursive style.

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