

Mission Event Center
Fee Waiver and Discounted Rate Policy
Passed and Approved on May 13, 2024

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to govern the provision of fee waivers or discounted rates for the use of the Mission Event Center ("MEC"). Further, this policy intends to specifically limit the use of the MEC as a general public forum to ensure that the facility remains easily accessible to clients and residents doing business with the MEC.

POLICY

The MEC may provide Fee Waivers or Discounted Rates for the use of the MEC facility by not-for-profit ("NFP") organizations, other government agencies, or educational institutions (upon request of such organization) when such use can be accommodated without interfering with residents/clients wishing to transact business at the MEC. Costs subject to fee waivers or discounted rates are to include (1) "Room Rental Fees", the base fee charged for the use of a specific space within the MEC facility (to include tables and chairs, and set-up), (2) "Equipment Fees", the fee charged for the use of MEC-owned equipment (including but not limited to dance floor stage, cocktail tables, LED ambient lighting, etc.), (3) "Service Fees", the fee charged for the use of the MEC kitchen space, and (4) "Refundable Damage Deposits", a deposit collected upon renting an MEC facility space held for any unforeseen damages to the MEC upon use by customers. All security services required by organizations seeking fee waivers or discounted rates will be the responsibility of the requesting organization. Priority may be given to organizations that demonstrate a lack of financial resources and/or promote diversity and inclusivity.

Eligibility for 50% Discounted Rates:

Organizations may qualify for a 50% Discounted Rate on Room Rental Fees and other applicable MEC fees including Equipment Fees, Services Fees, and Refundable Damage Deposits if the criteria below are met. Should the event require security services, the organization will be responsible for hiring such security personnel through the Mission Police Department at its own expense. For a 50% Discounted Rate, such organizations must meet the following general guidelines:

1. The organization must be an NFP, government agency, or educational institution.
2. Any meetings held or information displayed by such organizations must be open and available to the general public, be intended through the various media to provide information to the general public, and/or provide a public benefit to the residents of the City of Mission.
3. Any meetings held or information displayed should be free of charge to the public.
4. Any meetings and information shall be non-partisan in nature.
5. Any meetings and information shall be educational in nature and shall avoid advocacy of a particular position in areas of public policy dispute or controversy.
6. Any meetings and information shall be non-commercial and not-for-profit in nature.
7. Any meetings and information should be reasonably related to public interests of the City of Mission and its residents.

Eligibility for 20% Discounted Rates:

Under certain circumstances, an NFP, government agency, or educational institution may conduct revenue-generating not-for-profit activities such as fundraisers and/or provide training, seminars, meetings, or information not open to the general public but solely to its organization. Although these organizations will be ineligible for a 50% Discounted Rate or Fee Waiver, they may receive a 20% Discounted Rate on Room Rental Fees. In addition to the discounted Room Rental Fees, organizations will be responsible for 100% of all other applicable MEC fees to include: Equipment Fees, Service Fees, and Refundable Damage Deposits. Should the event require security services, the organization will also be responsible for hiring such security personnel through the Mission Police Department at its own expense.

Fee Waivers:

NFPs, government agencies, and/or educational institutions in an official partnership with the City of Mission for a joint event may receive a 100% Fee Waiver for Room Rental Fees and all other applicable MEC fees including Equipment Fees, Service Fees, and Refundable Damage Deposits.

Application Process:

For organizations seeking a Fee Waiver or Discounted Rate, a letter must be submitted to include the following information:

1. Letter of request must be submitted in writing for consideration to:
City Mayor
City of Mission
1201 E. 8th St.
Mission, Texas 78572
2. Letter must include:
 - a. Responsible Representative,
 - b. Name of Organization,
 - c. Contact Information,
 - d. Nature of the Request, and
 - e. Potential Impact on Community and/or Long-Term Positive Outcomes or Public/Community Benefit (if seeking Fee Waiver)
3. Letter must be received a minimum of 3 months in advance.
4. Applicant may be required to submit a profit and loss statement for the organization/event.
5. Applicant may be required to submit sponsorship packet information along with a list of confirmed sponsors.
6. NFP organizations must submit proof of their non-for-profit status by providing a copy of their Internal Revenue Service Determination Letter or Certificate of Formation also known as Articles of Incorporation.

Information above needs to be emailed to: eventcenterdirector@missiontexas.us or mailed via U.S. Postal service to:

City of Mission
Attn: Mission Event Center Director
1201 E. 8th St.
Mission, Texas 78572

Organizations may submit one (1) request annually for consideration of either a fee waiver or a discounted rate.

MEC Director will complete a Facility Request Form and an Event Order (proposal) after discussing dates and logistical needs from the client.

MEC Director will submit the following documents for consideration to the City Mayor and City Manager:

1. Letter of Request from Client
2. Facility Request Form
3. Event Order Form (proposal)

Responsibilities of the Applicant:

1. Adhere to the facility's policies, safety regulations and any other relevant rules.
2. Provide insurance coverage as required.
3. Assist with clean-up after the event.
4. Schedule a pre-event meeting with MEC staff to review final details of event as many times as needed and at least three (3) weeks prior to event.
5. Agree to and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City of Mission and its appointed officials, and employees (collectively, the "City") against all suits, actions, demands, damages, and expenses of any nature which may be brought or made against the City or which the City may pay, sustain, or incur by reason of the use of the MEC.
6. Assume full responsibility for any damages based on actual repair or replacement costs for the facilities or equipment.

Review and Approval:

Each request submitted will be reviewed within ten (10) business days by the City of Mission City Mayor, City Manager, and MEC Director. The review process will consider the eligibility criteria and the impact on the community. Once reviewed, the MEC Director will notify the applicant of the decision.

Decisions are final and may not be appealed.

The City has the right to refuse and may change/modify the use of any facility or meeting room to any person or group if the proposed event conflicts with the intended use of the building, is in conflict with established policies, or is in conflict with any confirmed reservation or unplanned reservation of public necessity.