

Social Media Support Program Guidelines

General Program Overview

The Social Media Support Program (RTO7 calls this the Operations Implementation Program or OIP) is designed to assist tourism operators in South Bruce Peninsula with a \$1,000 social media advertising campaign to promote their operations as part of Discover South Bruce Peninsula (DSBP) and RTO7's 2025/2026 Business Plans. Examples of eligible operational expenses that can be used to leverage marketing funds include property taxes, mortgage costs, insurance, inventory purchases, etc. There is a limited number of spaces in the program available per month. Applications will be served on a first come, first serve basis.

Partner Eligibility

Who can apply?

- Tourism Operator - The term 'tourism operator' is defined as a tourism, festival, heritage, cultural and sport, consumer-facing organization that has direct access to the consumer and relies on that tourism consumer for their income.
- BIA's, Chambers, and other non-profit organizations who promote tourism may apply to the program on a case-by-case basis. Please contact DSBP staff BEFORE applying.
- Accommodators applying MUST be registered with the Town of South Bruce Peninsula (or be a commercial operator) and collect the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT).
- Festival and event organizers may use this program as a part of their marketing efforts. BIA's, Chambers, and non-profit organizations may apply for up to 2 festivals per year (spread at least one month apart).
- The product, experience, festival etc. must be located within South Bruce Peninsula.
- Organizations must be legally registered to operate in Ontario.
- **Note that as part of the application, partners will need to attest to having read both the Guidelines and [resource documents](#), including all informational links.**

All projects must be completed before **March 31, 2026**.

DSBP reserves the right to limit the number of programs/funds that one stakeholder may receive in one year.

7-8 weeks lead time before each festival is **required**.

Partners are encouraged to consider opportunities to shift to more sustainable tourism practices where possible. Visit RTO7's Sustainable Tourism website [here](#) for more information.

Project/Partner Requirements

Project Requirements:

Stakeholders interested in the Social Media Support Program (OIP) will be required to demonstrate the following:

- You have an active Facebook PAGE (for business) and are actively engaged on the platform (i.e. post at a regular frequency and respond to comments within 24 hours). While campaigns will be run through the BruceGreySimcoe Ads Manager (for billing purposes), the campaign will run as sponsored ads on your social media platforms.
- To launch the campaign, you will need to allow The Aber Group to act as an advertiser on your page. In the new Pages experience on Facebook, only individuals with “full control” (not partial) will be able to accept or assign task access. If you have [Facebook access](#) to a Page, you can view your access.

To view your Page access on Facebook:

- Log into Facebook, then click your profile photo in the top right.
- Click See all profiles, then select the Page you want to switch into.
- Click your Page name in the left menu.
- Click Manage below Page's cover photo, then click Page access.
- Click your name to view access.
- You must have current collateral (produced in the last 3 years); **high-resolution** images (Min 1MB) and/or 1-3 videos (60 seconds or less) that can be used in a social media campaign.
- Your website is mobile-friendly, must be up to date and reflect your current offerings, hours of operation, and contact information.
- Partners will need to have a landing page consistent with what is portrayed in the video/imagery (i.e. a campaign promoting ice fishing should have a related video and direct traffic to an ice fishing landing page or at minimum, a page outlining a variety of winter activities, of which ice fishing is one).

DSBP and RTO7 will match your investment in operational expenses (e.g. mortgage payments, rent, insurance, inventory purchases, etc.) with a \$1,000 social media advertising campaign. You must be able to demonstrate these expenditures by providing copies of invoices and proof of payment (e.g. cancelled cheque or e-transfer confirmation) with the final report. Please note that each expense can only be used once when accessing DSBP or RTO7 programs.

Partner Requirements:

- You must carry liability insurance of at least \$2,000,000 and provide DSBP with a certificate of insurance to demonstrate this coverage.
- You must attest that there are NO outstanding legal issues that would affect the processing and outcomes of this project and collaboration with DSBP and you can legally operate in Ontario.
- You will engage in [sustainable tourism](#) practices as outlined on RTO7's website. DSBP and RTO7 supports that when visitors can plan or book ahead, not only does it help to improve the quality of visitors to the region but also helps our stakeholder manage their business more effectively, therefore, plan ahead/book ahead messaging must be included where possible.
- You commit to [monitoring the Facebook/Instagram posts](#) daily for the duration of the campaign.
- [Google Analytics is activated](#) on your website prior to the start of the campaign.
- Select 1 or 2 representatives to act as the liaison with DSBP. This person should be responsible for your social media marketing and can act as the decision-maker. They must have the capacity to execute the project and respond to team communication in a timely manner. Failure to communicate in a timely manner may cause the campaign to be cancelled or fail.
- Once the project is approved, the partner commits to using [Basecamp](#) (RTO7's project

management program) for all communications regarding the project. You will supply the names and email addresses of program contacts to add to Basecamp.

- You must identify Discover South Bruce Peninsula, BruceGreySimcoe and the Province of Ontario as partners:
 - with logos on your website with an active link back to Destinationsouthbrucepeninsula.com, BruceGreySimcoe.com and destinationontario.com. DSBP will provide these logos.
 - with logos on all printed collateral supported through the program.
- Maintain a current [operator listing](#) on DestinationSouthBrucePeninsula.com
- Sign up for the [Discover South Bruce Peninsula Newsletter](#) (funding updates, announcements, etc.).
- You are required to complete a final report and supply copies of invoices demonstrating proof of \$1,000 of expenses (receipts) within 30 days of the completion of the project. **Failure to do this may result in ineligibility to participate in DSBP programs in the future.**

Partners who use third-party agencies for social media marketing are eligible for this program however we will communicate/work with ONLY the lead partner and NOT the third-party agency.

Campaigns take approximately 3-4 weeks to set up and launch so please ensure you have included enough lead time. Festivals should look at a lead time of 7-8 weeks before the festival.

Administration Fee

Aside from the operational expenditures invested, there is no cost to the operator (unless you are unable to find the person with full control of the Facebook Page, then the \$200 admin fee applies) DSBP and RTO7 will cover the cost of the media spend, additional agency fees, and HST.

Program Opportunities

Social Media Marketing Support

Eligible partners will receive the following per new investment:

- \$1,000 of social media advertising that will show as sponsored ads from the partner's social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram).
- The sponsored ads will have a call to action that will direct visitor traffic to the operator's website home page or Facebook page.
 - The \$1,000 ad spend is applicable to HST and Agency Fees. **DSBP and RTO7 will cover the full cost of the campaign including HST and additional Agency Fees. There is no cost to the partner unless you are unable to accept the advertiser request.**

Facebook/Instagram Sponsored Posts

- Maximum 6 ads can be created.
- Minimum 5, maximum of 10 [current images](#) and/or 1-3 videos must be provided for use in the campaign. Images MUST be high resolution (min 1MB) and videos should be 60 seconds or less.
- A DSBP staff person will be your point of contact and will liaise between the partner and the Agency of Record.
- The Agency of Record will write the ad copy and create the sponsored ads using the information provided in your application and during your application review call with DSBP.

The sponsored ads will run for approximately 4 weeks.

- You will receive a final report following the campaign that details:
 - Impressions
 - Reach
 - Click Through Rate (CTR)
 - Total Clicks
 - Cost Per Click (CPC)
 - Reactions/Comments/Shares/Saves
 - Total Spend.
- You will receive support from DSBP staff to develop the demographic and geographic targeting, as well as interests for each of the ad campaigns.
- You will receive one midterm report approximately halfway through the campaign highlighting performance to date.

Please note that targeting will not change for the duration of the campaign unless the results are below the industry standards as identified by the agency and/or DSBP.

DSBP Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until September 30, 2025 or until the program is fully subscribed.