

EVENTING ATHLETE'S GUIDE TO FUNDING



The USEF Eventing Athlete's Guide to Funding ("Guide") serves to provide information in a central document on funding, grants, and awards that are available through the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF"), United States Equestrian Team Foundation ("USET"), United States Eventing Association Foundation ("USEA"), and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Foundation ("USOPC"). This information is applicable to Athlete's engaged in the USEF Eventing Pathway Programs. Therefore, it is not inclusive of funding and grant information from these organizations for Licensed Officials, Amateurs, Grooms, etc.

A **grant** is awarded through an application process. Grants may have additional restrictions, including but not limited to competition results, age of Horse or Athlete, and prior Team or international experience.

- USET Foundation Grants
- USEA Foundation Grants

Funding is provided for a specific purpose.

- USEF Team Competition Funding
- USEF Pathway Program Funding

For athletes who receive funding, as long as all expenses are accounted for by receipts, the money will not be included on their 1099 at the end of the year. Any funding not accounted for by a receipt is subject to IRS reporting.

An **award** is gifted to a selected recipient. This may be due to results earned.

- USOPC Operation Gold

Prize Money is won at a competition and is based on Individual and/or Team results. If prize money is won at a Team competition (Games, Nations Cup or World Championship), the Athlete will either directly receive the money from the Organizing Committee or as a passthrough from USEF, as outlined in the FEI Schedule.

USEF

- Pgs. 2-3

USET Foundation

- Pgs. 4-6

USEA Foundation

- Pgs. 7-9

USOPC Foundation

- Pg. 10-12

Independent Grants

- Pg. 13

The above organization's funding, grant, and award information may change more frequently than this document is updated. Please refer to the latest information on the relevant organization's website via the links provided throughout the document.

USEF Funding

Athlete funding is available through USEF for Eventing Pathway Program members and those named to a targeted U.S. Eventing Team.

U.S. Eventing Team Competitions – Athlete Funding and Direct Competition Support

Funding details are outlined within the Athlete Funding Agreement for eligible Team competitions. The Agreement is sent directly to the Athlete when they are notified, they have been named to a Team that is eligible for funding. An Athlete Funding Agreement details what expenses the USEF will cover directly, and what allocated funding is to be used for.

Targeted Team Opportunities are identified annually and are published [HERE](#) on the USEF website. This includes:

- Pan American Games, FEI World Championship, and Olympic Games
- Targeted FEI Nations Cups (refer to the USEF website for annual lists)
- CHIO Aachen
- European Development Tour

USEF Direct Athlete Funding:

Direct Athlete funding is provided directly to an Athlete to assist with expenses associated with travel to the Team event. Eligible expenses are outlined within the applicable Athlete Funding Agreement and may include:

- Horse transportation, including flights and ground shipping
- Athlete and groom transportation, including flights and rental cars
- Food/meals not already covered by accreditations or Team meals
- Personal coach(es) travel and/or accommodation
- Additional therapies and/or treatments, fluids, farrier services, etc. for the horse during the trip

USEF Direct Competition Support:

Direct competition support are expenses that are paid for directly by USEF. Eligible expenses are outlined within the applicable Athlete Funding Agreement and may include:

- Event entry, stabling, and bedding fees
- Organization of training camps or layover stabling
- Athlete accommodation
- Groom accommodation
- Logistics support from the Team Leader or USEF Sport Department
- Human and Equine Sport Science and Medicine (“SSM”) Services:
 - Veterinary support from Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel
 - Farrier services
 - Human and equine physiotherapist services
 - Human physician services
- Ariat Team Kit for the Athlete, Horse, Groom, and Owner(s) per the [Horse & Human Apparel Policies for Eventing](#)
- National Federation endorsement/marketing coverage

Elite & Pre-Elite Program Benefits:

- Support from the U.S. Eventing High Performance Manager/Chef d'Equipe, U.S. Eventing High Performance Advisor, and Director, Eventing Elite Program for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators, Individual Performance Plans, and personal program development
- Access to USEF Human (HSSM) and Equine (ESSM) Sport Science Medicine programs and resources, when available, including but not limited to the Veterinary Program, Team Farrier, Team Equine Physiotherapist, Team Human Physiotherapist, and access to USOPC Athlete Resources
- Direct Athlete Funding of \$10,000.00 (Elite) and \$5,000.00 (Pre-Elite) annually for Program membership. While funding is not dependent on the completion of KPIs, the funds will not become available until the KPIs are set and reviewed. Direct Athlete Funding for the Program is to be utilized for training and coaching to provide athlete support for a decentralized coaching structure. It may also be used toward competitions that support the IPPs and/or Sport Science Medicine for the Program Horse(s).
- Opportunity to participate in organized USEF training sessions and additional central training opportunities
- Data analysis with EquiRatings
- Inclusion on USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the www.usef.org website
- National Federation endorsement/marketing coverage

Development Program Benefits:

- Support from the USEF Development Coach and Director, Development Programs for guidance and consultation on setting Key Performance Indicators, Individual Performance Plans, and personal program development
- Access to USEF Human (HSSM) and Equine (ESSM) Sport Science Medicine programs and resources, when available, including but not limited to the Veterinary Program, Team Farrier, Team Equine Physiotherapist, Team Human Physiotherapist, and access to USOPC Athlete Resources
- Opportunity to participate in organized USEF training sessions and additional central training opportunities
- Data analysis with EquiRatings
- Inclusion on USEF press releases relating to the Eventing Pathway Programs and published on the www.usef.org website
- National Federation endorsement/marketing coverage

USET FOUNDATION GRANTS

Link: <https://www.uset.org/>

USEF works in partnership with the USET Foundation to assist with the facilitation of these grants. Grants that require an application via the USEF Athlete Dashboard are noted below.

Grant: Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant

Criteria: Provide financial assistance to an event rider who has been identified as a rider with great talent and ability to represent the United States in the future.

Aim: The grant is intended to offset expenses associated with training.

Amount: Up to \$5,000

For more information, contact Gemma Stobbs at gstobbs@usef.org.

Grant: Giltedge Endowment Grant

Criteria: This grant is included in the overall USET Foundation grant awarded annually. It will be used for an Eventing High Performance activity in the budget with approval from the USET Foundation Board of Trustees.

Aim: For the use of an Eventing High Performance activity.

Amount: \$55,000

Additional Information: For 2025, the Giltedge Endowment Grant will support the CHIO Aachen Team (4) and Individual (1).

For more information, contact Bonnie Jenkins at bjenkins@uset.org.

Grant: Karen E. Stives Endowment Grant

Aim: The aim of the Grant is to support the Program aim of sustainable success at World level and to assist athlete/horse combinations to achieve Elite level standard and thus demonstrate they are competitive at World level. The Grant will support athlete/horse combinations already competing at 4*/5* level with the perceived potential to achieve Elite level by supporting a competition and preparatory training opportunity. The ultimate goal of the Grant is to develop athletes that have the potential to win medals as an individual or contribute to a team medal at the Olympic and World Championship level.

Amount: \$40,000

Additional information: For 2025, this grant will support the European Development Tour.

- Athlete/horse combinations will be expected (but not required) to have achieved their pre-determined targets at CCI4*-S/CCI4*-L and/or CCI5*-L level within the previous six months.
- Athlete/horse combinations that have competed at four or more CCI5*-L level events within the last 24 months are not eligible to apply.
- The aim of the Grant is to help athletes selected for the European Development Tour move to the Pre-Elite and Elite level and therefore applicants will be expected to demonstrate that part of the Grant will be used for performance enhancement, not just logistical costs.
- It is unlikely an athlete/horse combination will receive more than two Grants or that an athlete will receive more than three Grants within a 12-month period.
- If there is not an appropriate candidate in a given year than the grant(s) may not be awarded.

For more information, contact Gemma Stobbs, gstobbs@usef.org.

Grant: Jacqueline B. Mars Training & Competition Grants

International Training & Competition Grants

Amount: \$53,000

Additional Information : This information is forthcoming.

National Training & Competition Grants

Aim: Awarded annually by the USET Foundation upon recommendation of the USEF, the aim of the Jacqueline B. Mars Grant is to support the Program goal of sustainable success at the World level. Specifically, the Grant is designed to assist athlete/horse combinations to achieve Elite or Pre-Elite level standard and thus demonstrate they are on the track to be competitive at a World level. The Grant will support athlete/horse combinations already competing at 4* level with the perceived potential to achieve Elite or Pre-Elite status within the next 12 months. The ultimate goal of the grant is to provide training and competition resources for athletes who have never before competed on a senior team (Olympics or World Games) and have earned, via results and potential, the opportunity to travel overseas (international) or to another part of the country (national). The objective is for the combination to gain the experience and exposure to reach Elite or Pre-Elite status in the next 12 months.

Amount: \$18,000

- Up to three athletes will be funded in order to attend and prepare for one of the following:
 - A combination of CCI-S and CCI-L competitions that provide an extended experience (both competition and training) more than 1,000 miles from the athlete's home.
 - A CCI4*-L or CCI5*-L event that is part of the long-term development of the athletes and the goal of reaching Elite or Pre-Elite status in the next 12 months more than 1,000 miles from the athlete's home.
- Athlete/horse combinations will be expected (but not required) to have achieved their pre-determined targets at CCI4*-L and/or CCI5*-L level within the previous six months.

- The aim of the Grant is to help the athlete/horse combination move to Elite or Pre-Elite level and therefore applicants will be expected to demonstrate that part of the Grant will be used for performance enhancement not just logistical costs.
- It is unlikely an athlete/horse combination will receive more than two Grants or that an athlete will receive more than three Grants within a three-year period.
- If there is not an appropriate candidate in a given year the Grant may not be awarded.

For more information, contact Christina Vaughn at cvaughn@usef.org.

Grant: The Connaught Award – *in memory of Bruce Duchossois*

Aim: The purpose of the Connaught Award is to encourage the development of event horses in the US that have the potential to represent the USA at international competitions. The role of the Committee is to identify horses at the CCI3* level throughout the US that have the potential to represent their country at international competitions. The Committee envisions that the horses are between (but not limited to) the age of 6-10 and in the eyes of the Committee have the potential to move on to be competitive at CCI5* level.

Amount: The grant is given after the last CCI2* event of the season for the next calendar year and will be announced and awarded at the USEA Annual Meeting. The grant will be awarded annually in the amount of \$25,000 by the USET Foundation, through a generous donation from Caroline Moran.

Additional information:

Committee Make up: There will be a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Secretary will communicate with the Committee members throughout the year. There will be at least one Committee meeting held each year either in-person or by conference call.

Committee Members: Caroline Moran, Phillip Dutton, Evie Dutton, Kevin Keane, Bobby Costello, Bea DiGrazia, and Joanie Morris

Grant stipulations: The grant will be spent on competition(s), travel in relationship to competition(s), training, and horse care.

USEA FOUNDATION GRANTS

Link: <https://useafoundation.org/>

Grants

Link: [Grant Applications — USEA Foundation](#)

The below information serves as a summary of the grants, please utilize the links for further information on criteria, applications, and deadlines.

Grant: Kim Meier “Kick On” Memorial Grant

Criteria: This grant is intended to assist those riders who are struggling financially to compete their own horse(s) at the upper levels and who have passed beyond the funding available for juniors and young adults. Available to riders 26 years or older.

Amount: This \$5,000 grant is given each year to a recipient who wholly owns their horse(s) and is currently competing at the Intermediate level or above (FEI levels included).

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/kim-meier-kick-on-grant>

Development Grants

Grant: Richard Picken Memorial Grant

Criteria: Established in memory of the late Richard Picken by his loved ones, the Richard Picken Memorial Grants from the Fund of the same name are established to fund the intensive training (preferably in show jumping) of riders aged 25 years and younger competing at the FEI CCI2* level or higher.

Amount: Each year one applicant will be selected to receive this \$5,000 grant.

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/richard-picken-memorial-fund>

Grant: Rebecca Chaney Broussard Developing International Rider Grants

Criteria: Awarded to riders competing at CCI3* and above who have not yet represented the United States at the Olympics, Pan American or World Equestrian Games. There are no age restrictions on this grant and it is available to amateurs or professionals. Emphasis is placed on identifying recipients that have a proven track record of positive involvement with and being engaged with the broader USEA eventing community, especially those that do so through volunteerism.

Amount:

Typically, \$10,000 – National Developing Rider Grant annually

Typically, \$50,000 – International Developing Rider Grant annually

Varies – Rebecca Farm Travel Grants (must be in attendance at The Event at Rebecca Farm) to offset travel expenses to compete in the FEI divisions at The Event at Rebecca Farm

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/rebecca-broussard-developing-rider-grants-and-here> <https://www.rebeccafarm.org/competitors/#develop>

Grant: Wilton Fair Fund

Criteria: Awarded to riders who are U.S. citizens, age 29 and under who have not yet ridden on an Olympic or World Games team who are competing successfully at the CCI4* and above.

Aim: Intended to provide support and encouragement for talented riders to step away from their home base to gain more international experience and education. If a rider is not initially identified, this grant may also be given in increments to help fund a rider to compete overseas, and then release additional funds should they be able to stay overseas for additional training.

Amount: Up to \$60,000 annually

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/wilton-fair-fund>

Grant: Essex Horse Trials Grant

Criteria: Awarded to developing riders, age 25 and under who are competing successfully at the CCI4*-S and above who is working towards representing the U.S. in international team competition. The grant is intended to assist the recipient in developing the essential horsemanship skills required for a successful transition from the Junior Rider/Young Rider ranks to the Senior Rider ranks.

Aim: The grant may be used for expenses related to equestrian education, coaching, training, and competing.

Amount: \$10,000 annually

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/essex-horse-trials-grant>

Grant: Seema Sonnad Junior Rider Grant

Criteria: Awarded to a Junior rider age 18 and under who is competing successfully at the Preliminary/CCI2* level and working towards representing their Area in CCI3* team competition in the following year.

Amount: \$5,000

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/seema-sonnad-junior-rider-grant>

Grant: MARS Bromont Rising Grants

Criteria: Awarded to ten or more applicants to assist with travel expenses, participation in on-site educational opportunities and entry fees for the MARS Bromont CCI or Galway Downs International 3-day Event. Recipients will have the opportunity to work with world-class trainers and educators in advance of these competitions.

Amount: Up to \$3,000 per applicant

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/mars-bromont-rising-grants>

Young Horse Grant

Grant: Holekamp/Turner Young Event Horse Lion d'Angers Grant

Criteria: Awarded to the highest scorer of the USEA Young Event Horse 5-year-old Championships, both East Coast and West Coast Championships combined, with funds that will enable them to travel to the FEI World Young Horse Championships at Mondial du Lion in Le Lion d'Angers, France for the 7-year-old three-star Championships. Includes a roundtrip flight and transportation to the Championships courtesy of The Dutta Corporation.

Amount:

\$17,500 – North American bred

\$8,000 – Imported horse

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/holekampturner-young-event-horse-lion-dangers-grant>

For more information, contact USEA CEO Rob Burk at rburk@useventing.com or Katherine Cooper at the USEA Foundation kcooper@useventing.com

USOPC

Grants & Funding webpage: <https://www.usopc.org/grantsandfunding>

Grant: Simon Grant

Criteria: 2025 Criteria has yet to be posted.

Eligibility: 2025 Eligibility has yet to be posted.

Amount: \$5,000-\$10,000

Additional Information: <https://www.usopc.org/athlete-career-and-education/grants-and-funding/simon-grant>

Grant: AirBnb Athlete Travel Grant

Criteria: The International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, in partnership with Airbnb, are offering a \$2,000 athlete travel grant to ease the financial strain while training or competing on the road. The grant is valid for 12 months and can be used to book Airbnb stays for competition or training-related trips around the world. Priority will be given to athlete hopefuls for the Olympic or Paralympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, but all eligible summer and winter athletes are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility:

- You must currently compete at an elite level under an IOC or IPC recognized federation in a sport that is part of the official program of Paris 2024, Milano-Cortina 2026, or LA 2028.
- As long as you meet the eligibility criteria and are 18 years or older, you can create an Airbnb account and **receive** Athlete Travel Support Credits.

Amount: \$2,000

Additional Information: This application deadline passed on February 13, 2025.

Operation Gold – Available for 2025 CHIO Aachen

In an Olympic Games year, teams and individuals must place in the top-three at the Olympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Event Award; multiple Operation Gold Event Awards can be received if an athlete has multiple top-three finishes at the Olympic Games.

In non-Olympic Games years, Operation Gold Awards are limited to one award per athlete in the Term; athletes who qualify for more than one award automatically receive the higher award.

Individuals must finish in one of the top eight places, while teams must finish in one of the top-six places at the qualifying event in a discipline on the program of the Olympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Award in a non-Olympic Games year.

For purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

USOPC Operation Gold Event – Olympic/Paralympic Sport Payment Schedule				
Place	1st Year of Quad	2nd Year of Quad	3rd Year of Quad	Olympic/Paralympic Games Year
1 st	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$7,500	\$37,500
2 nd	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$22,500
3 rd	\$4,375	\$4,375	\$5,000	\$15,000
4 th	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$4,375	
5 th	\$3,125	\$3,125	\$3,750	
6 th	\$3,125	\$3,125	\$3,750	
7 th	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	
8 th	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	

For questions regarding Operation Gold, contact USOPC Director of High Performance, Julie Miller at Julie.Miller@usopc.org.

Grant: Team USA Community Champions Award in Partnership w/ Comcast

Criteria: The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Foundation have established the Team USA Community Champions Award in partnership with Comcast, a grant awarded to Team USA athletes who embody the Olympic & Paralympic values and who participate in meaningful service with a nonprofit organization focused on youth sport, physical activity, or health and well-being.

Eligibility: Team USA Athlete

Amount: Up to four \$25,000 awards are granted on a yearly basis. For each of the four selected winners, half (\$12,500) is awarded directly to the athlete, while the other half (\$12,500) is directed to the athlete's nonprofit of choice.

For additional information on financial support visit the USOPC website:

- [Medical Assistance Fund](#)
- [National Medical Network](#)
- [Mental Health Assistance Fund](#)
- [Legal Aid Program](#)
- [Commercial Agreements Resources](#)
- [Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund](#)
- [Team USA Tuition Grants](#)

INDEPENDENT GRANTS

Grant: The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Fund & Grant

Criteria: The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant provides financial support for young professional equestrians establishing the early years of their business and wishing to continue their equestrian education and competition.

Eligibility:

- Professional member in good standing with their respective national governing body
- US citizen or legal resident
- Demonstrate financial need
- Reside in Aiken, SC for a minimum of three (3) months annually
- Between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age by January thirty-one (31) of application year

Amount: \$20,000

Additional Information: <https://aikenhorsepark.org/annie-goodwin-rising-star>