

USEF Community Outreach Organizations Program Eligibility Requirements

Equity Requirement

If an organization does not meet this requirement, they are immediately ineligible for consideration as a Community Outreach Organization.

- Organizations provide services/programming for free or on a sliding scale of fees based on economic need.

USEF Safe Sport Requirements

All organizations accepted to the Community Outreach Organizations Program (Program) must meet the following [USEF Safe Sport](#) requirements prior to being listed on the website or receiving any benefits.

- Adherence to the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#)
- Required USEF Safe Sport Training – Executive Director, Board President, and all instructors
 - Required training must be completed within one month of notification that the organization has been accepted to the Program
 - Encouraged for all board members and volunteers interacting with participants
 - All interactions between minors and adults must occur in an observable and interruptible environment
- Required USEF Safe Sport Background Check – Executive Director, all instructors
 - Required USEF Safe Sport Background checks must be completed within one month of notification that the organization has been accepted to the program and be completed annually while the organization is part of the Program
 - Required USEF Safe Sport Background checks on new staff must be completed prior to employment
 - Paid for through the Opportunity Fund

Programming/Services Requirements

- Community Outreach Organizations should have a mission to improve access to horses and opportunity to experience equestrian sport, targeting traditionally under-represented and under-served groups outlined in DEI Action Plan
- Focus on education (mounted and unmounted)
 - Mounted/driven programming is preferred, but not required
 - Unmounted programming must be available
 - Organizations that provide supplementary educational benefits beyond equestrian sport skills will be prioritized (e.g. practical horse care, school support, literacy, self-care skills, etc.)

- Therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapy programs must provide a letter of recommendation by a licensed medical or mental health professional speaking to the medical/therapeutic value of the program
 - Therapeutic riding and equine-assisted psychotherapy programs credentialed by organizations, such as PATH International and EAGALA, is preferred.

Legal Requirements

- Proof of 501(c) status with IRS
- Proof of commercial liability insurance
- Participants sign liability waiver and release before participating
 - Risk acknowledgment of interacting with horses
 - Parent/guardian consent to emergency medical treatment for youth
- Expectation to adhere to [USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Human Welfare Requirements *(please provide evidence of the below via policies, website, photos, etc. with your application)*

- Helmets are required for all mounted/driven programming at the facility (Helmets must meet current ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet standards)
- Closed-toe shoes are required for all people interacting with horses
- Participant to Staff/Volunteer ratio must be appropriate to a given facility and population to ensure safety of all horses and humans.
- First time participants must complete a “Safety 101” training as an introduction to working with horses before they interact with the animals
- Emergency Protocols are in place (First Aid/CPR Certified staff; Fire evacuation plan; Phone or cell phone is on site and accessible at all times)
- Private bathroom with a door and walls must be accessible to participants

Horse Welfare Requirements *(please provide evidence of the below via policies, website, photos, etc. with your application)*

In consultation with appropriate professionals, Community Outreach Organizations should have a sound health care program in place for their equines appropriate to the facilities and environment, including but not limited to the below:

- Veterinary exams, vaccines, medication protocols, and dental exams under veterinary guidance
- Hoof care under the guidance of veterinary and farrier care
- Access to food and water – adequate nutrition and access to clean water is provided and appropriate body weight is maintained as per the veterinary guidelines
- Appropriate exercise balanced with time off to maintain a healthy body weight and healthy mental/emotional state for a given horse. Veterinarian to be consulted about the appropriate working schedule.
- Tack and other equipment is properly fitted and maintained

- Indoor facilities are well kept and safe for horses
 - A shelter is a natural or man-made structure that provides relief to each individual animal from direct sunlight, wind, precipitation and other inclement weather.
 - All constructed shelters should be structurally safe and comfortable for horses and personnel.
 - Electrical wiring and panels should not be accessible to horses and should be installed in accordance with applicable electrical codes.
 - Manure and soiled bedding should be handled and stored in a manner that has as little negative impact on the surrounding area and the environment as is reasonably possible.
- Outdoor facilities are well kept and safe for horses
 - Pastures and paddocks should be properly fenced to safely confine horses. Fences and gates should be maintained in good repair to minimize the risk of horses gaining access to public roadways.
 - Pastures, paddocks and range should be free from equipment, machinery, debris and refuse that have the potential to cause serious injury.
 - Pasture rotation, manure removal and internal parasite control with effective deworming programs are a part of an integrated program of management.

Letters of Recommendation

1. Equestrian industry professional. Cannot be on staff at organization.
2. Current or former participant
3. Licensed medical or mental health professional speaking to medical/therapeutic value of the program (*applicable only to therapeutic riding or equine-assisted therapy programs*)

Essay

How does your organization fill a gap in services/programming in the horse industry for under-represented and under-served groups?