

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROCESS



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ABOUT THE USEF OPPORTUNITY FUND

US Equestrian recognizes “Community Outreach Organizations” that provide equine-based learning opportunities and support the positive impact horses can have in their local communities.

The USEF Opportunity Fund is the grant-making branch of the Community Outreach Program that will support a competitive grant process available exclusively to recognized USEF Community Outreach Organizations.

Any USEF Community Outreach Organization interested in applying for a grant must submit a grant request for review and selection. This is a competitive grant process, so a grant is not guaranteed.

USEF Community Outreach Organizations are eligible to apply for USEF Opportunity Fund grants to support their organization and funds are not limited to programming initiatives (i.e. facility improvements, programming scholarships, equipment, etc.). All grant recipients must use those funds for their stated purpose in the application and will be expected to provide reports at six-month intervals using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or other key measures of progress per grant request.



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WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR GRANT REQUEST

I. Executive Summary

Please provide an executive summary of your grant request and your organization's mission. Describe your offered programs and your reach, who your organization serves and how, etc.

II. Need Statement

Please detail the dollar amount requested and why you are seeking a grant. In what ways or areas will this grant support the organization? What challenges is your organization facing that could be alleviated by this grant? Who will this grant support?

III. Goals & Objectives

Tell us how this grant will be used, your goals for this project/program, and how you intend to implement these goals using KPIs or other relevant measures of success for your organization's request.

IV. Other Funding Sources and Sustainability

Demonstrate how this grant fits in with your organization's existing sources of income. Describe your current fundraising channels and strategies to have sustainable sources of finances.

V. Project Budget Outline

Provide a timetable for how you plan to implement this grant, as well as measure its impact, starting from date funded.

VI. Medium

This grant request is an opportunity to submit something creative that can help us get a better understanding of your organization. It can come in any form: essay, artwork, video, PowerPoint presentation, blog post, etc. The sky is the limit!

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DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

To apply for a grant, your organization will need to provide several additional documents regarding its nonprofit status and finances.

You'll need:

- Last two most recent years of:
IRS Form 990
Audited Financials
- Current year W-9
- Most recent Annual Report and/or Strategic Plan
- Most recent financial statements



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HOW TO SUBMIT A GRANT REQUEST

Submitting a Grant Request will be done in TWO simple steps:

- 1) Visit usef.org/opportunity-fund/apply/
- 2) Complete online application and upload all required documents.

If you have attachments that exceed the upload file size, please email DEIfedback@usef.org with the subject [Org name – Opportunity Fund Grant Request].



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Evaluation Timeline

*Dates subject to change. All applying organizations will be notified of any updates to the timeline.



April 1, 2025: Grants open

May 15, 2025: Submissions for grant requests are due by 11:59 p.m. ET

June 2, 2025: Final decisions completed by USEF and grant recipients to be notified of decision

June 6, 2025: USEF announces 2025 grant recipients



CONTACT US

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