

LOI Form

Organization Information

A Word version you can use to draft your request is available for download.

The rubric that will be used to score your LOI is available for download.

Project Name*

Please give your proposal a short, descriptive title. This is how your request will appear throughout the PCF grant portal.

Be Inspired by Partnering with Horses

Amount Requested*

The minimum grant request for this process is \$50,000.

The maximum grant request for this process is \$325,000.

If you request the full \$325,000, your organization should be able to demonstrate a *significant* impact to be made from these funds.

Please be sure that your grant request is proportional to your annual operating budget. If you have any questions about how much funding to request, please contact Jocelyn Howard at jhoward@pinellascf.org.

\$75,000.00

Annual Operating Budget*

Please provide the amount of your annual operating budget, (expenditures only) for your entire organization.

\$410,827.21

Grant Start Date*

PCF expects to issue a contract to approved organizations in September 2023. If awarded with a contract issuance date of September 1, 2023, when would your organization begin to spend funds?

09/11/2023

Grant End Date*

PCF expects the grant period to be between 12 and 24 months for this process. Given this range, when would your organization expect to finish expending funds if awarded?

09/30/2024

Mission Statement*

Please write your organization's mission statement below. This should be no longer than one or two sentences.

By partnering humans and horses in a healing environment, Inspire Equine Assisted Center supports individuals in conquering their physical, developmental and emotional challenges in order to achieve their full potential.

Is your organization headquartered in Clearwater?

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

Yes

Programming Background*

Please describe the program that this grant would support.

Example

Peer Counseling Services Inc. offers after-school support groups for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Below, Peer Counseling Services Inc. would describe what its programming is, how its programming works, and who is served.

Why PCF asks this: PCF wants to learn about what your organization does and how it carries out its mission.

Inspire Equine Assisted Center offers equine assisted services to teens and adults with disabilities, disabled veterans, the aging population, and anyone experiencing a life challenge. Our main program for teens and adults with disabilities is our Adaptive Riding program. Adaptive Riding is recreational horseback riding lessons. Riders learn horsemanship and riding skills in an environment tailored to their individual needs and learning styles. We offer instruction to riders of all skill levels, from providing someone's first contact with a horse to advanced independent riders. The goals for those in the adaptive riding program are riding skill based, but individuals and parents report many therapeutic benefits of participation. These benefits include improvements in physical strength, balance, coordination, mobility, self-confidence, self-control, peer interaction and social skills. A horse's soothing rhythm, strength, warmth, and three-dimensional movement pattern provide healthy exercise while improving circulation and muscle tone. The discipline associated with working with horses and the social interactions between peers benefit the mind and spirit, while raising self-esteem and increasing self-sufficiency through accomplishment.

Our Adaptive Riding program will help increase independent living and support integration into the physical communities of Pinellas County, especially Clearwater. The need Inspire is filling is providing a therapeutic recreational service to teens and adults with disabilities. In Pinellas County in 2020, there are over 89,846 persons with disabilities and 15.4% of them live in Clearwater. Finding recreational therapeutic services in the community can be very difficult for teens and adults with disabilities. By offering equine assisted services, Inspire serves individuals with disabilities by getting them out into their community and involved in a physical, recreational activity that better their health and wellbeing.

History in Clearwater*

Please describe how long you've been providing services in the City of Clearwater, and the nature of such services.

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

In 2010, Pinellas County native Christine Gagnon and family discovered the 12-acre property with the dream of bringing the healing qualities of equine assisted learning to others. Their daughter Kaylee, born with Down Syndrome, had always felt a special connection to horses, riding before learning to walk. Although her daughter's private lessons were helpful, Christine dreamed of a place where multiple riders and their families could socialize and create relationships, all while gaining the physical and emotional benefits that come from bonding with horses. She envisioned a centrally located campus, peaceful and serene, where participants were challenged in the right way — for development, learning and positive feedback. It was here where a community would be built, not just around the horses but also the people.

Christine and Karen connected with Melissa Yarbrough who, at the time, was program director at another local equine organization. Christine shared her vision for the property and Melissa immediately saw great potential in the vastness of this opportunity and began planting the seeds for what would soon become Inspire Equine Assisted Center. "I really believed in Christine's vision. We were definitely on the same page," she said. "I told her I would develop a program and utilize these facilities exactly how she intended. We knew this was the start of something great." Inspire opened for services in December of 2016.

Today, Inspire employs five staff members, is backed by a board of six directors, and is supported by dozens of volunteers, young and old, from all walks of life. In the stables reside seven horses, with plans to add more. Lessons take place five days a week across eight programs. High safety standards and consistent training ensure the welfare of horses, participants, and volunteers. Individuals with a variety of physical and mental challenges — from traumatic brain injury and cerebral palsy to social anxiety and depression — all benefit from the Inspire program.

Outcomes*

Define one to two outcomes already being measured by your organization in relation to the programming this grant would support. This is not the outcome of this specific funding, but of the programming itself. **Outcomes are not the number of people you will serve, but how they or their situation will change.**

"Outcomes - are specific, measurable statements that let you know when you have reached your goals. Outcome statements describe specific changes in your knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors you expect to occur as a result of your actions. Good outcome statements are specific, measurable, and realistic."

(W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide)

Example

80% of youth involved in peer counseling will show increased emotional intelligence after six months of participation.

Why PCF asks this: PCF considers measurable outcomes to be a cornerstone of effective social service programming. Tracking outcomes allows both an organization and its supporters to know how effective its programming is and helps an organization improve its programming over time.

65% of our adaptive riding participants will be 80% proficient in all riding skills at their current level of experience, based on the RIDES program, by the end of the 12-to-15-week lesson schedule.

Measurements*

Explain what measurement tools you will use to evaluate the stated outcome(s) above. That is, how will your organization know it is achieving or not achieving the outcome(s) stated above? Stronger requests will use a validated tool or method of data collection.

Example

Peer Counseling Services administers the Schutte Self Report Emotional Intelligence Test before counseling begins, and in six-month intervals thereafter.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to know how the outcome(s) you've specified are measured, and if you used a validated tool that has been proven in usage outside your organization. If you've developed your own tool, please describe how it was made.

Inspire uses the RIDES program to evaluate the progress of our Adaptive Riding participants. The RIDES program was developed by Saddle Up! in Tennessee, which is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center. Saddle Up! Instructors observed a need within the riding industry for a simple and easy to follow system that could offer clearly written rider's skills that were both systematic and progressive. Such a system could provide continuity across riding disciplines, help with assessing a person's current level of riding, and track a rider's progress. Each adaptive riding participant has their own specific and measurable goals every session.

Grant Impact*

How would this grant help your organization and its clients achieve the outcomes stated above? That is, what would you be able to do with this funding that you otherwise could not?

Why PCF asks this: The intention of this grant is to fund organizations providing support for individuals and families in Clearwater with emergency housing and social services needs. How that support happens, and how this grant could help, differs from organization to organization. PCF would like to know specifically how this grant would help your organization and the clients you serve.

This grant would help us increase the number of participants that cannot afford our services to be able to participate in our Adaptive Riding program. Inspire currently has a waitlist of 12 students that are unable to afford services and need scholarships. This grant would be able to fund the 12 participants to be able to get the valuable recreational activity. Talitha is a new participant on Saturday mornings in our Adaptive Riding Program. After her first lesson her mother cried as she hugged me to tell me Thank you so much for letting her daughter participate. Her daughter, who is 10, does not have many friends or things to do outside of school. She loves horses and was so excited to be able to start this. Tally's mom, who is deaf, is so happy she has found a place for her daughter to grow and excel at an activity. Tally is joining our Special Olympics team this year.

Preliminary Budget Narrative*

Please write a brief breakdown of line items showing how your requested funds would be used. You may add context to the expenses if needed (for example, if salaries are requested, state how that position supports the programming described in your proposal). A more detailed, formal budget will be required if your request is moved forward in the funding process.

Small equipment purchases are permitted under this grant provided they are directly tied to service delivery. You may include those purchases in this narrative.

If your organization will be requesting indirect costs, please include this in your narrative. Note that the indirect cost rate for this grant is capped at 5% of the grant.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to gain a general understanding of the proposed programming costs for this grant.

Salary for PATH International Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor - \$35,000

Scholarships for 12 teens or adults with disabilities to participate in our Adaptive Riding program for one year. \$40,000

Reduction in Funding*

Due to limited funding, your request amount may not be fully awarded if it is moved forward in the grant process. How would reduced/partial funding impact your proposed program?

Why PCF asks this: The review committee that ultimately recommends proposals for funding may consider partial funding. PCF would like to know upfront what impact this would have on your proposal.

Of course, we would appreciate full funding if we received this grant. With a decreased award, we would have to decrease the number of students that would be able to participate from our waitlist. We would then look for additional funding sources like individual donations or event revenue to make up the difference.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded