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**Horses and Humans Research Foundation**

**Innovation Grant**

**Award - up to $10,000**

Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) intends to award an Innovation Grant (Pilot Study) in 2023. Innovation grants are designed to provide funding for innovative ideas to advance our knowledge, understanding, and application of Equine- assisted Services (EAS). These proposals should be aimed at generating data to provide validation of a novel approach or idea. HHRF serves as a catalyst to advance global knowledge of horse-human interactions and their impact on the health and well-being of people and horses. The maximum project duration is 12 months, and the budget cannot exceed $10,000. Applicants are required to use correct Equine-assisted Services (EAS) terminology (available at horsesandhumans.org).

The goal of this grant is to connect practice with scientific knowledge by supporting innovative research with high-impact potential that might not be funded through traditional channels. Our intent is to stimulate exploration, encourage the testing of hypotheses, and generate preliminary data that will open new pathways for future research.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.** Email the completed application to [info@horsesandhumans.org](mailto:info@horsesandhumans.org). The subject line of ALL emails should be the complete **title of the application**. Multiple attachments or emails *will* be accepted.

Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) must receive the completed application by the end of the business day on the established deadline (Should the deadline fall on a weekend or holiday; the due date is the closest **preceding** business day). The main contact listed on the application will be sent a notice (by email or mail) of receipt of their application within two weeks of the HHRF office receiving it. If the applicant does not receive such a confirmation, inquire at info@horsesandhumans.org.

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| **HHRF Research Grant Application Cover Page** | | |
| Title of Project: *Provide a specific and informative title* | | Submission Date: |
| Principal Investigator Name and Title: | | |
| Contact Name and Title:  (NOTE: The contact person is the only person with whom HHRF will have direct contact. The contact person receives all letters and notification from the HHRF office.) | | |
| Institute: | | |
| Address (provide physical AND mailing addresses, if different): | | |
| Telephone Number: | FAX Number: | |
| Email Address: | URL: | |
| Primary focus area of the investigation (i.e. mental health, trauma, the horse-human relationship etc): | | |

**Details for writing your proposal**

The proposal consists of the following 6 sections. Write your proposal using the following guidelines and headings. Please write in a clear and concise style that someone outside of your field will understand. You may use figures to clarify, but this is not required.  The proposal should be 6-8 pages in length. Additional appendices including references, IACUC/IRB and collaborative agreements may be included. Use 11-point font (Times New Roman or Arial preferred), double-spaced lines and ¾-inch margins. Define technical terms and acronyms on the first use. The complete proposal, including attachments, must be converted to a single PDF prior to submission.

**I Title/Cover page:** Provide a specific and informative title. Include name, and institution and email address of the PI and all Co-Investigators. PI should include one paragraph description of qualifications.

**II Introduction:** Provide a synopsis of the area of research, the rationale for your project, and how it fits in to the bigger picture of EAS.

a. ***Background:*** Introduce the broader topic to which your proposal relates, highlighting major findings and gaps in the current knowledge. Describe how your research will impact this field.  Provide citations to primary sources and include the references in the "Literature Cited" section. (This is not expected to be a full literature review).

b. ***Specific objectives:*** Give a clear rationale for your proposal and how your project will advance knowledge in the area discussed in the Background. Clear aims and objectives with justification and implications of the research for a specified population should be clearly elucidated.

**III Materials and Methods**: Summarize your experimental design and methods and explain your plan for completing the work. Provide sufficient details of the methodology to allow replication.

a. ***Experimental Design:*** Describe how the project will be carried out.  What type of data will you collect and how you will analyze your results?

b. ***Timeline:*** Provide a timeline for completing the work.

c. ***Ethical Approvals:***All projects require IACUC, IRB, or other training or approval**. Review and follow all HHRF guidelines found on the HHRF website under the Research/Apply page.** *Funding for selected projects will be contingent on approval by an Institutional Review Board and an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or equivalent International standards.*

**IV Impact:** Provide at least one statement on the potential short-term or long-term impact this project will have in the EAS field.

**V Literature Cited:** Provide citations to any references included in your proposal. There is not a required minimum or limit for citations.  Use an accepted format in your discipline for citations.

**VI Budget:** You may request funds for supplies, small equipment, services. Stipends and salaries will not be supported in this size grant.

**Review Criteria**

1. **Innovation**: The project concept should be original. It could challenge existing paradigms, present a unique hypothesis, or address a critical barrier that exists in the field.   A qualified project will develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies.
2. **Significance**: The project should address an important problem directly related to the study of horse-human interaction and/or the mutual impact/mutual influences of the wellbeing/welfare of people and horses.  If the aims of the application are achieved, scientific knowledge or clinical practice should be significantly impacted.  A qualified study will have a positive impact on the concepts, methods, and technologies that drive this field.
3. **Approach**: The conceptual framework, design, and methods of the study should be clearly developed to ensure successful achievement of the intended goals of the project. Potential problem areas should be acknowledged, and corresponding alternative strategies included.
4. **Investigator**: The Principal investigator and the research team should be appropriately trained and reflect the experience needed to carry out this work.
5. **Environment**: The research environment should not only contribute to the probability of success, it should also reflect the highest related safety and quality standards. There should be clear evidence of availability of all resources or collaborations needed to support project's success.
6. **Impact:** Clearly explain how the project supports the HHRF Mission. *Through investment in rigorous research, Horses and Humans Research Foundation will serve as a catalyst to advance knowledge of horses and their potential to impact the health and wellness of people.*

**Based on proposal review by the HHRF Scientific Advisory Council, the highest scoring applicants will be invited to present an oral (10-12 minute) presentation to the HHRF Board for final consideration.**