

Veteran's 2025 Grant Application

PROGRAM DEADLINE : May 01, 2025 at 11:59 PM(Midnight) - CLOSED

Applicant Information

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Last IP Address: 34.120.172.148
Common App: EDCF 2025 Grant COMMON APP

Organization Information

Organization Information

Legal Name of Organization	Hearts Landing Ranch
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Mailing Address- Street number and name OR PO Box
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8902 Quail Lane

City	Granite Bay
State	CA
Zip Code	95746
Phone Number	916-521-1343
Organization Website Address, if applicable	www.heartslandingranch.com
Executive Director/ CEO/ President	Donna Eckwortzel
Executive Director email address	donna@donnaeckwortzel.com
Grant contact name (please provide a second contact besides ED)	Terri Olson
Grant contact email address	terri@heartslandingranch.com
Please provide names and titles of your primary officers or directors (i.e. board president, vice president, chairperson, secretary, treasurer, etc.)	

Donna Eckwortzel, Executive Director
Terri Olson, Treasurer
Val Thorn, Secretary
Christy Jewell, Board Member

Year Incorporated	2015
Number of paid staff	4.00
Number of volunteers	25.00
Mission Statement	

Hearts Landing Ranch is helping turn trauma into triumph utilizing Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP), and community outreach events in a ranch environment to bring hope, healing and restoration to those struggling with trauma and mental health issues.

Attach your organization's logo.	HLR_logo.jpg
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Fiscal Agent's confirmation letter-
this is only needed if the community
based organization that is applying
is using a fiscal agent (because
they are not their own nonprofit).
Fiscal agent must write a letter
stating that they are taking fiscal
responsibility of the grant funds on
the community-based
organization's behalf if they are
granted funds. Fiscal agents will
keep specific program related funds
restricted/accounting separate for
this particular project request.

**Fiscal agent letter must be dated
within 90 days of the grant
submittal.**

Is Your Non-Profit in Good Standing?

EIN or TIN

47-4825801

**Attach the IRS Determination letter
that contains your organization's
Employer Identification Number
AND verifies that your organization
has been given 501c3 status.**

IRS Letter of Determination_Hearts
Landing Ranch.pdf

**Click on this link for the IRS
database to find your organization.
Please take a screenshot of the
page that shows your organization
name and the IRS filings for the past
year(s). This page should show that
your organization has filed its 990,
990EZ or 990N in the past three
years at least once.**

HLR_IRS Filings.docx

**THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless
organization is a faith based
organization, a government entity
or a Native American Tribe
recognized by the federal
government.**

Visit the CA Secretary of State website and search for your organization. Take a screenshot of that page that shows your organization is active and up-to-date with your statement of information.

If your entity is registered in a state other than California, please provide a screenshot of your state's registration entity proving your active and up-to-date status. Also, your organization should be registered in CA if you are doing business in CA (like applying for these funds:)).

HLR_Sec of State.docx

THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.

Lastly, visit the CA Department of Justice website to verify your organization's registration. Search for your organization , and take a screenshot of the page that shows your organization name, and that its registration with the Department of Justice is CURRENT. Upload this screenshot here.

All organizations that "do business in California" are required to file annually with the CA DOJ.

HLR_Dept of Justice.docx

THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.

Grant Information

Grant Information

Grant Title: please create a title that describes what your grant is requesting

Veterans Equine Psychotherapy Program

Grant Request SUMMARY: In 300 words or less please provide a summary that describes the program/project that your organization is requesting funds for.

Our Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) programs and ranch activities help veterans develop life skills to thrive at home, in their communities, and careers. This innovative therapy utilizes horses with a team of a mental health professional, a certified equine specialist, and 1 to 9 horses. HLR creates curriculum for ground-based, experiential activities that leverage the horse's need for security and the human desire for connection. Research shows trauma victims can "fill in the gaps" and tell their story, enabled by EAP. Activities, obstacles, and horses' behavior help clients navigate their life challenges. At HLR, we scholarship over 70% of our fees for youth, adults, veterans, first responders, and families, removing economic roadblocks to restoring lives. Our ground-based Equine Therapy offers an alternative to traditional talk therapy, providing life management tools and healing from trauma, substance abuse, trafficking, grief, depression, and suicidal thoughts. As the leading provider of ground-based Equine-Assisted psychotherapy in the Sacramento Valley Region, HLR aims to expand services to reach more individuals each year, helping them find relief from stress, manage depression and anxiety symptoms, improve communication, build trust, secure wellness, and regulate emotions. HLR also assists those healing from life-altering traumatic events that hinder progress.

Furthermore, HLR:

- Collaborates with traditional therapy practitioners for supplementary services.
- Offers a stand-alone therapy option for those avoiding conventional therapy due to stigma.
- Creates an outdoor, land-based environment for clients to safely express, process, and heal from trauma.

Grant Amount Requested

\$ 18000

Geographic Area Served by this Grant

El Dorado County

What is the need that your project/program that you are requesting funds for supports?

Equine Therapy Programs at Hearts Landing Ranch support mental health services for El Dorado County veterans who need to heal from issues of combat and service, including PTSD, TBI, and other emotional trauma. Engaging veterans in talk therapy is challenging because there continues to be a stigma around talk therapy. Veterans need an alternative option to address their invisible wounds and provide a shift in their thinking and how they look at those invisible wounds. Veterans have a need for "non-traditional" targeted trauma treatment, such as Equine Therapy, that will allow space for them to look at their invisible wounds in a new way, gaining new management tools and healing.

**Please provide information (DATA) demonstrating the need exists for
VETERANS in El Dorado County.**

The National Council of Behavioral Health states that 30% (this number does not include those who silently suffer because they don't know how to reach out) of our military suffer with mental health issues. With over 17,000 veterans in El Dorado County; 5,100 plus are potentially facing issues of PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal thoughts. We call these "invisible wounds" which need ongoing targeted therapy just as much as a physical wound. In addition, the veteran is not suffering alone. Mental health and trauma extend past the veteran to relationships with their spouse, children, families and employers and can ripple into the community with very significant negative consequences.

We continue to have requests to work with EDH vets and have served 13 to date. Some of the comparable intake and exit responses used as measurable results as told by the vets themselves:

Better sleep

Less Anxious

Able to talk with spouse

Actively dealing with grief and loss

More emotional regulated

Made new connections in group that allowed them to not feel so alone

Liked the opportunity to practice different levels of communication, instead of traditional "in office" therapy

Each vet that completed the program saw an increase toward a positive emotional health change.

How will this program/project in this grant request address the need described above?

Funding of \$18,000 would provide Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy(EAP) for 12 men and/or women vets from El Dorado County for our 8 week group session.

The sessions are 60 minutes each and each session builds upon the story/progress of the previous session while introducing increasingly complex encounters and interactions with the EAGALA **military** certified (Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning Association) team as the client works through the identified issues. Providing veterans with EAP options creates a new space for veterans to work through invisible wounds that are impacting their daily life, families, and the community.

Written feedback from veteran participants last year (2024):

"Enjoyed just being" "to participate and be open"

"Enjoyed being in my child-like self. It was validated that it was ok to just be myself and be present was important."

"It was different from anything else I had done before. Not being around horses, I had to learn not to anticipate and just go with the flow."

"If there was one thing I would do differently, it would be doing Equine Therapy earlier to facilitate my healing."

" I learned so much from doing this. Gave myself permission and not be so hard on myself when it comes to healing."

"Able to meet others going through their own trauma. It's been very difficult for me to deal with my past events and to confide in others was amazing."

How is your organization suited to meet this need?

Please describe how organization's mission aligns with the need and the program/project that funding is being requested for.

Hearts Landing Ranch (HLR) has provided Equine Therapy for people suffering from mental health issues for over 10 years. HLR has a team of EAGALA certified (the global standard for Equine Assisted Therapy) treatment providers to facilitate equine trauma therapy. The EAGALA certified model includes a treatment team consisting of a licensed mental health professional, an EAGALA certified military equine specialist and a herd of horses specifically chosen to work with the veteran. Horses, as prey animals, mirror emotions, pick up subtle changes in behavior, feelings, and body language that clients have been able to hide in traditional talk therapy. In 2024, Donna Eckwortzel, Executive Director, was certified as an Advanced Individual Military Designation provider. EAGALA Military Services Providers are specially credentialed with a deep understanding of military culture and life.

The EAGALA team works with clients to identify patterns and unique behaviors that occur in each session. Veterans respond well to engaging in this unique method of "therapy" because they are able to put their invisible wounds "out there (in the arena)" observe them and identify metaphors for challenges they have not been able to articulate in traditional talk therapy. HLR has a well-established team of volunteers that include veterans, retired first responders, and licensed mental health providers. Some have firsthand experience serving in active duty and fully understand the challenges veterans face with invisible wounds. Our team works together to create a custom program with targeted trauma treatment plans suited to the individual client.

What is the grant timeline and major milestones of this project?

Please remember, if your grant is approved, funding must be spent within a year.

It is anticipated this process will take 30-90 days to conduct the outreach and identify veterans who would like to participate. HLR's team will conduct the initial assessment with 12 veterans within 90 days of the award and set a time to begin the (2) eight-week group sessions concluding within a year of the awarded funding.

Major Milestones include:

Outreach to veterans; initial intake assessment

Creation of treatment plan

Conducting group sessions with the EAGALA team

Participation by the veterans in all 8 sessions of the program

Mental Health outcomes identified by the veteran (using a scale format at the intake session and conducted again at the 8th session and compared)

Mental Health outcomes identified by the EAGALA team (using a scale format at the end of the intake session and conducted again at the 8th session and compared)

Reporting of program data and outcomes to EDH grant committee.

What are the measurable objectives of the project/program that you are requesting grant funds for?

The measurable objectives of our program include:

- Reduced stress
- Increased confidence
- Improved relationship-building skills
- Enhanced ability to trust themselves and others
- Better emotion regulation
- Decreased symptoms of depression

Equine therapy provides an environment where veterans can feel open and safe. Horses are non-judgmental and do not reject anyone, allowing individuals to explore their mental health challenges without fear. The healing and hope gained through this therapy positively impact not only the veterans themselves but also their families, employers, and communities. Ultimately, this leads to healthier individuals who engage in better relationships and develop effective coping skills.

How will the objectives be measured?

The objectives will be measured by:

The PCL-5; (The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5) is a 20-item self-report measure of the twenty DSM-5 symptoms of PTSD in adult populations (ages 18+). It is designed for use with people who have experienced traumatic events.)

Beck's Depression Inventory Survey

HLR Entrance and Exit Survey

HLR will utilize these forms to conduct an initial assessment with the veteran to identify the targeted treatment plan for the 8-week sessions. The initial session will identify themes and behaviors and each subsequent session will build upon the prior session. At the end of the eight-week sessions, the veteran will complete a survey regarding feedback on the process. The EAGALA team will provide a written evaluation upon the completion of the program, comparing the intake and outcome information.

What is the number of un-duplicated veterans to be served if this grant is funded? 12

What percentage of your total clientele are veterans? 20

How will you confirm/show proof of a veteran's status? Please be very specific...this data may be asked for in the final report

Each veteran is asked for their status and a provided DD214 as well as confirmed status through the Veterans center/referral partner that may have identified him/her for the EAP program.

What is the anticipated impact of the project?

Mental health recovery, through the experience of Equine Therapy, has shown a range of possible impacts upon individuals. From the results of reduced stress, increased confidence, improved relationship building skills, enhanced ability to trust themselves and others, better emotion regulation and decreased symptoms of depression, participants are able to:

have a better sense of well-being and are physically healthier

have improved social interactions and community involvement

improved productivity in their work and community, therefore contributing to the economy

positive influence towards family, friends and co-workers

reduction of stigma of getting help allowing them to share their stories

ending possible generational mental health issues

How will you measure the impact of this project/program?

The impact of the Equine Assisted program at HLR will continue to be measured through:

Client-reported outcomes (exit survey)

Mental Health Recovery survey

Communication and follow-up after 3 months and 6 months with the referral organization and/or client.

Based on feedback from clients, licensed mental health professionals who participated as part of the client's EAGALA team during sessions, and support facilities such as VSO, HLR continues to reach out for feedback to refine and offer the specialized curriculum that our vets so desperately need.

Is the project/program you are requesting funds for an ongoing program or project? If so, please describe how funding will be found to continue the project upon completion of this grant cycle.

What determines if your program/project continues on in regards to impact?

The program at Hearts Landing Ranch is ongoing and has been established as a program since 2013 (operated as a 501c3 since 2015). Funding continues with donor involvement, 2 annual fundraisers, foundational and other grant support, individuals, and program service fees. HLR has seen increased community support demonstrating the value and need for the option of Equine Therapy, both financially and through volunteer base, because of education and outreach, presence at networking events and collaboration with other local non-profits.

Grant Budget

Grant Program Revenue

Veteran's Grant Amount Requesting	\$ 18000
Other Contributions	\$ 0
Fundraising revenue	\$ 0
Total Revenue	\$ 18000

Grant Program Expenditures

Staff salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 10000
Occupancy and utilities	
Equipment	
Supplies, materials and printing	
Travel and meetings	
Marketing and advertising	
Staff and volunteer training	
Contract services	\$ 6000
Other	\$ 2000
Total Expenditures	\$ 18000

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative

With this funding, we will serve 2 groups of 6 veterans each with 8 therapy sessions taking place in individuals round pens. The expenditures for the 8-week session are for licensed professionals (contract services), certified Equine Specialist and horse care team (staff and trained volunteers), as well a Equine program equipment used in the sessions, concluding with detailed evaluation and assessment time (other).

This funding is strictly for EDH vets. We actively pursue ongoing funding to scholarship individuals who cannot fund the opportunity for their mental health therapy. This funding allows us to supplement other funding if needed to arrive at the best possible number of scholarshipped sessions we can offer.

Submit Grant Application

Signature and Affirmation

**By entering your full name below,
you certify that all information is
true and correct to the best of your
knowledge.**

Terri Olson

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 09 2018**

HEARTS LANDING RANCH
8902 QUAIL LANE
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746

Employer Identification Number:
47-4825801
DLN:
17053270313047
Contact Person:
JULIE CHEN ID# 31261
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
September 29, 2015
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.