

Guidance Notes for Applicants

The Racing Foundation makes grants to organisations whose charitable activities are associated with the **UK horseracing and Thoroughbred breeding industry**, supporting work that fits within the objectives of our 2021-23 strategy and only where outcomes are deemed to be charitable by nature. Our current strategy focuses on 4 key areas: **People (including welfare and training & education); Equine Welfare; Community Engagement; and Environment & Emerging Issues.**

Applications are considered for the following types of projects and activities: **core; continuity; capital development; pilot schemes, research and small grants (less than £20k).** These may include funding for overheads and staff salaries (applications for staffing costs primarily associated with fundraising will only be accepted for a limited grant period and in conjunction with the submission of a fundraising strategy). We also accept applications for **multi-year grants**, usually up to three years but longer periods may be considered in exceptional circumstances. We prefer to support projects that will involve, or lead to, **collaboration** with other industry stakeholders; that are **aligned with industry strategies** (where appropriate); that will help **build understanding** and that have the potential to achieve a **substantial impact**. Applications for loan financing of capital projects will also be considered, subject to investment return, but these should be discussed with the Grants Manager before submission.

The Foundation encourages applications for projects where efforts are being made to secure **match-funding**. We are unable to fund work that does not deliver benefits to the horseracing industry; grants to individuals; retrospective funding support for work that has already taken place and work that is not legally charitable.

An applicant's governance structure and staff development policies may be considered as part of the assessment process. Operational plans and fundraising strategies may be requested.

The Racing Foundation operates a 3-stage application process, three times a year:

Stage 1: **Short online application form** capturing basic information to assess eligibility. This includes uploading a short project proposal and a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts.

Stage 2: If successful at first stage, applicants will be required to **re-register with a new request and complete a more detailed online second stage form**. This will include specific questions to be answered; a detailed budget breakdown of costs and the uploading of supporting documents. Applications for less than £20,000 will be able to submit a revised version of the initial proposal instead of completing all sections of the form. Equine Research applications should be submitted via the Horserace Betting Levy Board, which administers and assesses grants on behalf of the Foundation.

Stage 3: **Racing Foundation Trustees meet to discuss grants**. They will focus, in particular, on the following:

1. Your organisation – regulatory compliance; governance; management; Trustee board; financial viability; satisfactory reserves policy.
2. What you propose to do; why this work is needed and how you have identified this need.
3. How the work will be managed and the relevant experience of those named.
4. Making a difference – what do you aim to achieve? What impact will your project have on the participants of horseracing and how will it complement your current charitable activities?
5. How will you assess whether the project has been a success – what monitoring and evaluation processes are in place?
6. Does the project involve collaboration with other racing charities and/or organisations?
7. Will there be any wider benefits to the racing industry?
8. Have you allocated any of your charity's own restricted funds to the project and have you secured any additional sources of funding?
9. How will the activity be sustained after the Racing Foundation's grant has ended? Do you have a business plan or long-term fundraising strategy for this?
10. How much you are asking for – do the predicted outcomes justify the grant request?

For further information on application deadlines, what we fund and how to apply, please visit our website: www.racingfoundation.co.uk/grants. To discuss a potential application please contact our Grants Manager: tansy.challis@racingfoundation.co.uk