

The Racing Foundation's purpose is to work in partnership with the racing industry to help achieve a sustainable future for the sport. We aim to develop understanding and action around the key charitable issues facing racing in three key areas: racing's people, equine welfare, and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance). We make 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 [2025–27 strategy](#); and only where outcomes are deemed to be charitable by nature.

We do not fund work that does not deliver benefits to the UK horseracing industry; do not provide grants to individuals; do not provide retrospective funding support for work that has already taken place; and do not fund work that is not legally charitable.

Applications are considered for the following: **Project Costs, Research Costs, Capital Projects, Core Costs, Continuity Funding** (*for previously RF-funded projects*), **Organisational Development**, and **Small Grants** (*requests of up to £30,000*).

- 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*).
- Applications may include requests to support work on the development and strengthening of those charities and organisations working to deliver charitable activities across the industry; the development of organisational capacity and capability to better support the industry; and the development of stronger organisational governance.
- We 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 available and appropriate); that will help build understanding; and that have the potential to achieve a substantial impact.
- The Small Grants Programme remains flexible to include projects that may not align with industry strategies as long as they satisfy our other eligibility criteria.

The Foundation encourages applications for projects where efforts are being made to secure **match-funding**. 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.

We are committed to being flexible in our response to emerging issues and, in particular, where one-off unexpected costs are hitting the industry, that need to be met within an unreasonable timeline for self-funding, that may cause hardship, welfare or retention issues for the sports' participants.

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

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest and Assessment of Eligibility: Short online application form capturing basic information. This includes uploading a short project proposal and a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts.

Stage 2 – Second Stage Application Form: If successful at first stage, applicants will be required to complete a more detailed second stage form. This will include specific questions to be answered; a detailed budget breakdown of costs and the supporting documents. Equine Research applications should be submitted via the Horserace Betting Levy Board, which administers and assesses grants on behalf of the Foundation.

Stage 3 – Decision Making: Racing Foundation Trustees meet to discuss grants and 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: stan.wong@racingfoundation.co.uk