



## **Horseman's Assistance Fund Eligibility Requirements and Application Procedures for Emergency Assistance**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The USHJAF Horseman's Assistance Fund ("HAF") was established to provide emergency financial support to individuals who require assistance as a result of illness, injury, and/or are otherwise incapacitated due to a catastrophic accident or natural disaster. Horses which are ill, injured, and/or are otherwise incapacitated due to a catastrophic accident or natural disaster, as well as organizations that assist in the care of horses incapacitated due to catastrophic accident or natural disaster are also potentially eligible for financial support through the Horseman's Assistance Fund.

The funding to support this program is derived from private gifts, USHJA-member Events, and dedicated fund-raising efforts. The majority of the gifts distributed from the fund will be between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Provided they meet all other eligibility requirements, an approved applicant/fund recipient may remain eligible for assistance until such time as he or she qualifies for disability coverage (e.g., Federal SSID or SSI), at which point, the individual is no longer eligible for funding. A HAF beneficiary may receive financial assistance for a maximum consecutive time period of two (2) years (24 consecutive months), after which time he/she is no longer eligible for funding. The USHJA Foundation Board of Directors ("BOD") has established an aggregate maximum gift of \$75,000 to any one recipient. Provided all other eligibility requirements are met, no recipient will be eligible for assistance in excess of \$75,000 until a period of three (3) years has passed from the point the recipient last received funding from the USHJAF Horseman's Assistance Fund. The BOD, at its sole discretion, may except or modify any of these policies upon unanimous approval of the BOD.

The USHJAF may provide funding for the following types of expenses. The BOD reserves the right to provide funding for any additional expenses it deems appropriate. The BOD also reserves the right to rescind funding should an applicant no longer qualify for assistance.

#### **Individuals:**

- Direct medical expenses related to the emergency situation.
- Insurance premiums to assist the individual in maintaining their insurance coverage during the time of emergency need (medical or property).
- Necessary and basic living expenses during the approved time of the emergency need.

#### **Horses:**

- Direct veterinary expenses related to the catastrophic accident or natural disaster.

- Transportation expenses related to the catastrophic accident or natural disaster.
- Boarding, feed or veterinary supplies related to the catastrophic accident or natural disaster.

**Organizations:**

- Emergency care, transportation or boarding needs for horses in an organization's care or in the care of an entity that the organization is seeking to assist.
- Veterinary or medical supplies necessary to provide emergency care to horses or people.
- Grain, hay, shavings or other necessary supplies to provide emergency care to horses.

**FUNDING CRITERIA**

If you feel you qualify for financial assistance based on the criteria outlined below, please complete the application on the second page of this form and return it to the USHJAF accompanied by the required supportive materials detailed below.

**In order to be eligible for assistance, all qualifying applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Applicant must be financially incapacitated through an illness, tragedy, or accident.
- Applicant must have exhausted other means of support.
- Applicant must be a member of the USHJA or member of an Affiliate organization (proof of affiliate organization membership must be submitted). The BOD reserves the right to approve the requests of nonmembers or establish their membership on an individual basis.
- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

**The following materials must accompany the application:**

- A typed letter detailing the emergency situation and the impact it has had on the applicant's current financial situation and/or reason for emergency funding.

- Financial statements substantiating the request for assistance, including a list of assets and federal tax returns for the past two years with all applicable schedules attached.
- A letter from a licensed physician attesting to the disability.
- If for a horse: A letter from a licensed veterinarian attesting to the emergency need.
- Additional medical and/or other verifiable documentation of the emergency situation (e.g., police report in the event of a natural disaster).
- If requesting assistance to offset loss of income, please provide an estimated time line of need for the financial support.
- If requesting assistance to support your monthly living expenses, please supply copies of statements, invoices, or other documentation to substantiate your monthly expenses.
- Provide three letters of reference from USHJA members who can verify your involvement with the hunter/jumper sport and can attest to your need for financial assistance. These letters must be received from the authors and form letters are not acceptable.
- **Optional:** Photo or video of applicant for fundraising purposes. Fundraising promotion may include print, online and video.

**Please send your completed application, accompanied by the required attachments, by mail or email to:**

**USHJA Foundation  
Attn: Horseman's Assistance Fund  
3870 Cigar Lane  
Lexington, KY 40511**

**Email: [foundation@ushja.org](mailto:foundation@ushja.org)**

**If you have any questions, please contact Kate Cattani at [kcattani@ushja.org](mailto:kcattani@ushja.org) or (732) 979-7262.**

***\*\* Applications will not be reviewed for consideration until all requested information is submitted and verified.***