



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

This document presents the compliance status of the vendor identified below on the issue date with respect to certificates required from the Hawaii Department of Taxation (DOTAX), the Internal Revenue Service, the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Vendor Name: THE SPIRIT HORSE RANCH INC.

Issue Date: 01/16/2025

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#:

New Hawaii Tax#: GE-1250903552-01

FEIN/SSN#: XX-XXX9237

UI#: XXXXXX4949

DCCA FILE#: 319636

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

Form	Department(s)	Status
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant
8821	Internal Revenue Service	Compliant
COGS	Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs	Exempt
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant

Status Legend:

Status	Description
Exempt	The entity is exempt from this requirement
Compliant	The entity is compliant with this requirement or the entity is in agreement with agency and actively working towards compliance
Pending	A status determination has not yet been made
Submitted	The entity has applied for the certificate but it is awaiting approval
Not Compliant	The entity is not in compliance with the requirement and should contact the issuing agency for more information

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISSED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided; and
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.
- 4) The use of grant-in-aid funding complies with all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (for example, pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Constitution, the State cannot provide "... public funds ... for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution...").

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

The Spirit Horse Ranch

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



(Signature)

01/13/2025

(Date)

Paige DePonte

Executive Director

(Typed Name)

(Title)

1. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1). Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2024.

Please see attached.

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Spirit Horse Ranch confirms that it complies with all sections and subsections of Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes. See attached Declaration Statement.

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Requests for grants shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature at the start of each regular session of the legislature. Each request shall state:

- (1) The name of the requesting organization or individual;*
- (2) The public purpose for the grant;*
- (3) The services to be supported by the grant;*
- (4) The target group; and*
- (5) The cost of the grant and the budget. [L 1997, c 190, pt of §3; am L 2014, c 96, §6]*

The Spirit Horse Ranch requests grant funding for public health in the form of Trauma-Informed Equine Assisted Services to youth and adults in Maui County, Hawaii in the amount of \$250,889 (26% of the total project budget of \$954,390).

4. Background and Summary

The Spirit Horse Ranch (TSHR) requests \$250,889 to provide Trauma-Informed Equine Assisted Services.

1) *Applicant's background.* TSHR is a 501(c)(3) public charity, founded in 2021, and a leader in the field of equine assisted learning, providing innovative and effective support to people who have experienced trauma. Our team of dedicated professionals includes Certified Equine Trauma Informed Care Specialists, equine specialists, and youth development experts who are committed to helping people heal and grow.

2) *Goals and objectives:* The purpose of this program is to address the mental health crisis among youth and adults in Maui. The goal of the program is to build resilience and promote healing from trauma associated with traumatic events including but not limited to the Maui wildfires, abuse (physical and sexual), sex trafficking, abandonment, and neglect.

Objectives include:

- TSHR will provide at least 1,800 Equine Assisted Services (EAS) program sessions in one year.
- TSHR will serve approximately 1,800 individuals (612 youth, ages 0-18; 1,080 adults, ages 19-64; and 108 seniors, ages 65 and above), 450 unduplicated (153 unduplicated youth ages 0-18; 270 unduplicated adults, ages 19-64; and 27 unduplicated seniors, ages 65 and above).
- 90% of youth participants will demonstrate increased coping skills, increased resilience, increased confidence, and increased compassion.
- 90% of adult participants will demonstrate increased resilience and decreased symptoms of trauma.
- 90% of senior participants will demonstrate increased coping skills, reduced symptoms of trauma, and reduced isolation.
- 90% of mental health practitioners and first responders will demonstrate increased mental well-being and increased ability to serve their communities.

3) *Public purpose and needs:* TSHR's EAS program serves the public purpose of providing public health services to meet the needs of Maui residents with mental health conditions. According to Mental Health America, Hawaii youth have among the highest prevalence of mental health conditions and the lowest rates of access to care among the 50 states. Mental Health America data from 2024 shows that 17.1% of Hawaii youth had at least one major depressive episode in 2024 and 70% of those did not receive any treatment, ranking Hawaii **49th out of the 50 states** and Washington, D.C. 14.4% had serious thoughts of suicide, well above the national average of 13.1%. The annual state medical workforce survey for 2024 found that the number of psychiatrists in Maui County would need to increase 77% to meet the demand for mental health care services for children and adolescents. In addition to challenges generally for Hawaii youth, the Maui wildfires have had a devastating effect on the mental health of both youth and adults. Researchers from the University of Hawaii at Manoa Maui Wildfire Exposure Study found a notable increase in depression compared to before the fires, with more than half showing symptoms, significantly higher than state and local averages. About 30% of participants reported symptoms of moderate or severe anxiety. Elevated levels of low self-esteem (35%) and suicidal thoughts (4.4%) highlight severe mental health challenges for survivors. This report recommends addressing these challenges by strengthening community networks and providing culturally sensitive support to enhance resilience. The demand for trauma recovery services, particularly for youth and wildfire survivors, has surged. It is critical to continue and expand TSHR's evidence-based EAS programs healing and rebuilding resilience for Maui's diverse population

4) *Target Population.* The target population is youth and adults in Maui County who have experienced trauma, including but not limited to traumatic events such as the Maui wildfire, abuse (physical and sexual), sex trafficking, abandonment, and neglect.

5) *Geographic Area Served*: This program will serve the county of Maui, including the islands of Maui, Lana'i, and the portion of Moloka'i in Maui County.

5. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1) Describe the scope of work, tasks, and responsibilities;

TSHR's Trauma Informed EAS program will address the need for mental health services for youth and adults in Maui County by providing evidence-based equine-assisted interventions that foster healing, resilience, and emotional well-being specifically among people who have endured traumatic experiences. By leveraging the profound therapeutic relationship between humans and horses, our core objective is to facilitate the participants' progress in their journey towards recovery and personal development.

Our primary focus is to heal the youth and adults and address the trauma and crisis caused by the events of August 8, 2023. Our island has faced a tremendous upheaval, with many experiencing significant losses that have led to widespread mental health challenges. In response, The Spirit Horse Ranch opened its doors to the entire community and has since provided more than 1,800 sessions to help stabilize and rebuild resilience. While our programs are centered on serving the youth, we are committed to providing support to people of all ages who need support during this difficult time.

Our target population is youth and adults in Maui County who have experienced any form of trauma.

EAS provides a healing environment utilizing equine activities; interactive horse and ranch activities and hands-on horse care, transforming youth into positive emotionally healthy individuals. Horses' natural ability to pick up on human emotional expressions enhances the effectiveness of EAS. Patient, perceptive and attuned to fear, anger, agitation, and despair, horses attune to human moods in a nonjudgmental way. As the horse and person bond, a healthy connection via self-awareness grows, resulting in emotional healing. Our unique curriculum rebuilds healthy neuron pathways for positive resilience moving forward in our client's lives.

EAS is individualized based on clients' needs and goals and includes the following:

Equine Assisted Learning (EAL). Our EAL program is centered on the concept that by building a working relationship with a horse, any participant can develop important skills that can translate to all aspects of their daily lives. Building the relationship is the main focus of our program. This relationship is facilitated by our trained and certified practitioners who assist the participant in recognizing the non-verbal communication that horses use every day. Horses, being herd animals, react strongly to the body language and behavior of those around them. This can lead to self-reflection on the part of the participant, which is important for personal growth.

HeartMath Trauma Informed Care. For over 25 years, HeartMath Institute has been researching the heart-brain connection and learning how the heart influences our perceptions, emotions, intuition, and health. The program helps individuals tap into the power and intelligence of their heart which awakens them to the best version of themselves. Tuning into the heart's wisdom creates a profound shift within that helps children approach situations with more emotional balance, compassion, clarity, and personal confidence.

Natural Lifemanship. Natural Lifemanship is a therapeutic model that was developed by Tim Jobe and Bettina Shultz-Jobe in 2009. This modality is based on the principles of Natural Horsemanship, which is a method of horse training that emphasizes building a trusting and respectful relationship between the horse and the human. The goal of Natural Lifemanship is to help individuals develop secure attachment styles, build healthy relationships, and regulate their emotions. This is achieved by using the horse as a co-therapist and incorporating experiential learning activities. The therapist and client work together to build a relationship with the horse and engage in activities that help the client develop self-awareness, emotional regulation, and social skills.

TSHR provides youth and adults with both individualized sessions and group sessions.

Individualized sessions take place one hour per week for 4 to 12 weeks, depending on the client's needs. One EAL Facilitator leads each session, assisted by a horse handler. The EAL Facilitator begins each session with a five-minute HeartMath session to help the participant create internal alignment within their heart, called a coherence practice to regulate and align the heart, nervous system, and brain, as well as align with the horse. After this time of mindfulness and coherence, the EAL Facilitator leads the participant in one or two of the 22 different EAL activities, depending on the individual participant's needs and how far along they are in the 12 session program. Examples of EAL activities include brushing the horse, walking the horse, leading the horse through an obstacle course, putting a harness or saddle on the horse, etc. When a participant is ready, the EAL Facilitator begins connection work using the Natural Lifemanship model. This model is based on the structure and function of the brain. Horses and humans in trauma both use the lower regions of the brain and focus on survival. The connection work with the horse enables the participant to regulate the lower brain and then engage the upper brain regions, thereby forming new pathways, helping all parts of the brain to integrate with each other for healthy functioning. The EAL Facilitator and horse together help the participant develop self-awareness and self-regulation, as new neural pathways are formed. At the end of each session, the EAL Facilitator debriefs with the participant to determine what they have learned about their feelings and belief system so that they can heal from trauma.

Group sessions include up to 14 people and take place in one 3-hour session per week for either 4, 6, 8, 12 weeks or longer depending on the needs of the group. Depending on the size of the group, one or two EAL Facilitators lead the session, assisted by one or two horse handlers. Group sessions take place in stages so that each person can participate fully. They follow a similar schedule as the individual sessions, including HeartMath, EAL activities, and connection work. They also incorporate activities such as art therapy, writing, and gardening to help

participants begin to think about how they perceive themselves and others. As some participants are working with the horses, others are engaging in additional therapies. These therapies ensure that participants are actively engaged in healing work throughout the 3-hour session.

TSHR has a variety of referral partners including Friends of the Children's Justice Center, Tina Botello, who is spearheading the Leihaina mental health recovery from the wildfires, Maui Youth and Health Family Services, Job Corps of Maui, Hawaii Cares, Red Cross, First Responders, Hale Pono Shelter, elementary and high school counselors, Maui Foster Care and Caregiver Program, Child Welfare Services, Village of Hope, Maui Counseling, and Hawaii Behavioral Health. We also visit schools and take part in community events to raise awareness of our programming.

In 2025, TSHR will begin working on the islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i. In Moloka'i, TSHR has partnered with Ho'aka Mana, a Native Hawaiian organization whose mission is to inspire the community by connecting 'ohana to Native Hawaiian practices that focus on emotional and mental wellbeing. Ho'aka Mana has helped secure a facility with two horses for a new TSHR EAS program. Beginning February 4, 2025, TSHR EAL Facilitators will fly to Moloka'i once or twice a month to provide EAS sessions.

TSHR is actively working to secure a partner on Lana'i to provide services using a similar model.

Additional plans for 2025 include enhancing its services by constructing a covered arena, classroom spaces for art and HeartMath therapy, and a hydroponic gardening enclosure. TSHR staff also plan to integrate more youth-focused activities, including the Youth Mental Health First Aid course in January 2025. Expansion of volunteer roles and professional development for staff will ensure program sustainability

To continue this vital work and ensure stability moving forward, we are seeking the State of Hawaii's assistance. We committed to caring for the citizens of Maui County, providing crucial mental health services that benefit the entire community. We hope you will join with other federal and local funders, standing with us to support these programs, which are essential to the well-being and recovery of our islands. We would be grateful for the State of Hawaii's partnership to ensure the long-term success of these mental health initiatives.

2) Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;
Timeline:

July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025: Provide 450 individual and group sessions to 450 youth and adults, including three sessions in Molokai and three in Lana'i. Attend six community events to introduce the community to our services.

October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025: Provide 450 individual and group sessions to 450 youth and adults, including three sessions in Molokai and three in Lana'i. Attend six community events to introduce the community to our services.

January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026: Provide 450 individual and group sessions to 450 youth and adults, including three sessions in Molokai and three in Lana'i. Attend six community events to introduce the community to our services.

April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026: Provide 450 individual and group sessions to 450 youth and adults, including three sessions in Molokai and three in Lana'i. Attend six community events to introduce the community to our services.

3) Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results.

TSHR will measure the program's impact using both quantitative and qualitative data.

Quantitative data includes the number of people enrolled in the program, the number of sessions offered, the number of people who attend each session, the number of people referred by each agency, and the number of community events attended by TSHR staff. Qualitative data includes measurements from pre/post-tests, surveys, staff observation, and anecdotal data. TSHR monitors each client with clinical notes and the HeartMath scale each week. In addition, participants keep journals to reflect on their feelings and challenges. Through observation, staff note how participants handle stress and setbacks. TSHR maintains a high standard of care by systematically tracking each session through **appointment reports** and **clinical notes**. These records document client progress, therapeutic goals, and session outcomes. By closely monitoring the impact of our services, we ensure that each participant receives personalized support tailored to their unique needs. This approach also allows us to adapt programs based on client feedback and observed progress, enhancing the overall effectiveness of our equine-assisted services.

4) List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

1. TSHR will enroll 500 unduplicated clients in Trauma Informed Equine Assisted Services each year, as measured by data in our internal Acuity database.
2. 425 unduplicated clients will attend at least one EAS session, as measured by data in our internal Acuity database.
3. 138 (90% of 153) unduplicated youth clients will demonstrate increased coping skills, increased resilience, increased confidence, and increased compassion.
4. 243 (90% of 270) unduplicated adult clients will demonstrate increased resilience and decreased symptoms of trauma.
5. 24 (90%) of unduplicated senior clients will demonstrate increased coping skills, decreased symptoms of trauma, and reduced isolation.
6. Partner agencies will refer 350 participants to TSHR.
7. TSHR staff will attend 24 community events to introduce the community to our services.

6. Financial

The Spirit Horse Ranch
State of Hawaii Grant in Aid
Program Request

Budget

1) The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.

a. Budget request by source of funds

See attached.

b. Personnel salaries and wages

See attached.

c. Equipment and motor vehicles

See attached.

d. Capital project details

Not applicable.

e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid

See attached.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

App

The Spirit Horse Ranch

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	177,165	300,000	59,040	54,345
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	24,864	45,000	10,054	2,962
3. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	202,029	345,000	69,094	57,307
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0	2,300	1,300	0
2. Insurance	0	6,722	0	10,558
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0	0	0	0
4. Lease/Rental of Space	0	0	0	0
5. Staff Training	0	11,340	4,606	14,054
6. Supplies	20,880	61,920	0	7,800
7. Telecommunication	0	0	0	2,840
8. Utilities	0	0	0	4,320
9. Horse farrier	4,680	9,516	0	1,404
10. Horse dentist	0	3,840	0	0
11. Horse maintenance	0	0	0	6,000
12. Marketing				6,000
13. Events and fundraising				50,000
14. CPA and Audit		6,688		1,512
15. Bank fees				180
16. Vet buffer		5,805		3,195
17. Gas				4,800
18. Repairs: equipment and stable				5,400
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	25,560	108,131	5,906	118,063
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	9,300	0	0	0
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	14,000	0	0	0
E. CAPITAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	250,889	453,131	75,000	175,370
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	250,889	Paige DePonte 808-280-7070 Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	453,131	Signature of Authorized Official 45,673 Date		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	75,000			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	175,370			
TOTAL BUDGET	954,390	Paige DePonte, Executive Director Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: __The Spirit Horse Ranch_____

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
EAL Facilitator and Executive Director	1	\$129,600.00	30.00%	\$ 38,880.00
EAL Facilitator and Managing Director	1	\$108,000.00	30.00%	\$ 32,400.00
EAL Facilitator	1	\$75,000.00	30.00%	\$ 22,500.00
Horse Handler	1	\$50,400.00	30.00%	\$ 15,120.00
Horse Handler	1	\$50,400.00	30.00%	\$ 15,120.00
Horse Handler	1	\$50,400.00	30.00%	\$ 15,120.00
Gardening Wilderness Supervisor	0.75	\$48,750.00	30.00%	\$ 14,625.00
Assistant to the Director	0.75	\$32,494.00	30.00%	\$ 9,748.20
Farm Hand/Repairs/Grounds	0.75	\$4,505.00	30.00%	\$ 1,351.50
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				164,864.70
<p>JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: The EAL Facilitator and Executive Director (.30 FTE budgeted to this grant) provides direct services through EAS and is responsible for monitoring and carrying out all proposed activities funded under the program. The Managing Director and EAL Facilitator (.30 FTE budgeted to this grant) provides direct services through EAS and assists the Executive Director with monitoring and carrying out the program. The EAL Facilitator (.30 FTE budgeted to this grant) provides direct services through EAS. Three Horse Handlers (.30 FTE each budgeted to this grant) assist with EAS and care for the horses. The Gardening/Wilderness Supervisor provides lessons in the greenhouses and experiences in nature, working 30 hours per week at \$31.25 an hour, (.225 FTE budgeted to this grant). The Assistant to the Director assist with tracking evaluation data and scheduling sessions, working 30 hours per week at \$20.83 per hour (.225 FTE budgeted to this grant). The Farm Hand maintains the equipment and the grounds and assists with needed services, working 30 hours per week at \$29.17 per hour (.225 FTE budgeted to this grant).</p>				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Applicant: The Spirit Horse Ranch

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Filing cabinets	4.00	\$200.00	\$ 800.00	800
Greenhouses	2	\$2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	5000
Computers	6	\$500.00	\$ 3,000.00	3000
Desk and chair set	2	\$250.00	\$ 500.00	500
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	14		\$ 9,300.00	9,300

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: File cabinets will be used to maintain records. Greenhouses will be used for our youth programs to youth to experience the benefits of of gardening and connecting with nature. Computers will assist with evaluation and tracking results of the EAS. Desks and chairs will be used for staff in the office.

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
4 X 4 - 6 seat utility vehicle	1.00	\$14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	14000
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	1		\$ 14,000.00	14,000

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: This vehicle will be used for staff and participants to travel throughout the ranch.

The Spirit Horse Ranch
State of Hawaii Grant in Aid
Program Request

2) *The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2026.*

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$62,723	\$62,722	\$62,722	\$62,722	\$250,889

3) *The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2026.*

Maui Lahaina Rotary

First Horizon Bank

Atherton Family Foundation

Cooke Foundation, Limited

Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation

A&B Capitol Grant

2025-26 FY26 Program Appropriations : Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

4) *The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.*

None.

5) *The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2026 for program funding.*

Maui County Department of Human Concerns, awarded \$75,000 for each of FY2025 and FY2026

United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families Congressionally Directed Community Projects in FY 2025. Awarded \$541,000, \$453,131.11 will be received in FY 2026.

6) *The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2024.*

\$7,800

7. Experience and Capability

1) Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

TSHR has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to this request.

TSHR is a Core and Foundational Level 1 Facility of **The Natural Lifemanship Institute**. As a Level 1 Facility, TSHR uses a trauma-informed approach that integrates certain effective principles of behavior modification to build the relationship in ways that heal the person and transform the effects of trauma. Behaviors will change as a by-product of an improved relationship with self and others.

In 2024, TSHR offered 1,800+ equine-assisted services providing safe and supportive environments to process trauma, with a special focus on children and families affected by the August 2023 wildfires. Art and equine-assisted therapy helped clients develop emotional regulation, communication, and coping skills. Programs for children and teens built confidence, self-esteem, and social connections through art, gardening, and mindfulness activities. Community support and partnerships, such as collaborations with Maui United Way, Hawaii Cares, and Red Cross, have enhanced service delivery and expanded outreach, including free transportation for clients. Workshops for first responders and mental health professionals supported resilience and reduced burnout, ensuring they could continue serving their communities effectively.

In the last three years, TSHR has successfully managed grants from the state of Hawaii, private foundations, and corporations, including a congressional directed spending award in the amount of \$1,150,000 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families Congressionally Directed Community Projects in FY 2025.

2) Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities. The Spirit Horse is located in verdant, pristine, sacred, undeveloped country on the southwest side of Haleakalā, with a combined 132 acres of lush land.

The program is housed on Triple L Ranch, one of the few remaining Paniolo working cattle ranches on Maui, established in 1947 and operated by the DePonte family.

Additionally, the program serves as a sanctuary for retired Triple L Ranch Horses to love and be loved! Through the gentle wisdom of our horses, we offer a path to recovery that honors participants' pain and nurtures their strength.

Sadly, ranch horses are often discarded after they have aged out. At TSHR, we offer them a second chance to fulfill their lives with purpose. Our horses give the love and healing our clients need and they deserve the best possible care to provide an amazing experience for our Maui community. TSHR currently has 14 horses for the EAS program.

The ranch has three work areas for EAS, called round pens, and a new temporary area for debriefing after sessions, art classes, and storing supplies. The ranch has six acres for the horses, which are grouped in pastures near the EAL work areas for easy access.

Our pristine location allows our participants to feel Maui's energy, one which is nurturing and motherly, giving it the name "Mother Maui." Just up the road from The Spirit Horse Ranch, Haleakalā not only provides spectacular views, it radiates a special kind of energy through highly magnetic iron oxide rocks and a frequency which matches the human heart. In this environment, we find ourselves connecting on a deeper level, allowing us to move more freely and feel more deeply.

8. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1) Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

TSHR currently employs three EAL facilitators who provide Equine Assisted Services: Paige DePonte, Marissa DePonte, and Lee Paradis.

Paige DePonte, TSHR Executive Director and Founder is an EAL Certified Facilitator, Natural Lifemanship TIC-EP, HeartMath Certified Mentor, Brainspotting Trained, HeartMath Trauma Sensitive Trained, Certified Belief Clearing Practitioner, and Certified in Mental Health First Aid. Paige has been close to horses for over 40 years. She founded the Triple L Ranch Horseback Tours in 2011. In 2024, Paige was nominated for nonprofit Executive Director of the year.

Maurissa DePonte, TSHR Managing Director, is an EAL Certified Facilitator, Natural Lifemanship TIC-EP, Brainspotting Trained, and Certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Lee Paradis, EAL Facilitator, founded and managed non-profit Horses Healing Humans, Inc. in CT as Executive Director, Instructor, Grant Writer, and On-site manager until 2017. She then founded Malama Pono Equine-Assisted Learning in Lahaina, which closed after Covid and the Lahaina fires. Lee has earned Professional Certifications as a Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy/ Learning Facilitator, Equine Sports Massage Therapist, and Trauma-informed Equine Services for Veterans.

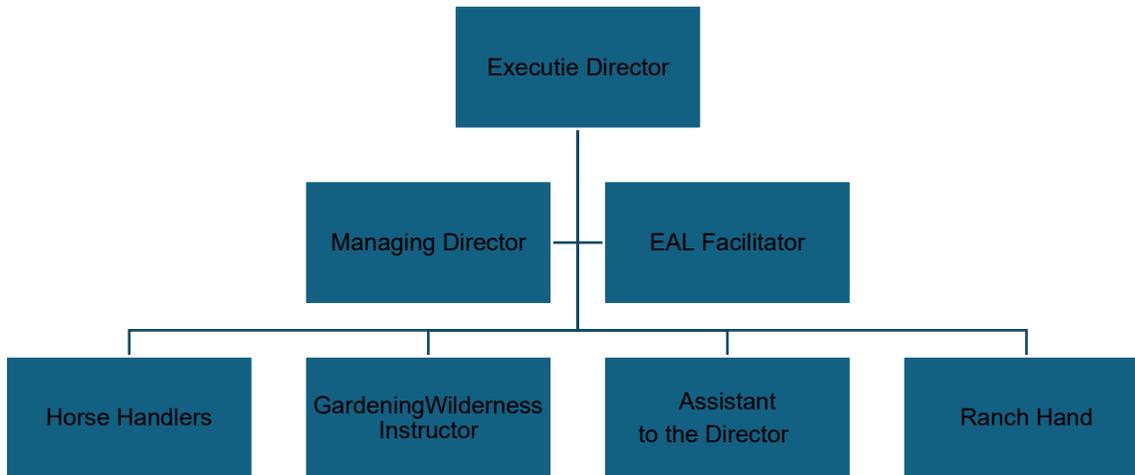
Staff providing services at TSHR are certified by a variety of nationally recognized training facilities. They are certified in EAL through the **EAL Academy**. The EAL Academy trainers have worked together providing EAL certification since 2007. Their training programs are considered to be the best EAL certification training available. They provide hands-on experience and clear, repeatable processes to use in facilitating great client experiences with lasting results and impact.

HeartMath Trauma Informed Care. Our HeartMath facilitators have completed their Resilient Heart Trauma Sensitive Course. We use HeartMath's program and tools, such as Heart-Focused Breathing Technique, Quick Coherence technique, Heart Lock-In technique, Freeze Frame technique, HeartSoak technique, Shift and Life techniques.

TSHR also employs three horse handlers who are responsible for the daily care and management of our horses. This role requires a deep understanding of horse behavior, excellent handling skills, and a commitment to maintaining high standards of horse welfare. Handlers work in collaboration with Certified Facilitators as a team in sessions.

2) Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.



3) Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

EAL Facilitator and Executive Director, \$129,600

EAL Facilitator and Managing Director, \$108,000

EAL Facilitator, \$75,000

9. Other

1. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

TSHR is not party to any pending litigation as of the time of this application.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that the applicant possesses relevant to this request.

TSHR is a Core and Foundational Level 1 Facility of the Natural Lifemanship Institute. The Natural Lifemanship Institute is a National Board for Certified Counselors Approved Provider. All EAL providers are EAL Academy Certified Equine Assisted Learning Facilitators.

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution for the relevance of this question.

This grant will not be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2026 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

(a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2026, but

(b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

TSHR is committed to developing diverse funding streams by building relationships with other foundations, cultivating support from corporate sponsors and individual donors, and increasing revenues from special events. Until 2024, TSHR operated with a fiscal sponsor, Players Philanthropy Fund, to establish our reputation and build confidence in our organization. After receiving funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Congressionally Directed Community Projects, as well as local foundations, TSHR received 501(c)(3) status and now operates as an independent non-profit organization. We have been awarded funding from the Maui County Department of Human Concerns, as well as the Maui United Way, the Maui Strong Fund and the Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation, both of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Our strong partnerships throughout Hawai'i have established us as a valuable provider of services. We have retained a grants consulting firm, Purpose Possible, to assist with identifying and applying for additional grants to fund this program and strengthen our financial position.