

--- Today's Date ---

03/31/2025

--- Name of 501(c)(3) Organization ---

Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga, Inc.

--- Federal Tax-Exempt ID# ---

82-5164821

--- Year Established ---

2018

--- Amount Requested ---

15,000

--- Name of Executive Director ---

Dr. Erin Christopher-Sisk

--- Mailing Address ---

683 RT 29
Saratoga Springs, NY
12866
US

--- Email address ---

dr.sisk@thsaratoga.org

--- Work Phone # ---

+15182906240

--- Organization's website ---

<https://www.thsaratoga.org>

--- Copy and paste the link to your organization's most recent filed IRS Financial Statements (#990): ---

https://ecsp psychological.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/MegSupervision/EaWG3IPrqFxBkTokD-Bxp_UB-b813eBJAL6SYB3AD9WQ9w?e=m2xxyu

--- Upload all supporting documents required for your application and your organization's most recent filed IRS Financial Statements (#990): ---

<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/TERF-Grant-Budget-Final-dd6357760d5e8ee187b80a3756f8dc18.xlsx>
<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/TERF-additional-items-e43a486ec23a403640894f48516e701c.pdf>

--- Farm/Facility Name ---

Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga, Inc.

--- Farm/Facility Physical Location (City, State, Zip) ---

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

--- Farm/Facility Mailing Address ---

683 RT 29
Saratoga Springs, NY
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US

--- Contact Name and Title ---

Erin Christopher-Sisk, Executive Director

--- Contact Work Phone ---

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--- Contact Email ---

dr.sisk@thsaratoga.org

--- 1. Brief mission statement and describe the distinguishing features of your organization that supports the mission of TERF and the relevance to this proposal. ---

Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Saratoga Springs, NY dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming space for mental wellness through the powerful connection between humans and horses. Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga (THS) was founded in 2018 with the goal of addressing two specific needs in our local community: (1) The need for safe, long-term care for retired racehorses who are permanently disabled and no longer able to be ridden and (2) The need for increased access to mental health and wellness care for children and adults in the Upstate NY Region. Since 2018, THS has helped hundreds of individuals from at-risk populations heal from trauma, build resilience, and develop emotional well-being. Our herd of horses is a unique collection of retired

racehorses, both Standardbred and Thoroughbred, who are no longer able to be ridden. These horses are given a permanent home at Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga in addition to a “retirement job” as a healer and educator to many members of our community.

A core component of our mission is to share our retired racehorses with as many members of our community as possible. In alignment with the TERF mission, we do this not only through mental health programs but through equine educational programs that teach the community about racehorse aftercare, the proper care of horses, and opportunities within the racing industry. We host school field trips to help local youth learn about horses and farming. Additionally, groups of students with Autism from local colleges use experiences at the THS farm to improve social and work readiness skills and explore career options within the thoroughbred and standardbred horse racing industries. Lastly, we partner with other educational focused organizations to offer programs regarding equine related training and proper care.

--- 2. Briefly outline 3-5 goals for the requested funds and how these goals support your mission. ---

The following list captures the primary goals of the Harnessing Hope program which supports our mission of creating connection between retired racehorses and individuals in our community in order to increase emotional and overall wellness through equine assisted therapy and educational programs.

- To educate low-income youth about thoroughbred racing and the aftercare of retired racehorses. Through workshops and presentations, participants will learn about the journey of thoroughbred racehorses after their racing careers, emphasizing the importance of adoption, rehabilitation, and retraining for second or third careers.
- To promote emotional well-being, resilience, and empathy through equine-assisted therapy demonstration sessions. Through guided activities with the horses, participants will learn about the benefits of equine-assisted therapy firsthand while also developing their own decision-making skills, ability to cope with stress and ability to connect emotionally to others.
- To inspire interest and potential career paths in equine-related fields among participants. The program introduces participants to various career opportunities within the racing and aftercare industries such as trainers, farriers, veterinarians, equine-assisted psychotherapy and administrative roles. Professionals from within the industry conduct interactive sessions to provide insights into their respective fields.
- To foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards equine welfare. Participants will engage in supervised activities at the farm, including grooming, feeding, and basic horse care, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy towards horses.

--- 3. Provide a detailed description of the proposed project, how it is related to the mission of TERF and how it will impact the health and welfare of the horse. (Note: research applications should be understandable to a non-scientific audience and include sufficient detail and rigor for the scientific reviewers.) ---

“Harnessing Hope” is a transformative program presented by Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga (THS). Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga is a 501c3 non-profit, whose mission is “Helping Horses and Healing Humans”. In 2024, this program positively impacted the lives of over 30 inner city youth, many from low-income families and having no prior exposure to the thoroughbred racing industry or aftercare.

The program (Harnessing Hope) is aimed at enriching the lives of low-income youth by providing them with unique opportunities to engage with horses while learning about thoroughbred racing aftercare and career possibilities within the thoroughbred racing industry. Through hands-on experiences, equine-assisted psychotherapy and educational sessions, participants will develop a deeper understanding of equine care, second or third career options for retired racehorses, and potential career pathways for themselves within the racing industry. This innovative program not only offers a novel learning experience but also promotes emotional well-being, physical activity, and career exploration among participants. Additionally, it promotes awareness of the needs of horses throughout their lifetime, with a specific focus on aftercare. This program promotes compassion and support toward retired racehorses in our youth so that they may continue awareness and support for these values into their adult life.

This program aligns with the TERF mission of supporting thoroughbred health and welfare by creating a new generation of youth who are educated regarding the needs of thoroughbred horses throughout their lifetime, the positive impact thoroughbred racehorses have on society, and the opportunities available to become caring participants in the thoroughbred industry through career opportunities.

This grant proposal seeks continued funding to support the expansion of the “Harnessing Hope” program at Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga so that the program can reach more youth in our community.

Overview: The program consists of a series of 90-minute, interactive sessions involving hands-on activities, educational workshops, and equine-assisted therapy demonstration sessions. The sessions are held in groups of 8-10 people at the Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga’s farm location. Participants will engage in learning about the history and culture of thoroughbred racing, the care and training of racehorses, and the importance of aftercare for retired racehorses. The ideal start date of the program is June 2025.

Program Activities:

- Educational Workshops: Workshops will be conducted by experts in Thoroughbred aftercare, highlighting the importance of post-racing care and showcasing success stories of retired racehorses in their new careers. Interactive sessions at the farm will also cover topics such as horse anatomy, behavior, training, nutrition and the history of thoroughbred racing.
- Equine-Assisted Therapy Sessions: Licensed therapists will facilitate sessions where participants interact with retired thoroughbred racehorses at Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga, learning valuable life skills such as communication, trust-building, and emotional regulation.
- Hands-On Activities: Participants will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities such as grooming, feeding, and basic horse care under the guidance of trained professionals.
- Skill-Building Activities: Hands-on activities such as mucking stalls, basic first aid for horses, and grooming techniques will be integrated into the program to provide participants with practical experience and skill development opportunities.

Target Population: The program primarily targets low-income and/or inner city youth aged 12-18 years old, residing in the Greater Capital District, who may not otherwise have access to such educational and therapeutic opportunities.

--- 4. Provide a timeline detailing the expected progress of the project and specific milestones. ---

We currently have a wait list of youth wanting to participate in the Harnessing Hope program including inner city school districts and a residential school for at-risk youth. This program is equipped to begin as soon as funding is secured with an ideal start in June of 2025. It is anticipated that some educational institutions may opt to attend multiple educational sessions in one day and others may request that the educational sessions be spread out over a period of weeks. The program is flexible in this manner and able to accommodate the timeline and needs of the school.

--- 5. Provide a detailed budget for the projected use of the funds. (Note: no funds will be provided for administrative overhead or capital spending; TERF reserves the right to modify funding based on Foundation requirements). Attach budget to submitted proposal as needed. ---

Please see attached budget spreadsheet.

--- 6. Provide a list of all other sources of funding and the amount(s) received. ---

No other sources of funding are available for this project at this time. We continue to seek additional funding sources to allow us to further expand our reach to additional groups of youth in various areas of the capital region.

--- 7. Briefly summarize your charity's past public education and research efforts. ---

Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga has been working with a variety of organizations to educate the public regarding retired racehorse welfare and the benefits of retired racehorses for the wellbeing of our community. We do this through educational events with the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame such as, "Celebrating Sanctuary." We also offer free open house events in which the general public is able to meet retired racehorses, learn about their daily needs and career opportunities within the industry. Other events hosted at our farm are in partnership with organizations such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, providing space to teach local individuals involved in the equine industry about products, equine care techniques and skill development opportunities.

--- 8. If you received funding from TERF previously, describe how these funds were used and outcomes achieved. Include any relevant publicity your charity received relating to the funding. (i.e.: media coverage, such as news articles, scientific publications, provide links to copies, as appropriate). ---

Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga has not previously received funding from TERF.

--- 9. List other organizations or major contributors that have provided funding to your organization in the last calendar/fiscal year. For research grant applications, provide a list of all current funding relating to your current proposal. ---

New York State-DASNY
ECS Psychological Services
New York Racing Association (NYRA)
Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance
The Murrell Foundation
Fidelity Charitable
Live Nation
American Endowment Foundation

Druthers Brewing Company
Agriculture and NYS Horse Breeding
Business For Good
Ayco Charitable Foundation
Western Sun Foundation

--- 10. Name a responsible person with whom TERF may communicate regarding specific questions and who will be responsible for follow-up information regarding the project. ---

Erin Christopher-Sisk

--- 11. Provide appropriate references to support the proposed research. ---

N/A -this is not a research project proposal.

--- 12. How many Executive Staff and Board of Directors does your organization have? ---

15

--- Director Name (1) ---

Erin Christopher-Sisk, Executive Director

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Ballston Spa, NY
12020
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--- Director Work Phone (1) ---

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Dana Panetta, Assistant Director

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Carrie Harris, Assistant Director

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--- Director Name (4) ---

Kimberly Weir, Director of Strategic Growth

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--- Director Name (5) ---

Gregory Piper, Board Chairman

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--- Director Name (6) ---

James Sisk, Board Vice President

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--- Director Home Phone (6) ---

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--- Director Name (7) ---

Renee Hebert, Board Treasurer

--- Director Address (7) ---

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--- Director Work Phone (7) ---

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--- Director Name (8) ---

Danielle Wiltsie, Board Secretary

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--- Director Name (9) ---

Andy O'Reilly, Board Member

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--- Director Name (10) ---

Robin Malatino, Board Member

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--- Director Name (11) ---

Ramon Dominguez, Board Member

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--- Director Work Phone (11) ---

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--- Director Name (12) ---

Sharon Dominguez, Board Member

--- Director Address (12) ---

Energy Partner Consultants 52 Mill Rd
Latham, NY
12110
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--- 1. Name - Job Title ---

Erin Christopher-Sisk, Executive Director

--- 1. Salary ---

volunteer

--- 1. Duties ---

Fiscal and operational oversight and grant writing.

--- 2. Name - Job Title ---

Dana Panetta, Assistant Director

--- 2. Salary ---

volunteer

--- 2. Duties ---

Oversight of organizational performance, development and growth with a specific focus on developing Veteran outreach and programming.

--- 3. Name - Job Title ---

Carrie Harris, Assistant Director

--- 3. Salary ---

volunteer

--- 3. Duties ---

Oversight of organizational performance, development and growth with a specific focus on developing community connections, educational programming and equine-assisted psychotherapy programming.

--- 4. Name - Job Title ---

Kimberly Weir, Director of Strategic Growth

--- 4. Salary ---

90,000

--- 4. Duties ---

Development and implementation of organizational policies, procedures and plans for evolving the organization to achieve our mission.

--- 5. Name - Job Title ---

Rachel Hodgson, Equine Care Manager

--- 5. Salary ---

55,000

--- 5. Duties ---

Daily care of the retired racehorses living at our facility.

--- 14. Add additional Information and Notes: ---

Additional Board Members: Keith Augustine Lazy Dog Cookies Co. 30 Storage Ln. Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 and David Swank, Retired CFO, 21 Kozy Lane, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Phone: (408) 393-1132

Additional staff members: Megan Koloskie, Manager of Communications and Development, salary: \$73,000, Duties: fundraising, event planning and implementation. Planning and oversight of all external communications for the organization.