

--- Today's Date ---

04/01/2026

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

THOROUGHRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

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

13-3132741

--- Year Established ---

1983

--- Amount Requested ---

\$17,680.89

--- Name of Executive Director ---

MAGGIE SWEET

--- Mailing Address ---

PO BOX 834
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY
12866
US

--- Email address ---

maggie@trfinc.org

--- Work Phone # ---

+15182260028

--- Organization's website ---

<https://WWW.TRFINC.ORG>

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

<https://trfinc.org/financial-statements/>

--- Farm/Facility Name ---

SEE ABOVE

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

We provide dignified lifetime care for retired Thoroughbred racehorses while creating pathways for healing and growth through the transformative power of the human-horse connection.

Founded in 1983, the TRF is the oldest and largest organization in the United States dedicated to providing dignified lifetime care for retired Thoroughbred racehorses. Over time, our mission has grown to recognize a deeper truth, that these horses, many of whom have known disruption, transition, and recovery, are powerful partners in helping people rebuild their own lives. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Second Chances Program.

TRF Second Chances operates in partnership with six correctional institutions across the country. Hands-on training and education coupled with daily responsibility for retired Thoroughbreds enable participants to receive vocational instruction in horsemanship, animal care, and farm management, while also engaging in the less visible but equally vital work of emotional growth and self-regulation. For many participants, the experience extends well beyond the farm and creates a foundation for long-term stability and future employment in the thoroughbred racing industry. These tools support workforce readiness and open pathways to meaningful employment upon release. At the same time, the care of a living, sensitive animal reinforces the need for consistency and accountability. These experiences help graduates practice responding to challenges with intention and calm, supporting their ability to establish new routines and build a more stable life for themselves and their families.

We believe the potential for impact extends beyond the individual. When graduates leave the program with practical job skills, industry-recognized certifications, and strengthened emotional regulation, they are better positioned to contribute positively to their families, communities, and the thoroughbred racing industry.

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

All three of these goals support our missions by enhancing care for the horses in our herd and creating the pathways to employment and successful re-integration in society for incarcerated individuals.

Enhancing Horsemanship Skills through Livestock Scales: We propose investing in livestock scales for each of the TRF Second Chances farms to improve the accuracy of weight tracking for our aging Thoroughbred herd. Currently, weight measurements are taken using a weight tape or a formula, both of which can yield inconsistent results and margins of error depending on the horses build and who is taking the measurements. Livestock scales provide a more accurate and reliable method of weight monitoring.

Enhancing Farrier Skills at Lowell Correctional Facility (Ocala, FL): We would like to invest in instructors and supplies to enhance and formalize the farrier teaching class that has become part of the TRF Second Chances program at Lowell Correctional Facility. This class is educating students about the skill of blacksmithing, producing future members of the Ocala workforce, and ensuring proper care of the thoroughbred hoof and therefore the overall horse.

Limited Credit Time Allowances (LCTA) Teaching Supplies: Provide the upgraded tools necessary to enhance our Second Chances program at Walkkill Correctional Facility per the recently adopted New York State legislation designed to reduce prison sentences and increase post-release workplace eligibility.

--- 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.) ---

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Providing scales will not only enhance the quality of care for our horses but also create hands-on learning opportunities for participants. They will be able to learn the importance of weight monitoring and how to identify early signs of health issues, ranging from nutritional deficiencies to potential environmental concerns, and take the necessary actions to address these issues. This will enhance both the educational experience for participants and the overall care of the horses.

Enhancing Farrier Skills at Lowell Correctional Facility (Ocala, FL):

To many the “sole” purpose of a farrier is the health of the horse’s foot, but at Lowell Correctional Facility blacksmith Cole Connell is using the horses' hoof care to shape lives. A farrier stepping into a prison to teach incarcerated women the craft of blacksmithing represents more than just a transfer of technical skill- it’s a powerful act of empowerment. The work fosters confidence and pride, showing them they are capable of helping the horse in a meaningful way. At the same time, the mentorship and structure offered by the farrier can help rebuild trust and a sense of purpose, qualities that are essential for reintegration into society. Through this unique blend of craftsmanship and personal growth, the experience becomes a pathway toward resilience, offering these women not just a skill, but a renewed belief in their ability to contribute positively to the world around them.

Blacksmithing requires strength, coordination, and precision; the women learn how to properly handle tools like hammers, nippers and rasps while carefully working under a 1000 pound horse. These women also build endurance as they work in a physically difficult environment, learning how to maintain focus and control even when the work becomes tiring. Fine motor skills come into play as they shape smaller details, adjust angles, and refine their trimming, while larger movements help them develop balance and full-body coordination. Over time, their bodies adapt to the work, and what once felt unfamiliar becomes second nature, reinforcing not only their physical capability but also their confidence in mastering a skilled trade.

We would like to integrate this as an official educational program at Lowell Correctional Facility. To do this, we would offer our farrier a monthly stipend to continue teaching at least one day per week while reducing his workload with other clients. In addition, we will need multiple sets of blacksmithing tools and protective farrier chaps that properly fit females, who tend to have a slimmer build than the average male blacksmith. When reaching for tools in a side pocket, or seeking protection from a horse pulling his foot away, the chaps are key and must fit properly. Lastly, per prison regulations, the rasps, nippers, and hoof knives are a higher level “tool” and must be documented and managed by prison security. For safety we are additionally asking for a tack box (with T.E.R.F’s name on the front!) to house these learning items in one locked location.

Many of the women who graduate from the TRF's Second Chances program are currently employed within the Ocala racing community. "No hoof, no horse" is literally the foundation of the health and welfare of thoroughbreds. This enhanced farrier education program would pay dividends to the thousands of horses in Ocala by producing a skilled and dedicated workforce.

Limited Credit Time Allowances (LCTA) Teaching Supplies:

In 2025, New York State passed a law that may not be monumental for the public, but is earth shattering for the TRF Second Chances Program at Wallkill Correctional Facility. Within the NYS Department of Corrections, programs with LCTA status allow inmates who complete them to earn "good time" and bring this to their parole board to ask for reduced sentences. Prior to 2025, the equine program did not have this status, and it can only be given through NYS legislation. This means that there is a massive change in incentive for students to be assigned to our program, and the number of inmates enrolled is increasing. This also means more rigid testing (the Groom Elite Program was written into the legislation). Requirements include passing the 099 and 101 levels as well as over 1 year in the program. Not only is the testing stricter, but there are more men to be tested. We run into testing challenges where many of the items needed for each chapter are locked away as they are "tools" and creating those testing areas needs ingenuity. With these added guidelines, we seek a grant to assist with essential horse care items and testing items that were not previously needed. For the different testing levels to align with designated areas at the farm such as a wash stall, we would like to create a T.E.R.F. trunk with updated items for the men to practice with and have consolidated for the Groom Elite 099 and 101 levels. The largest thing is a designated tack trunk that they must set up as if they were working in a barn, stocked with horse care items to use on the horse during evaluation.

As part of their evaluation in Groom Elite, they must also clean a stall bedded in shavings, and one in straw. Straw is not something the TRF normally buys and can be expensive if they men are just practicing cleaning a stall with straw, or testing. We are seeking a grant to purchase 8 bales of straw and a straw pitchfork to cover the practice and testing for the next year.

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

Scales: 3-6 months (3 months: correctional facility paperwork completed at all facilities & scales ordered; 4-6 months: delivery, set up, and use of the scales begins)

Farrier supplies: 1-2 months (1 month: supplies ordered and delivered, blacksmith clears his calendar; 2 months: classes underway!)

LCTA supplies: 1-2 months (1 month: supplies ordered and delivered; 2 months: classes underway!)

--- 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. ---

See attached.

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

The TRF has made a concerted effort over the past two years to enhance the funds allocated to basic horse care, so has not included any of the above referenced projects in our 2026 operating budget. We will source other grants should the TERF funding not be approved. Currently, we have not received any grant money or donations specifically restricted to these three projects.

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

2025 public education events in addition to regular written and digital communication with our supporters:

1. TAA Day at Gulfstream Park
2. Public open barn at Central MD Correctional Facility Second Chances Program
3. Adirondack Trust bank signage display
4. Three-day open house breakfast event at the Belmont Stakes Festival
5. Tack sale/open house at Chestnut Hall Sanctuary Farm in Prospect, KY
6. Gumbo with Kendrick annual fundraiser in Saratoga Springs
7. NYRA Community Day booth in Saratoga Springs
8. NY Aftercare Day in Saratoga Springs
9. Quick Call Stakes Day in Saratoga Springs
10. Oldham County Day open house in Prospect, KY
11. NY Thoroughbred Breeding & Development Fund Salute to Aftercare in Saratoga Springs
12. Saratoga Harness Track Charity Match Race Event as designated recipient
13. LALO for Jocks and Horses Cocktail Party in Saratoga Springs
14. Stallions for Second Chances Halter Auction in Saratoga Springs
15. BBQ at the Barn Fundraiser in Saratoga Springs
16. National Association of Equine Practitioners conference in Saratoga Springs
17. Aftercare Day at Churchill Downs
18. Haunted Hike in Prospect, KY
19. Glass Blowing event at KY Horse Park in Lexington, KY
20. Fall open barn at Central MD Correctional Facility Second Chances Program
21. Equine Affaire participant in Springfield, MA
22. Fall Tack Sale/Community Day at Chestnut Hall Sanctuary Farm in Prospect, KY

23. Holiday Hayride with the Horses at Chestnut Hall Sanctuary Farm in Prospect, KY

--- 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). ---

For 2025 only (submitted already)

Here is a 2025 grant progress report:

We are so grateful for the TERF grant received last year enabling us to update our curriculum within the TRF Second Chances Programs. We were forced to delay the implementation of Pony Club of America for a few months because of staffing changes at our Lowell Correctional Facility location (Ocala), imminent staffing changes at Blackburn Correctional Facility (Lexington), a NY State law change, and infrastructure improvements taking precedence over classroom time at Wateree Correctional (South Carolina). It's been a very frustrating run since we received your generous grant! Our implementation timeline for 2026 is listed below:

- Late spring: send the farm managers of our Ocala and Maryland facilities to Lexington for Training Cohort 1.
 - o 25 people, 58 horses to be used in implementation post-training
- Fall: send the soon-to-be-hired farm manager of our Lexington facility and the farm manager of our South Carolina facility for Training Cohort 2.
 - o 12 people, 80 horses to be used in implementation post-training

Those two cohorts will exhaust the \$5,000 grant from 2025. We will have to revisit the certification of our Wallkill Correctional Facility (New York) farm manager because of some recent changes in NYS law.

--- 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. ---

See attached

--- 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. ---

Maggie Sweet

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

N/A

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

14

--- Director Name (1) ---

see attached

--- 1. Name - Job Title ---

see attached