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IA-0000000376

Individual Application

Application ID	IA-0000000376	Account	
Application Status	Submitted	Contact	Paige Deponte

ACT 310 - Application for Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Org/Individual	The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc	DBA	
Type of Business Entity	501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation	Existing Service(Presently in Operation)	Yes
Mailing Address	PO BOX 208 Kula, Hawaii 96790 United States	Amount of State Funds Requested	\$500,000.00
Island	Maui		

Program Overview

Program 1 Overview	Grant from Congressional Directed Spending from the office of Senator Schatz. This award was set to renew this year, but was declined due to steep reductions in funding.
Program 2 Overview	
Program 3 Overview	
Department Notes	

Agency Eligibility

Recipient of Terminated Federal Funding	Yes	Able to Provide Documentation Evidence	Yes
Serves Negatively Impacted Populations	Yes	Narrative	Request for Advance Payment – Demonstrated Need and Rationale Spirit Horse Ranch respectfully requests consideration for an advance payment due to demonstrated financial need and the urgent necessity of sustaining trauma-informed equine-assisted services for wildfire survivors, youth, and families across Maui and Moloka'i. The loss of this year's congressional funding has placed our organization in a very difficult financial position, particularly after expanding operations to meet the growing mental health and trauma-recovery needs of the Maui and Molokai community. Despite strong support from Senator Brian Schatz and Governor Josh Green, Spirit Horse Ranch was not awarded was not awarded Federal funds sadly see attached, and our FORE and DOJ OVC grants are now in limbo due to the

shutdown, the shutdown is now compounding the impact of reduced federal, state, and county support across the sector.

As a proven and trusted provider having delivered more than 3,500 trauma-informed sessions since 2023 alone we have continued to serve Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations through crisis recovery, often at no cost to participants. Advance payment would enable us to maintain our critical programs, stabilize staffing, and cover immediate operational expenses necessary to keep services accessible and consistent for those still recovering from loss and displacement.

Without this bridge support, Hawai'i risks losing one of its only equine-assisted trauma-informed care providers—a culturally grounded, evidence-based program that has become an anchor of healing and resilience for the Maui and Moloka'i communities.

Date Funding Stopped 7/31/2025

Amount of Other Funds Available

State Fund Total Amount		County Fund Total Amount	\$75,000.00
Federal Fund Total Amount	\$541,000.00	Private/Other Fund Total Amount	\$48,000.00
Total Amount of State Grants		Unrestricted Assets	\$84,000.00

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Applicant Name	Paige Deponte	Applicant Title	Director
Applicant Phone	(808) 280-7070	Applicant Email	paigedeponte@thespirithorseranch.org

State of Hawaii Eligibility

Organization is Licensed or Accredited	Yes	Nonprofit is a 501c3	Yes
Complies with Anti-Discrimination Laws	Yes	Nonprofit has Governing Board	Yes
Will not Use State Funds for Lobbying	Yes	Is Incorporated Under Laws of State	Yes
Will Allow Access to Audit Records	Yes	Has Bylaws and Policies	Yes

Account Information

Organization Name	The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc	Organization DBA	
EIN	██████████	Street	15-900 Piilani Highway
Account Email	paigedeponte@thespirithorseranch.org	City	Kula
Account Phone	(808) 280-7070	State	HI
Website	https://thespirithorseranch.org/	Zip	96790

Mission Statement Our mission is to provide transformative equine-assisted therapy that fosters trauma recovery, suicide prevention, and resilience building for individuals and communities.

Point of Contact

Point of Contact First Name	Paige	Point of Contact Last Name	Deponte
Point of Contact Title	Director	Point of Contact Email	paigedeponte@thespirithorseranch.org
Point of Contact Phone	(808) 280-7070		

Leadership

Leadership First Name	Paige	Leadership Last Name	Deponte
Leadership Title	Executive Director	Leadership Email	paigedeponte@thespirithorseranch.org
Leadership Phone	(808) 280-7070		

Background and Summary

Applicant Background The Spirit Horse Ranch (TSHR) is a 501(c)(3) public charity, founded in 2021. Our mission is to provide transformative equine-assisted services (EAS) and therapeutic modalities that foster trauma recovery, suicide prevention, and resilience building for individuals and communities. TSHR provides EAS and trauma-informed care to support youth and adults throughout Maui County who have experienced any form of trauma.

TSHR's EAS Program is led by certified facilitators who are trained in Equine Assisted Learning, Natural Lifemanship, Mental Health America Youth Mental Health First Aid, Brainspotting, and HeartMath techniques, ensuring evidence-based, trauma-informed care. In 2025, TSHR was selected as a recipient of the Outstanding Employer awards from Mental Health America of Hawaii.

The purpose of our program is to address the mental health crisis among youth and adults in Maui and the associated breakdown of family systems. Through evidence-based equine-assisted therapies, the program not only supports individual healing, but also creates opportunities for family strengthening by engaging parents, caregivers, and children together in a family dyad. This approach is designed to build resilience within the family unit, improve communication, foster trust, and promote long-term healing from trauma across generations.

We respectfully request support for sustaining our Trauma Informed Equine Assisted Services Program, which federal funding cuts have significantly impacted. Major support for our program was previously provided by a Congressional Directed Spending from Senator Schatz. This year, we were notified by Senator Schatz that our application for funding renewal was denied by the Senate due to reduced federal funding. Additionally, we have pending grants with the Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC) in the amount of \$200,000 that will not be reviewed due to federal cuts and the government shutdown. Additional conversation with the Department of Health and Human Services has stalled, further hindering our anticipated funding for FY25 and FY26.

The loss of federal funding for FY26 and uncertainty over federal funding are taking a significant toll on TSHR in the following ways:

Emotional and Psychological Strain on Clients – Many of the individuals we serve, including wildfire survivors, foster youth, and first responders, rely on consistent access to equine-assisted services (EAS) for trauma recovery and receive government benefits such as SNAP and Medicaid. The uncertainty of funding creates anxiety and instability, as they fear losing a critical support system that helps them manage PTSD, depression, and suicidal ideation.

Operational Challenges and Staff Uncertainty – Without clear funding commitments, our Certified Facilitators and Equine Professional Horse Handlers face job insecurity, making it difficult to plan programs, maintain horse care, and ensure continuity of services. Staff morale is affected by the constant concern over whether sessions will need to be reduced or paused.

Hesitation from Donors and Partners – Potential donors and funding partners are hesitant to commit when federal funding remains uncertain, as they worry about the long-term viability of our programs. This uncertainty slows infrastructure development and delays critical projects like the covered equine arena and

learning classroom, which are essential for expanding services to meet growing community needs.

The broader non-profit ecosystem is at a critical point due to this uncertainty and the ripple effects of service interruptions on the communities we serve (reductions of Medicaid, Food Stamps, and other forms of Federal Assistance that are threatened). Without interventions from other government agencies, the non-profit organizations that provide critical services to Hawaiians are at risk of closing their doors.

Funding Request Purpose

TSHR's primary program goal is to address the ongoing financial stress and mental health impacts of the Maui wildfires and the rise in violence, abuse (physical and sexual), abandonment, neglect, murder, and other violent crimes, and substance use disorder. We aim to provide approximately 1,250 sessions each year of individual and group equine-assisted therapy, serving at least 600 persons. Our EAS program is centered on the concept that by building a working relationship with a horse, any participant can develop important skills that translate into all aspects of daily life. Building this relationship is the foundational objective of our program. Guided by our trained and certified practitioners, participants learn to recognize and respond to the non-verbal communication that horses use every day. Because horses are herd animals, they are highly attuned to body language and behavior, which often leads participants into meaningful self-reflection and personal growth. Beyond individual impact, the program also creates opportunities for family rebonding and stabilization. By engaging parents, caregivers, and children in equine-assisted learning together, families are able to rebuild trust, strengthen communication, and reconnect in ways that traditional talk-based approaches may not achieve. After receiving care from our services, our objective is that 90% of participants will demonstrate increased coping skills, resilience, confidence, and compassion. We measure this through pre-/post-program tests, surveys, staff observation, client journals, and anecdotal data.

Geographic Coverage Served

Spirit Horse Ranch serves the County of Maui, which includes the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i—a combined population of approximately 168,000 residents (U.S. Census ACS 2023). Programs are based at the ranch's headquarters in Kula, Maui (ZIP 96790) and extend outreach across five major Maui districts and two neighboring islands, ensuring behavioral-health access for wildfire survivors, youth in crisis, foster families, and first responders. Whenever possible, we provide mobile services or partner with other organizations to provide transportation for the population we serve.

TSHR is located in Honoalua (Kanaio), one of the last remaining undeveloped areas of Maui. Here, the land ('āina) and horses (nā lio) come together to provide a sanctuary for trauma-informed, culturally grounded healing. In 2025, TSHR began working on the island of Moloka'i in partnership 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 well-being. TSHR Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) Facilitators fly to Moloka'i twice a month to provide EAS sessions. TSHR is actively working to secure a partner on Lāna'i to provide services using a similar model.

Our geographic scope, specifically, serves the following areas:

Central Maui (Wailuku–Kahului) zipcodes 96732 and 96793 and a high-impact wildfire displacement area.

Upcountry Maui (Kula–Makawao–Pukalani) zipcodes 96768 and 96790 are the location of the ranch headquarters and trauma-informed facility hub; HeartMath, art therapy, and research pilot site.

South Maui (Kihei–Wailea–Mākena) zipcode 96753, a site for family and youth resilience programming; accessible programs for service workers affected by displacement and tourism loss.

West Maui (Lāhainā–Kā'anapali–Nāpili–Honokōwai) zip codes 96761 and 96767 were the epicenter of the 2023 wildfire disaster. We provide ongoing trauma and grief recovery, youth and family stabilization programs.

East Maui (Hāna–Kaupō–Kīpahulu) zipcode 96713 is an outreach region with minimal behavioral-health infrastructure. We provide mobile trauma and wellness clinics in partnership with local agencies.

Moloka'i, zipcodes: 96748 (Kaunakakai), 96729 (Kalaupapa), and 96770 (Maunaloa). We travel to provide monthly-to-bi-monthly equine-assisted learning, art therapy, and HeartMath sessions for youth and families. Collaboration with Ho'aka Mana and local schools.

Lāna'i, zipcode 96763, is where we provide virtual and visiting program partnerships; planning phase for mobile outreach in 2026.

Public Purpose or Need Served

The Spirit Horse Ranch's program addresses the severe and growing mental health crisis among Maui residents, particularly those who have experienced trauma and face significant barriers to timely, trauma-informed care. Mental Health America data from 2024 shows that 17.1% of Hawaii youth had at least one major depressive episode, 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%.

Access to effective care is limited by cost, insurance gaps, and geographic isolation. Many victims in rural and upcountry areas have no viable local services, leaving them at risk of further crisis and victimization. Without intervention, these unmet needs compound, leading to long-term health consequences, increased justice system involvement, and community instability.

The Maui wildfires have had a devastating effect on the mental health of both youth and adults. According to the Uhero Public Health Report: From Crisis to Recovery: Health and Resilience Two Years After the Maui Wildfires, published in June 2025, both children and adults continue to experience a long arc of recovery. Overall, 41% of adults report worse health compared to the previous year. Half show depressive symptoms, 26% report moderate-to-severe anxiety, and 4.2% have had suicidal thoughts in the past month. Over half

(51%) of children ages 10–17 screen positive for depression, with 22% in the severe range. About 30% report anxiety symptoms, and nearly 45% still show signs of PTSD, 4.3% at severe levels. One in four reports low self-esteem, and many are experiencing functional challenges at school and home.

The Maui County Department of Human Concerns Community Needs Assessment Survey identified mental health/substance abuse treatment as a top community need, cited by 70% of respondents as “critically needed.” In Molokaʻi, an even higher percentage (79%) cited this need. This need was cited for all ages, including early childhood and seniors. The annual state medical workforce survey for 2024 found that the number of psychiatrists in Maui County would need to increase by 77% to meet the demand for mental health care services for children and adolescents.

The mental health crisis is particularly dire in Molokaʻi. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration has designated the island as a Health Professional Shortage Area for mental health and a medically underserved area. While the Molokaʻi Community Health Center (the island's main federally qualified health clinic) offers behavioral health services, there is only one psychologist on staff and no psychiatrists on the island. Providers face economic challenges too: low reimbursement rates from Medicaid and Medicare—which two-thirds of residents rely on—make it financially unsustainable to practice on Molokaʻi. Many providers serve long hours and still lose money, contributing to difficulties retaining staff. In addition, people often don't seek help until circumstances become dire, reflecting cultural norms and awareness gaps.

There are simply not enough programs available to address the diverse mental health needs within our community. Equine-assisted services (EAS) are proven to increase hope, reduce depression, as well as to improve emotional regulation, self-efficacy, and self-esteem for families undergoing trauma. Youth often struggle to engage in talk-only therapy; EAS offers a relational, movement-based pathway. In addition, the brief, accessible format of four to 12 week sessions requires a less time commitment than traditional therapies, with equal or greater gains in resilience. For families impacted by substance use disorder and economic strain, EAS adds emotion regulation and self-efficacy building blocks that support household stability and parenting, enabling the people we serve to reap ongoing benefits long after the program is completed.

Target Population Served

TSHR's 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. Often, we work with youth and their families to provide whole-family impact and promote cross-generational healing and communication.

The population we serve exhibits the following demographic & economic circumstances:

Poverty Level: 11.6% of Maui County residents live below the poverty line; rates reach 16–20% in Lāhainā and Central Maui post-fire (UHERO 2024).

Youth Under 18: 21.5% of the population; youth mental-health referrals increased by 48% since the August 2023 wildfires (Maui DOH Behavioral Health Division).

Mental Health Indicators: 38% of adults report depressive symptoms or high stress (UHERO Maui WES 2024).

Rural Isolation: 42% of residents live in rural census tracts with limited access to licensed mental-health professionals—underscoring the Ranch's mobile and equine-assisted service importance.

We will work with the following community partners to achieve our goal of improving the mental health and well-being of those most in need:

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui (FCJC), Maui Youth and Family Services, Child Welfare Services, and Village of Hope refer children who have been traumatized by abuse and severe neglect to our program. Our program enables these youth to receive mental health support and develop healthy coping mechanisms to recover from their trauma.

Maui County Police Department's Juvenile Crime Prevention Division will refer youth at risk of committing crimes to our programs. EAS enables youth and adults at risk of committing crimes to develop self-awareness, emotional balance, and compassion, thereby reducing the likelihood of future criminal behavior. Aloha House, Maui Behavioral Health Resources, Maui County Department of Human Concerns, and Kaiser Permanente also refer adults to our program who have experienced trauma or other mental health challenges. Whenever possible, we encourage the caretakers of youth enrolled in our program to also participate in EAS sessions to support healing across the whole family dyad.

Summary and Outcomes

Measure(s) of Effectiveness

The Spirit Horse Ranch will deliver the following quantitative outcomes:

1. Provide 1,250 sessions of Trauma-Informed Equine-Assisted Services (EAS) to residents in need.
2. Serve at least 450 youth and 450 adults over the course of the next year (October 2025–September 2026).
3. Achieve a client approval rating of 98%, with 85% of participants self-reporting improved self-esteem, empathy, and interpersonal communication.

We will also deliver the following qualitative outcomes:

1. Improve emotional regulation, sense of well-being, and family stabilization as reported by client surveys.
2. Partner with other local organizations to serve a diverse range of individuals who have experienced various traumas.
3. Contribute to the ongoing emotional recovery of Maui residents in the wake of the August 2023 wildfires.

Projected Annual Timeline

October – December 2025

- Provide 25–36 Equine-Assisted Services (EAS) sessions meeting once a week for 6–12 weeks.
- Serve youth ages 8–18, adults, and kūpuna—especially the most vulnerable victims of the Maui wildfires—reaching approximately 100–120 individuals monthly.
- Implement the foster program and begin outreach activities.
- Continue the Maui Police Department (MPD) referral program and the Moloka'i program.

January – March 2026

- Continue providing 25–36 EAS sessions meeting once a week for 6–12 weeks, serving 100–120 individuals monthly.
- Launch the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Women Victims of Crimes Program (if funded).
- Implement the SAMHSA-funded Drug Abuse Prevention Program (if approved).

April – June 2026

- Continue providing 25–36 EAS sessions meeting once a week for 6–12 weeks, serving 100–120 individuals monthly.
- Launch the Youth-at-Risk Wrangler Program (if approved).

July – September 2026

- Continue providing 25–36 EAS sessions meeting once a week for 6–12 weeks, serving 100–120 individuals monthly.
- Maintain and expand the Youth-at-Risk Wrangler Program.

Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plans

In order to monitor our work, The Spirit Horse Ranch uses Acuity Scheduling software as its central data-tracking and performance-monitoring system. All programs are scheduled and logged through Acuity, which automatically records participant details, service type, and facilitator assignments. Each entry includes demographics, referral source, equine partner, and outcome notes, ensuring consistent data across all service areas. TSHR's leadership reviews Acuity reports weekly to assess accuracy, attendance, and service delivery trends. We capture additional qualitative feedback by circulating satisfaction surveys to participants, staff, and program partners twice annually. Survey responses are reviewed by staff and board members and feed directly into future program adjustments and improvements.

Since Equine-Assisted Therapy is a relatively new therapeutic modality, our organization frequently advocates for greater scientific research and cultural understanding of the unique benefits of this modality. Our programs are informed by and updated to reflect the most relevant evidence-based practices in the field. We partner with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in conducting further external research into Equine-Assisted Therapy. TSHR also uses benchmarking standards set forth by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to evaluate the therapeutic impact of our programs. Further accountability and oversight of our work is provided by the Board of Directors and community partners—such as Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui (FCJC), Maui Youth and Family Services, Child Welfare Services, and Village of Hope—who refer clients to our program. Hawaii has the highest amount of per-client mental health expenditures in the U.S., spending an average of \$14,779 per client annually. Dividing our annual project budget (\$1,180,718.23) by an average of 675 clients served annually yields a cost of \$1,749.21 per client, which represents an 88% lower cost per individual.

Scope of Work

TSHR will provide approximately 600 Maui County residents Trauma-Informed Equine Assisted Services, including individualized and group therapy sessions. Our program provides an evidence-based healing environment using interactive horse and ranch activities for youth and adults. Our unique curriculum rebuilds healthy neuron pathways for positive resilience, moving forward in our clients' lives.

Our therapy sessions incorporate several distinct therapeutic modalities:

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 translate into all aspects of daily life. Building this relationship is the foundation of our program. Guided by our trained and certified practitioners, participants learn to recognize and respond to the non-verbal communication that horses use every day. Because horses are herd animals, they are highly attuned to body language and behavior, which often leads participants into meaningful self-reflection and 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 youth tap into the power and intelligence of their heart, which awakens them to the best version of themselves.

Natural Lifemanship. 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.

Brainspotting. This modality uses the brain-body connection to help patients address the core neurophysiological sources of emotional/body pain, trauma, and dissociation. TSHR has several Brainspotting Trained practitioners who administer guided sessions to clients to help them process difficult memories and emotions.

Our programs will be led by certified Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) Facilitators, with additional support from trained horse handlers. We will offer individualized sessions that will take place for one hour per week for 12 weeks, as well as 3-hour-long group sessions (for up to 14 people) once per week for 12 weeks. At least one Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) Facilitator leads each session, assisted by one or multiple horse handlers. 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 participants 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. 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.

Financial Information

Q1 Requested Amount	\$600,000.00	Q3 Requested Amount	\$405,230.00
Q2 Requested Amount	\$405,230.00	Q4 Requested Amount	\$405,230.00

Sources of Funding	For FY26, 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, the Players Philanthropy Fund, to establish its reputation and build confidence in the organization. Our primary funding has come from government grants, largely impacted by federal funding cuts.	State and Federal Tax Credits	None
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Individual Donation Target for FY26:
\$84,000

Government Grant Target for FY26:
\$800,000

Private Foundation Grant Target for
FY26: \$100,000

Fundraising Events Target for FY26:
\$48,000

Other Revenue (collaborations,
sponsorships, earned income) Target for
FY26: \$250,000

With these targets, we are setting ambitious goals in each category with the understanding that if certain income sources underperform, other categories can help make up the difference. We currently have applications pending or paused with the Office of Victims of Crime, the Maui County Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Community Foundation/Maui Recovery Funders Collective, and the Maui County Department of Human Concerns.

State and Federal Contracts and Grants	Congressionally Directed Spending for youth trauma support services \$510,000 Maui County General Operating support grant awarded \$150,000 for FY25 and FY26 Additional grants to government agencies are pending for FY26	Prior FY Balance of Unrestricted Assets	\$127,847
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Experience, Capability, and Personnel

Skills and Experience	TSHR is a leader in the field of equine-assisted learning, providing innovative and effective support to young people who have experienced trauma. In the last three years, TSHR has successfully managed grants from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Congressionally Directed Community Projects, Maui County, private foundations, and corporations. In 2025, The Spirit Horse Ranch was named Employer of the Year by Mental Health America. Since opening our doors in early 2023, TSHR has conducted over 3,300 sessions, addressing trauma recovery, suicide prevention, and resilience-building. We work with Maui mental health agencies, schools, shelters, and first responder organizations to provide accessible, alternative trauma support through experiential learning with horses. Program outcomes show that 88% of participants report increased resilience, improved coping skills, reduced trauma symptoms, and stronger family stability.		
Facilities	The Spirit Horse Ranch operates from a dedicated 10-acre agricultural property in Kula, Maui, zoned and approved for equine-assisted learning and trauma-informed wellness programs. The ranch is equipped with the following facilities and infrastructure that support daily operations: -Three functional round pens for equine-assisted sessions, constructed with safe footing and enclosed fencing to ensure trauma-informed session environments. -A prefabricated equipment shed as office space that houses administrative operations, participant intake, and program coordination. -Solar power and Wi-Fi systems providing off-grid energy and data connectivity to support Acuity tracking, HeartMath HRV monitoring. -A temporary classroom and art therapy space, used for debrief sessions, HeartMath training, and art-based recovery programming. -Equine housing that includes individual corrals and access to grazing areas for therapy horses. -Parking area for clients, volunteers, and staff. The existing facilities are fully functional, safe, and appropriately designed for equine-assisted trauma-informed programming. However, to meet rising community demand and research requirements, TSHR is proceeding with phased infrastructure upgrades: Phase 3 (2025–2027): Construction of a prefabricated barn and debrief classroom, expanding indoor workspace for equine-assisted learning, art therapy, and research sessions with UH Mānoa. Phase 4 (2026–2028): Development of a covered arena and permanent art/HeartMath classroom, allowing year-round programming, larger group sessions, and research data collection. Hydroponic garden enclosure and solar-water integration for sustainability and vocational training for youth.		
Proposed Staffing and Service Capacity	Paige Deponte, TSHR Executive Director and Founder, is an EAL Certified Facilitator, Natural Lifemanship TIC-EP Level 2, HeartMath Certified Trainer, 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 Level 2, HeartMath Certified Trainer, Brainspotting Trained, and Certified in Mental Health First Aid. Ashley Ventimiglia, EAL Facilitator, is a certified Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator. Ashley holds degrees in Animal Science, Zoology, and Equine Science from California Polytechnic State University, alongside a film degree from San Francisco City College. Sophie Pierce, EAL Facilitator, is an EAL Certified Facilitator and HeartMath Certified Trainer and Coach. Sophie has a BA in Journalism from Seattle University and a degree in Cybersecurity from UCLA. She specialized in social-emotional learning, child psychology, and development in her career as an AmeriCorps teacher. 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.		
Staff Position(s) and Compensation	Executive Director Salary Range: \$120,000-\$140,000 Managing Director and Lead EAL Facilitator: \$100,000-\$120,000 EAL Facilitator: \$70,000-\$80,000		

Other Information

Pending Litigation	None
Special Licensure or Accreditations	None
Private Educational Institutions	N/a

Confirmations

Documentation of Federal Impacts	☒		
Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate	☒	Active Status with the Hawaii AG	☒
IRS Determination Letter	☒	Certificate of Good Standing by the DCCA	☒
Records Retention Policy	☒	By-laws or Corporate Resolutions	☒
Authorized Representative Certification	☒	Signee Title	Executive Director

System Information

Application Type	Act 310 Nonprofit Grant Application	Applied Date	10/22/2025, 11:05 AM
Owner Name	Grants Management	Category	Grant Application
Created By	Paige Deponte, 10/16/2025, 11:31 AM	Created Date	10/16/2025, 11:31 AM
Last Modified By	Paige Deponte, 10/22/2025, 11:05 AM	Last Modified Date	10/22/2025, 11:05 AM

Federal Grants

Trauma-Informed Equine-Assisted Services for Youth and Adults

Name of Program	Program 1
Original Funding Award	\$541,000.00
Amount Reduced or Cut	\$541,000.00
Grant Cycle of Award	8/30/2024 - 8/30/2025

Files

SpiritHorseRanch_AG Registration	SpiritHorseRanch_501c3
Last Modified 10/22/2025, 11:04 AM	Last Modified 10/22/2025, 11:04 AM
Created By Paige Deponte	Created By Paige Deponte
TSHR DCCA COGS	SpiritHorseRanch Record Retention Poilcy
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SpiritHorseRanch_Bylaws	Spirit_Horse_Ranch_3Year_Sustainability_Plan
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Spirit Horse Ranch_ Budget 2025-10-22 08-58	Spirit Horse Ranch_BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES
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Spirit Horse Ranch_Cert of Good Standing	Spirit Horse Ranch_CDS Decline
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10/27/25, 9:28 AM		IA-0000000376 ~ Salesforce - Unlimited Edition	
Spirit Horse Ranch_Organizational Chart		Created By Paige Deponte	
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Created By Paige Deponte		Last Modified 10/21/2025, 10:54 AM	
GOv Green Letter of Support of Spirit House Ranch Inc CDS Request		Created By Paige Deponte	
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