



ARPA-9

ARP Application - Jefferson County

Status: Active

Date Created: Oct 29, 2021

Applicant

Maria Catignani
mcatignani@cthbpa.com
P.O. Box 581
Charles Town, WV 25414
304-725-1535

Internal Section

Certification

Digital Signature

Maria A. Catignani
10/28/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name

Charles Town HBPA

Address

P.O. Box 581, Charles Town, WV 25414

Website (if applicable)

www.cthbpa.com

Phone Number

304-725-1535

Email Address

mcatignani@cthbpa.com

Project Summary

1. Brief description of the proposal

- Charles Town Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association (CT HBPA) Funding Proposal #2 is to request \$50,000 for each of 3 years (\$150,000 total) to develop an equine practicum/internship

program for students enrolled in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture at the JW Ruby Research Farm to encourage matriculating students to seek jobs in the Thoroughbred industry in Jefferson County

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

- To draw the interest of students to learn more about employment in the Thoroughbred industry and life in Jefferson County by providing paid short and long-term internships
- To develop a pool of qualified applicants for hire by prospective employers in Jefferson County

3. Individuals or communities served

- Individuals and businesses that breed, sell, own and race Thoroughbred horses, state regulators, track management, farriers, dentists, veterinarians, and other local businesses as students are provided with rotating work experiences in various aspects of the industry. Local governments of surrounding cities and municipalities, and other local Counties, and the State of WV are served by the taxes and wages generated in our industry that supports tourism, farming and green space, real estate, hotels, restaurants, insurance, education and more.

4. How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request

- Nearly all individuals and communities named above are experiencing a lack of employees. The pool of qualified and/or experienced individuals in the Thoroughbred industry has diminished significantly because of COVID-19.

5. Amount of funding requested

150,000

6. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

0

7a. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

0

7b. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

0

8. How ARP funds, if awarded, will be used

- Funds will be awarded to students, and to pay ancillary expenses. One-week externships over spring break are estimated to cost \$1,100 per student. Three-month internships are estimated at \$8,640 per student.

9. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

3 years

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

- Qualified, experienced employees have become difficult to find. This program would encourage student participants to return to Jefferson County as a pool of potential trained employees.

2. Please describe goals and expected outcomes of your proposal.

- The goal is to engage students, providing hands on experience in the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industries as veterinarians, breeders, trainers, farriers, dentists, racetrack management, state regulators and other jobs with the expected outcome of developing an educated and experienced workforce pool that chooses to live and work in Jefferson County. Students would be rotated through a comprehensive work/learn program under the tutelage of some of the area's finest thoroughbred industry business men and women, tradesmen and professionals.

3. Please provide your project timeline

3 years

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

\$150,000

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

- Crystal Smith, Ph.D, Teaching Associate Professor, West Virginia University Davis College of Agriculture at the JW Ruby Research Farm. The 900+ acre farm is home to the horse unit and is host to equine and other community events.

6. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

- This pilot program would span 3 years with the intention of attracting interest and participation from local farms, veterinarians, and other businesses. The intent is that a proven and successful immersive program will generate enough interest that individuals and businesses will want to sponsor this hands-on teaching program, to encourage more young people to live and work in our industry here in Jefferson County.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

We are Horsemen Helping Horsemen.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

The precursor to the CT HBPA was incorporated in 1988. The CT HBPA is a non-profit trade association that works to support the sport of thoroughbred racing. We do this by instituting programs that protect the general welfare of the racing industry, as well as the interests of the horsemen, their employees and families. This includes administering a retirement program, a medical trust and assistance fund for those with a demonstrated financial need. We also work to improve communication between the horsemen, the racetrack, the West Virginia Racing Commission and the public. The current racetrack has been in operation since the early 1930's and is as much a fiber of the community as our courthouse, where the famous trial of John Brown occurred.

3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.

- The horsemen at the track were deemed essential during the COVID shutdown. Though the casino video lottery terminals, table games, and live racing operations were closed, we were able to negotiate with Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races (HCCTR) and rely on CT HBPA cash reserves to pay for HCCTR security and maintenance to keep training open for our horses to exercise. This was an expensive but necessary cost of doing business in order to protect the safety and welfare of our horses.

- During COVID, with the assistance of generous businesses and a national Thoroughbred charitable organization we secured nearly 30 tons of donated grain, feed supplements and forage that were distributed to trainers to assist in caring for their animals while there was no income due to live racing being shut down.
- We successfully appealed to the West Virginia Racing Commission to permit horsemen to take emergency disbursements from their accounts in the WV Racing Commission Retirement Plan for Backstretch Personnel. Over \$1.1 million was distributed to qualified horsemen through those emergency disbursements.

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

Board of Directors: James Miller, Randy Funkhouser, Richard Knapp, Naomi Long, Tony Stehr, Christina Vena, Tim Grams, John McKee, Crystal Pickett, Jeff Runco

Executive Director: Maria Catignani

Office Assistant: Darla Shoemaker

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:


Maria Catignani will be the point of contact providing direction, coordination and oversight to the project.

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year

 Cash flow_202110290957.pdf

Uploaded by Maria Catignani on Oct 29, 2021 at 1:04 pm

Two years of audited financial statements

 Audited financials_202110290957.pdf


Uploaded by Maria Catignani on Oct 29, 2021 at 1:05 pm

Current operating budget

 Current Budget_202110290958.pdf

Uploaded by Maria Catignani on Oct 29, 2021 at 1:05 pm

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant

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7. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Jefferson County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

EID Loan-forgiven; PPP1 loan-forgiven; PPP2-in application for forgiveness

8. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

none

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Please explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request.

Since COVID-19 our industry has experienced a significant loss of skilled employees. This training program will draw qualified employees into Jefferson County.

2. How will ARP funding, if awarded, aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

While the Thoroughbred industry needs the pool of employees, funds are not available to launch this pilot project without ARP funds.

3. Are you requesting lost revenue due to COVID-19

No

Supplementary Information




1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Crystal Smith, Ph.D, crystal.smith@mail.wvu.edu, 304-980-3040

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.

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Attachments

-  Internship and externship info_202110291156.pdf
Uploaded by Maria Catignani on Oct 29, 2021 at 1:08 pm
-  ARPA-8 Horsemen's Benevolent and Prot Assoc 2021-06-22.pdf
Uploaded by Michelle Gordon on Nov 2, 2021 at 12:49 pm
-  ARPA-8 & 9 Horsemens Email 2021-07-20.pdf
Uploaded by Michelle Gordon on Nov 2, 2021 at 12:50 pm

History

Date	Activity
Oct 27, 2021 at 4:22 pm	Maria Catignani started a draft of Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:06 pm	Maria Catignani added attachment Internship ans externship info_202110291156.pdf to Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:07 pm	Maria Catignani removed attachment Internship ans externship info_202110291156.pdf from Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:08 pm	Maria Catignani added attachment Internship and externship info_202110291156.pdf to Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:08 pm	Maria Catignani submitted Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:08 pm	approval step Application Review was assigned to Michelle Gordon on Record ARPA-9
Oct 29, 2021 at 1:08 pm	changed the deadline to Oct 30, 2021 on approval step Application Review on Record ARPA-9
Nov 2, 2021 at 12:49 pm	Michelle Gordon added attachment ARPA-9 Horsemen's Benevolent and Prot Assoc 2021-06-22.pdf to Record ARPA-9
Nov 2, 2021 at 12:50 pm	Michelle Gordon added attachment ARPA-8 & 9 Horsemens Email 2021-07-20.pdf to Record ARPA-9