

## **Horses and Humans Research Foundation**

### **2007 Research Grant Applicant Notice, Released November 2007**

The Horses and Humans Research Foundation was very encouraged to receive nineteen applications from sixteen respected Universities during the 2007 application cycle. These applications showed an overall improvement in quality from the previous cycle, with more detailed pilot studies and more experienced research teams. Many proposals addressed critical areas of research that have potential to significantly impact equine assisted activities.

The foundation board, staff and advisors extend sincerest regard to the teams of researchers who developed proposals to submit to HHRF. These research efforts will continue to pave the way to improving best practices and increasing the professional validity of equine assisted activities and therapies. We most sincerely value and encourage ongoing work in this field.

The Horses and Humans Research Foundation board of directors has chosen, after appraising the final recommendations of the professional Scientific Review Committee, not to fund any of the applications from the most recent application cycle. No projects in their present stage of development, it was concluded, were likely to result in the end goal of highly regarded research published in peer reviewed journals. The projects did not meet the rigorous criteria and high standards set by the foundation.

Each submitted proposal underwent a comprehensive review process. All proposals were initially reviewed by at least three evaluators from the Scientific Review Committee. The strongest proposals then went through three additional phases of evaluation. Once the review process was complete, professional recommendations were submitted to the HHRF board of directors and all applicants received summary letters including select comments from evaluators.

\$100,000 in funding is now available for the May 15, 2008 grant deadline. This increase in available funds is intended to encourage the further development of previously presented projects and promote submissions from new applicants. Details related to priorities and application requirements can be found at [HorsesandHumans.org](http://HorsesandHumans.org). HHRF strongly encourages qualified teams to submit applications.

A partial listing of criteria used for evaluation of proposals includes:

- ❖ There is a clearly stated purpose or question to address.
- ❖ Results of the pilot test are provided.
- ❖ Statistical overviews are completed by qualified personnel prior to the application submission
- ❖ Experimental design and methodology are appropriate to answer the question and sufficiently detailed.
- ❖ Testing procedures are appropriate to the proposed population and are adequate to answer the research question (including inclusion and exclusion criteria).
- ❖ Statistical analysis is appropriate to the experimental design and methodology.
- ❖ Outcome measures are valid, appropriate and will answer the research question.
- ❖ A comprehensive, realistic and cost effective budget is outlined.
- ❖ Applicant team's research experience, credentials and institutional and program environment are adequate to manage and implement the entire project.
- ❖ Applicant team's credentials and/or experience are strong enough to ensure high probability of publication in a peer review journal.
- ❖ Safety/facility considerations are clearly in place to minimize all related risk.
- ❖ Project has been approved or will be approved by an IRB (Institutional Review Board).
- ❖ Comprehensive literature review is provided.
- ❖ The research question(s) being addressed will have a broad significance to EAA.

The Horses and Humans Research Foundation is a public nonprofit organization which depends on donations to operate. Learn more about supporting the HHRF mission by visiting our website, [horsesandhumans.org](http://horsesandhumans.org) or by calling 440 543 8306.