



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2442

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

We are seeking to construct a covered horse riding arena to provide equine assisted therapies to the populations we serve. Due to the complex medical status of our participants and the need to be able to provide these services all year around in Florida, we must move forward in constructing a covered space that will keep them protected from the summer sun and rains in Florida. These past eight years, we have either had to shut down during the summer months or reduce our schedule drastically due to the weather.

We are also seeking allocated funds to allow us to provide free equine assisted therapy services to anyone who may need it no matter their financial status. Our newest program called Horse Powered Reading and Math, focuses on our children with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, auditory processing disorders, behavioral issues, ADHD, and autism. Many of these kids are in public school, but need extra support from organizations like us that take learning outside the box.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

| Type of Funding                    | Amount         |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operations                         | 75,000         |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 275,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>350,000</b> |

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)**

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount         | Percentage  |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 350,000        | 92%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                |             |
| Federal                                              | 0              | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0%          |
| Local                                                | 0              | 0%          |
| Other                                                | 30,000         | 8%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b> | <b>380,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

| Fiscal Year<br>(YYYY-YY) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**
- Local and organizational grants, Step Up for Students scholarship for those who qualify.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Emerald M Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. is a 501 c(3) organization. Daniel and Lisa Michelangelo are the owners of the property and Lisa Michelangelo is the founder and President of the organization.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category                                   | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Amount |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| Other Salary and Benefits                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
| Salary and Benefits                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0      |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study               | Free equine assisted therapy services provided to all participants receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy incorporating hippotherapy, mental health counseling using equine facilitated learning, and horse powered reading and math for educational and learning disabilities. We service many home schooled children as well. | 75,000 |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |



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|                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Construction/Renovation/Land/<br>Planning Engineering                  | Covered horse riding arena 120'x204' to provide all of our equine therapy services in a shaded, safe space out of the direct Florida sun and rain. The side of the arena will be designated for extra stalls to house additional therapy horses required for growth and also additional treatment rooms for hippotherapy and an education/learning room for tutoring and Horse Powered Reading and Math. | 275,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>350,000</b> |

#### 14. Program Performance

**a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?**

We will be able to provide equine assisted therapy services to children and adults through the entire year in Florida, including the summer. These participants with severe medical issues and those children with cancer will still have access to services in a safe, shaded space year around. Currently, we have fundraised over \$30,000 that is in a restricted fund solely for this covered arena project. Secondly, by providing our services at no cost, it will allow any participant no matter economic status to have the opportunity to receive these very sought out services.

**b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?**

The medical services currently provided are physical therapy incorporating hippotherapy and mental health counseling using equine assisted learning. Additional services provided are adaptive horse riding, Horse Powered Reading and Math, support groups for caregivers, and retreats for Goldstar women. These will all be provided in a shaded space that will allow us to provide services all year long and accommodate any diagnosis.

**c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?**

Physical therapy incorporating hippotherapy (children and adults with disabilities/traumatic injuries); Mental Health Counseling using equine facilitated learning (children with cancer and their families, children in the foster system or recent adoptions, caregivers, military families); Horse Powered Reading and Math (children with learning disabilities, dyslexia, behavioral problems, ADHD, Autism); Support Groups (families/caregivers); Retreats (Goldstar women)

**d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?**

Children and adults with poor physical and/or mental health, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, developmentally disabled, children with cancer and their families, students of all ages (preschool-College), and children in foster care and who have recently been adopted. In 2023, we expect 101-200 to be served. Last year, we provided 900 therapeutic sessions to participants from 7 surrounding counties.

**e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?**

Allowing us to see more participants by staying open during the summer months, not turning anyone away because we don't have a shaded place for them to participate, and improving our quality of services by providing them with a safe place to participate out of the direct Florida sun. Also, we will improve physical health through physical therapy incorporating hippotherapy, improve mental health using equine facilitated learning, improve quality of education using our Horse Powered Reading and Math program. Outcomes will be measured using standardized testing, evaluations, and surveys.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?**

If the funds are unable to be used as appropriated for this project, the funds would be returned and the organization would take appropriate measures to re-evaluate why this occurred and put a plan of action in place to avoid this ever happening in the future.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**



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**b. Organization**   
**c. E-mail Address**   
**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

**a. Organization**   
**b. Municipality and County**

#### c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

**d. First Name**  **Last Name**   
**e. E-mail Address**   
**f. Phone Number**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name**   
**b. Firm Name**   
**c. E-mail Address**   
**d. Phone Number**