



Equestrian IDEA

Advancing Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Equestrian Sport

Introduction

We are dedicated to creating, fostering and preserving a positive environment; one that is inclusive and accessible. Inclusivity, diversity, equality and accessibility (IDEA) are important paramount in creating this environment. We recognize that equestrian sport, like many sports, encounters challenges in these areas. To help address these challenges, we have developed the Equestrian IDEA initiative with the intention of providing up to \$500 of funding to support your program in it's initial stages of implementation.

Program Objectives

The primary objective of Equestrian IDEA is to empower member riding establishments and clubs to create a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible equestrian community. We aim to support programs that help to eliminate systemic barriers and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background, have equal access and opportunities within the sport.

Activities and programs that would be considered for funding include but are not limited to:

- Accessibility improvements at equestrian facilities;
- Inclusive riding programs and training sessions;
- Outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage target group participation;
- Cultural competency training for coaches, officials, and volunteers;
- Other projects or programs that align with Equestrian IDEA

Target Groups

Equestrian IDEA is designed to support initiatives that focus on serving the following Nova Scotians who identify as:

- African/Black
- Indigenous
- Persons with Physical Disabilities
- Persons with Cognitive Disabilities
- Newcomers
- 2SLGBTQI+
- Diverse Cultural and Racialized Groups
- Financially Disadvantaged

Program Structure

1. Project Application

Member riding establishments and clubs who wish to participate in Equestrian IDEAs are invited to submit an application; outlining what the funds will be used for; how your project will help to eliminate systemic barriers in equestrian sport; and the project timeline.

2. Community Partnerships

Each project applicant should demonstrate a partnership with a relevant community organization or community representative. This ensures that the proposed initiatives are aligned with the specific needs and aspirations of the target groups. Community partners may be required to provide a letter outlining their role in the project. (We can assist you with this if you are unsure of a community partner in your area.)

3. Funding Allocation

Applications will be reviewed by an Equestrian NS committee. Upon approval of your project, 75% of the funds will be allocated to support various activities, including but not limited to:

- Accessibility improvements at equestrian facilities;
- Inclusive riding programs and training sessions;
- Outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage target group participation;
- Cultural competency training for coaches, officials, and volunteers;
- Other projects or programs that align with Equestrian IDEAs.

4. Final Report

You will be sent a link used to complete a Final Report upon completion of your project/initiative. Reports will include invoices, how the money was used, and how the program or improvements have impacted the community including program numbers, images of improvements, etc. Once reports have been received, you will receive your final 25% funding.

5. Timeline

The IDEA Funding Program will run in cycles, with defined start and end dates. Funding is offered on a quarterly basis: March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Applications will be reviewed once the application period has ended. We will reach out to successful candidates 2-4 weeks in after the closing date.

Conclusion

Equestrian IDEAs is a testament to our commitment to creating a more inclusive and diverse equestrian community in Nova Scotia. We believe that by addressing the unique needs of underrepresented groups, we can transform equestrian sport into an accessible and equitable space for all.