

EVENTING ATHLETE'S GUIDE TO FUNDING



The USEF Eventing Athlete's Guide to Funding ("Guide") serves to provide information in a central document on funding, grants, and awards that are available through the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF"), United States Equestrian Team Foundation ("USET"), United States Eventing Association Foundation ("USEA"), and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Foundation ("USOPC"). This information is applicable to Athlete's engaged on the USEF Eventing Pathway Program. Therefore, it is not inclusive of funding and grant information from these organizations for Licensed Officials, Amateurs, Grooms, etc.

A **grant** is awarded through an application process. Grants may have additional restrictions, including but not limited to, competition results, age of Horse or Athlete, and prior Team or international experience.

- USET Foundation Grants
- USEA Foundation Grants

Funding is provided for a specific purpose.

- US Equestrian Team Competition Funding
- US Equestrian Program Funding

For athletes receiving funding, as long as all expenses are accounted for by receipts, the money will not be included on their 1099 at the end of the year. Any funding not accounted for by a receipt is subject to IRS reporting.

An **award** is gifted to a selected recipient. This may be due to earned results.

- USOPC Operation Gold

Prize Money is won at a competition and is based on Individual and/or Team results. If prize money is won at a Team Competition (Games, Nations Cup or World Championship), the Athlete will either directly receive the money from the Organizing Committee or as a passthrough from US Equestrian, as outlined in the FEI Draft Schedule.

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The above organization's funding, grant, and award information may change more frequently than this document is updated. Please refer to the latest information on the relevant organization's website via the links provided throughout the document.

USEF

Funding and financial support opportunities are available through US Equestrian for Program Members and those named to a Team. USEF Funding includes USET Foundation and USOPC grants.

Team Competition – Funding and Direct Competition Financial Support

**Funding and Direct Competition Financial Support is subject to availability. Details will be outlined within the Funding Agreement for eligible Team Competitions.*

Eligible Team Competitions Include:

- Pan American Games, World Championship, and Olympic Games
- Nations Cups
- FEI Designated Team Events

Defender Funding:

US Equestrian funding paid directly to the Athlete to offset expenses related to travelling to the competition. Eligible expenses are outlined within the applicable Funding Agreement and may include:

- Transportation of Horse, including domestic and international travel
- Layover expenses or board for Horse
- Transportation and accommodations for Groom
- Transportation and accommodations for Athlete

Direct Competition Financial Support:

Support that is arranged for and paid by US Equestrian. Eligible expenses are outlined within the applicable Funding Agreement and may include:

- Entry fees and stabling for Team Horse
- Organization of training camps or layover stabling, as appropriate
- Domestic and international travel for Horse, if not arranged by the Athlete
- Domestic and international travel for Groom, if not arranged by the Athlete
- Domestic and international travel for the Athlete, if not arranged individually
- Leadership from Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe
- Logistical support from Elite Program & Team Facilitator and/or Team Leader
- Logistical support from the USEF Eventing Department/Sport Department
- Human and equine sport science and medicine ("SSM") Services:
 - o Veterinary Support from Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel
 - o Farrier Services
 - o Human and Equine Physiotherapist Services
 - o Human Physician Services
- Horse Team Kit per the Apparel Policies
- Athlete Team Kit per the Apparel Policies
- Groom Team Kit per the Apparel Policies
- Owner Team Kit (upon availability)
- National Federation endorsement/marketing coverage

Elite & Pre-Elite Program Benefits:

**Program Funding and benefits are reviewed on an annual basis, and subject to availability.*

- Oversight and support from the Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe
- Oversight and support from the Director, Elite Program and USEF Staff
- Access to organized training sessions
- USEF Eventing Department support, including:
 - o International logistics support
 - o Owner Recognition Program and support
- Individual Performance Plan/Key Performance Indicator setting with Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe, allowing access to Program Funding
- Human and Equine SSM Services
- Ariat Team Kit
- National federation endorsement/Marketing coverage

Emerging & Development Program Benefits:

- Oversight and support from the Emerging & Development Coach
- Oversight and support from the Director, Emerging & Development Programs and USEF Staff
- Access to training sessions/clinics/coaching sessions
- Individual Performance Plan/Key Performance Indicator setting with Coach
- Human and equine SSM and resources when available, appropriate, and as funding allows
- National federation endorsement/Marketing coverage

USET Foundation

Link: <https://www.uset.org/>

Grant: Amanda Pirie Warrington Grant

Criteria: Provide financial assistance to an event rider who has been identified as a rider with great talent and ability to represent the United States in the future.

Aim: The grant is intended to offset expenses associated with training.

Amount: Up to \$5,000

For more information, contact Christina Vaughn at cvaughn@usef.org.

Grant: Giltedge Endowment Grant

Criteria: This grant is included in the overall USET Foundation grant awarded annually. It will be used for an Eventing High Performance activity in the budget as recommended by the Pathway Working Group.

Aim: For the use of an Eventing High Performance activity.

Amount: \$65,000

Additional Information: For 2024, the Giltedge Endowment Grant will support the Aachen Team and Individual.

For more information, contact Bonnie Jenkins at bjenkins@uset.org.

Grant: Karen E. Stives Endowment Grant

Aim: The aim of the Grant is to support the Program aim of sustainable success at World level and to assist athlete/horse combinations to achieve Elite level standard and thus demonstrate they are competitive at World level. The Grant will support athlete/horse combinations already competing at 4*/5* level with the perceived potential to achieve Elite level by supporting a competition and preparatory training opportunity. The ultimate goal of the Grant is to develop athletes that have the potential to win medals as an individual or contribute to a team medal at the Olympic and World Championship level.

Amount: \$40,000

Additional information: For 2024, it will support the European Development Tour.

- Athlete/horse combinations will be expected (but not required) to have achieved their pre-determined targets at CCI4*-S/CCI4*-L and/or CCI5*-L level within the previous six months.

- Athlete/horse combinations that have competed at four or more CCI5*-L level events within the last 24 months are not eligible to apply.
- The aim of the Grant is to help athletes selected for the European Development Tour move to the Pre-Elite and Elite level and therefore applicants will be expected to demonstrate that part of the Grant will be used for performance enhancement, not just logistical costs.
- It is unlikely an athlete/horse combination will receive more than two Grants or that an athlete will receive more than three Grants within a 12-month period.
- If there is not an appropriate candidate in a given year than the grant(s) may not be awarded.

For more information, contact [Christina Vaughn@usef.org](mailto:Christina.Vaughn@usef.org).

Grant: Jacqueline B. Mars Competition & Training Grant

Aim: Awarded annually by the USET Foundation upon recommendation of the USEF, the aim of the Jacqueline B. Mars Grant is to support the Program goal of sustainable success at the World level. Specifically, the Grant is designed to assist athlete/horse combinations to achieve Elite or Pre-Elite level standard and thus demonstrate they are on the track to be competitive at a World level. The Grant will support athlete/horse combinations already competing at 4* level with the perceived potential to achieve Elite or Pre-Elite status within the next 12 months. The ultimate goal of the grant is to provide training and competition resources for athletes who have never before competed on a senior team (Olympics or World Games) and have earned, via results and potential, the opportunity to travel overseas (international) or to another part of the country (national). The objective is for the combination to gain the experience and exposure to reach Elite or Pre-Elite status in the next 12 months.

International

Amount: \$53,000

Additional Information: For 2024, the Jacqueline B. Mars International Competition and Training Grants will support the four Team Athletes selected for Boekelo CCIO4*-NC-L.

National

Amount: \$17,000

- Up to three athletes will be funded in order to attend and prepare for one of the following:
 - A combination of CCI-S and CCI-L competitions that provide an extended experience (both competition and training) more than 1,500 miles from the athlete’s home.
 - A CCI4*-L or CCI5*-L event that is part of the long-term development of the athletes and the goal of reaching Elite or Pre-Elite status in the next 12 months more than 1,500 miles from the athlete’s home.
- Athlete/horse combinations will be expected (but not required) to have achieved their pre-determined targets at CCI4*-L and/or CCI5*-L level within the previous six months.

- The aim of the Grant is to help the athlete/horse combination move to Elite or Pre-Elite level and therefore applicants will be expected to demonstrate that part of the Grant will be used for performance enhancement not just logistical costs.
- It is unlikely an athlete/horse combination will receive more than two Grants or that an athlete will receive more than three Grants within a three-year period.
- If there is not an appropriate candidate in a given year the Grant may not be awarded.

For more information, contact Gemma Stobbs at gstobbs@usef.org.

Grant: The Connaught Award – *in memory of Bruce Duchossois*

Aim: The purpose of the Connaught Award is to encourage the development of event horses in the US that have the potential to represent the USA at international competitions. The role of the Committee is to identify horses at the CCI3* level throughout the US that have the potential to represent their country at international competitions. The Committee envisions that the horses are between (but not limited to) the age of 6-10 and in the eyes of the Committee have the potential to move on to be competitive at CCI5* level.

Amount: The grant is given after the last CCI2* event of the season for the next calendar year and will be announced and awarded at the USEA Annual Meeting. The grant will be awarded annually in the amount of \$25,000 by the USET Foundation, through a generous donation from Caroline Moran.

Additional information:

Committee Make up: There will be a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Secretary will communicate with the Committee members throughout the year. There will be at least one Committee meeting held each year either in-person or by conference call.

Committee Members: Caroline Moran, Phillip Dutton, Evie Dutton, Kevin Keane, Bobby Costello, Bea DiGrazia, and Joanie Morris

Grant stipulations: The grant will be spent on competition(s), travel in relationship to competition(s), training, and horse care.

USEA Foundation

Link: <https://useafoundation.org/>

Grants

Link: [Grant Applications — USEA Foundation](#)

The below information serves as a summary of the grants, please utilize the links for further information on criteria, applications, and deadlines.

Grant: Kim Meier “Kick On” Memorial Grant

Criteria: This grant is intended to assist those riders who are struggling financially to compete their own horse(s) at the upper levels and who have passed beyond the funding available for juniors and young adults. Available to riders 26 years or older.

Amount: This \$5,000 grant is given each year to a recipient that wholly own their horse(s) and are currently competing at the Intermediate level or above (FEI levels included).

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/kim-meier-kick-on-grant>

Development Grants

Grant: Richard Picken Memorial Grant

Criteria: Established in memory of the late Richard Picken by his loved ones, the Richard Picken Memorial Grants from the Fund of the same name are established to fund the intensive training of riders aged 25 years and younger competing at the FEI CCI2* level or higher.

Amount: Each year one applicant will be selected to receive this \$5,000 grant.

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/richard-picken-memorial-fund>

Grant: Rebecca Broussard Developing Rider Grants

Criteria: Awarded to riders competing at CCI4*-S and above who have not yet represented the United States at the Olympics or World Equestrian Games. There are no age restrictions on this grant and it is available to amateurs or professionals. Emphasis is placed on identifying recipients that have a proven track record of positive involvement with and being engaged with the broader USEA eventing community, especially those that do so through volunteerism.

Amount:

Typically, \$10,000 – National Developing Rider Grant annually

Typically, \$50,000 – International Developing Rider Grant annually

Varies – Rebecca Farm Travel Grants (must be in attendance at The Event at Rebecca Farm) to offset travel expenses to compete in the FEI divisions at The Event at Rebecca Farm

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/rebecca-broussard-developing-rider-grants> and [here https://www.rebeccafarm.org/competitors/#develop](https://www.rebeccafarm.org/competitors/#develop)

Grant: Wilton Fair Fund

Criteria: Awarded to riders who are U.S. citizens, age 29 and under who have not yet ridden on an Olympic or World Games team who are competing successfully at the CCI4* and above.

Aim: Intended to provide support and encouragement for talented riders to step away from their home base to gain more international experience and education. If a rider is not initially identified, this grant may also be given in increments to help fund a rider to compete overseas, and then release additional funds should they be able to stay overseas for additional training.

Amount: \$60,000 annually

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/wilton-fair-fund>

Grant: Essex Horse Trials Grant

Criteria: Awarded to developing riders, age 25 and under who are competing successfully at the CCI4*-S and above who is working towards representing the U.S. in international team competition. The grant is intended to assist the recipient in developing the essential horsemanship skills required for a successful transition from the Junior Rider/Young Rider ranks to the Senior Rider ranks.

Aim: The grant may be used for expenses related to equestrian education, coaching, training, and competing.

Amount: \$10,000 annually

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/essex-horse-trials-grant>

Grant: Seema Sonnad Junior Rider Grant

Criteria: Awarded to a Junior rider age 18 and under who is competing successfully at the Preliminary/CCI2* level and working towards representing their Area in CCI3* team competition in the following year.

Amount: \$5,000

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/seema-sonnad-junior-rider-grant>

Grant: MARS Bromont Rising Grants

Criteria: Awarded to ten or more applicants to assist with travel expenses, participation in on site educational opportunities and entry fees for the MARS Bromont CCI or Galway Downs International 3-

day Event. Recipients will have the opportunity to work with world-class trainers and educators in advance of these competitions.

Amount: Up to \$3,000 per applicant

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/mars-bromont-rising-grants>

Young Horse Grant

Grant: Holekamp/Turner Young Event Horse Lion d'Angers Grant

Criteria: Awarded to the highest scorer of the USEA Young Event Horse 5-year-old Championships, both East Coast and West Coast Championships combined, with funds that will enable them to travel to the FEI World Young Horse Championships at Mondial du Lion in Le Lion d'Angers, France for the 7-year-old three-star Championships.

Amount:

\$17,500 – North American bred

\$8,000 – Imported horse

Additional Information: <https://useafoundation.org/holekampturner-young-event-horse-lion-dangers-grant>

For more information, contact USEA CEO Rob Burk at rburk@useventing.com.

USOPC

Grants & Funding webpage: <https://www.usopc.org/grantsandfunding>

Grant: Simon Grant

Criteria: Team USA athletes who are actively in training and competitions to compete for the United States in Paris 2024 or Milan-Cortina 2026 are encouraged to apply to receive a travel and training grant.

Eligibility:

- U.S. citizens and eligible/intend to compete for the United States
- Currently training and competing with performance achievements that indicate they are in contention to compete for the U.S. in Paris or Milan-Cortina
- Not under a suspension or period of ineligibility—temporarily or otherwise—from USADA, WADA, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the USOPC, an NGB, an HPMO or International Federation
- Demonstrate financial need
- Respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to the essay prompts to (1) indicate how receiving a \$5,000-\$10,000 grant will help you achieve your athletic goals and (2) demonstrate a commitment to advancing the Olympic and Paralympic values in the United States

Amount: \$5,000-\$10,000

Additional Information: Applications open from February 21-March 25, 2024

<https://www.usopc.org/athlete-career-and-education/grants-and-funding/simon-grant>

Grant: AirBnb Athlete Travel Grant

Criteria: This grant offers 1,000 athletes a \$2,000 AirbnB Athlete Travel Grant to be used towards AirbnB accommodations on their journey to the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Eligibility:

- You must currently compete at an elite level under an IOC or IPC recognized federation in a sport that is part of the official program of Paris 2024, Milano-Cortina 2026, or LA 2028.
- As long as you meet the eligibility criteria and are 18 years or older, you can create an AirbnB account and **receive** Athlete Travel Support Credits.

Amount: \$2,000

Additional Information: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Table-Tennis/News/2022/April/25/The-IOC-and-IPC-team-up-with-Worldwide-Olympic-Partner-Airbnb-to-offer-Airbnb-Athlete-Travel-Grants>

Operation Gold

In an Olympic Games year, teams and individuals must place in the top-three at the Olympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Event Award; multiple Operation Gold Event Awards can be received if an athlete has multiple top-three finishes at the Olympic Games.

In non-Olympic Games years, Operation Gold Awards are limited to one award per athlete in the Term; athletes who qualify for more than one award automatically receive the higher award.

Individuals must finish in one of the top eight places, while teams must finish in one of the top-six places at the qualifying event in a discipline on the program of the Olympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Award in a non-Olympic Games year.

For purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

In an Olympic Games year, teams and individuals must place in the top-three at the Olympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Event Award; multiple Operation Gold Event Awards can be received if an athlete has multiple top-three finishes at the Olympic Games.

Summer Olympic & Paralympic Sport Payment Schedule*			
Place	2022	2023	2024
1 st	\$6,250	\$7,500	\$37,500
2 nd	\$5,000	\$6,250	\$22,500
3 rd	\$4,375	\$5,000	\$15,000
4 th	\$3,750	\$4,375	
5 th	\$3,125	\$3,750	
6 th	\$3,125	\$3,750	
7 th	\$2,500	\$2,500	
8 th	\$2,500	\$2,500	

For questions regarding Operation Gold, contact USOPC Director of High Performance, Julie Miller at Julie.Miller@usopc.org.

Grant: Team USA Community Champions Award in Partnership w/ Comcast

Criteria: The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Foundation have established the Team USA Community Champions Award in partnership with Comcast, a grant awarded to Team USA athletes who embody the Olympic & Paralympic values and who participate in meaningful service with a nonprofit organization focused on youth sport, physical activity, or health and well-being.

Eligibility: Team USA Athlete

Amount: Up to four \$25,000 awards are granted on a yearly basis. For each of the four selected winners, half (\$12,500) is awarded directly to the athlete, while the other half (\$12,500) is directed to the athlete's nonprofit of choice.

For additional information on financial support visit the USOPC website:

- [Medical Assistance Fund](#)
- [National Medical Network](#)
- [Mental Health Assistance Fund](#)
- [Legal Aid Program](#)
- [Commercial Agreements Resources](#)
- [Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund](#)
- [Team USA Tuition Grants](#)

Independent

Grant: The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Fund & Grant

Criteria: The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant provides financial support for young professional equestrians establishing the early years of their business and wishing to continue their equestrian education and competition.

Eligibility:

- Professional member in good standing with their respective national governing body
- US citizen or legal resident
- Demonstrate financial need
- Reside in Aiken, SC for a minimum of three (3) months annually
- Between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years of age by January thirty-one (31) of application year

Amount: \$20,000

Additional Information: <https://aikenhorsepark.org/annie-goodwin-rising-star>