

Off the Track WA Community Fund fact sheet for applicants

1. THE PROGRAM

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) aims to set the highest animal welfare standards for WA racing. The vision for the Off the Track WA (OTTWA) Community Fund is to enable eligible applicants to deliver projects which align with RWWA's equine welfare priority to assist horses in their transition beyond racing. People and organisations using or caring for off the track horses in one of the eligible categories may apply to the Community Fund.

2. KEY DATES

Applications for the fund will close at **4pm Friday, 22 November 2024**. Late submissions (including modifications to submitted applications after the closing date) will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within six weeks of the closing date.

3. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

To be eligible for the OTTWA Community Fund, projects must involve standardbred and/or thoroughbred horses that have retired from the racing or breeding industries.

3.1 The 2025 OTTWA Community Fund round invites applications from projects aligning with one or more of the following:

- i) Increasing accessibility to equine therapy programs and equine assisted learning programs.
- ii) Equestrian centres and children and adult riding schools which utilise off the track (OTT) horses and where funding of the project results in a significant impact on education and welfare outcomes for horses or participants.
- iii) Education for improving the care and training of OTT horses from specialists delivering training (including lectures/workshops/ridden work) to groups of carers or volunteers.
- iv) Projects that improve the welfare outcomes for OTT horses and/or the safety of riders, including riders who may need specialist or adaptive equipment to ride.
- v) Self-funded groups that are registered charities caring for OTT horses that provide a lifelong safety net for retired racehorses that have become vulnerable or at risk at later stages of their lives. Eligible costs include where horses may require veterinary treatment, specialist medication or other professional husbandry services e.g., dentistry, farrier. **Invoices will need to be supplied for rebate payment.**

4. INELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND EXPENSES

Ineligible projects under this scheme include:

- i) Sponsorship of competitions, as these can be applied for separately through OTTWA Event Sponsorship.
- ii) Projects which have a primary objective of fundraising.

- iii) Projects that have already commenced (except those under (3.1 v)).

Ineligible expenses under this scheme include but are not limited to:

- i) Feed costs for OTT horses.
- ii) Purchasing OTT horses.
- iii) Costs associated with staff and general operating expenses, including program preparation and reporting time.
- iv) Equipment to start a business.
- v) Training course fees/qualifications for individuals.
- vi) Trailers to move equipment or horses.
- vii) Hire of venues.
- viii) Advertising of programs.
- ix) Airfares or other transport modes to events, conferences etc.
- x) Capital improvements on private property not listed as the main business location.

5. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

To be eligible to apply for the scheme the applicant must:

- i) Have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- ii) Be located in the state of Western Australia.
- iii) Demonstrate a commitment to off the track horses as a component of their business.
- iv) Have a minimum of \$10 million in public liability insurance and be able to provide a certificate of currency.
- v) Be willing to obtain an OTTWA Passport for all retired racehorses involved in their project.

6. AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

A maximum of \$7,000 is available for each project. Separate applications must be submitted for each project. Applicants for long term care packages will be required to submit invoices for care before finance is approved for payment.

7. HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE ASSESSED?

Each project will be assessed on specific criteria to determine the benefits of the project to thoroughbred/standardbred welfare and/or alternative education pathways for retired racehorses.

As a minimum, the following will be considered:

- i) The project's alignment with the objectives of the fund.
- ii) The capacity of the organisation/applicant to undertake all aspects of the proposed project.
- iii) Is the budget comprehensive, realistic and does it provide value for money?
- iv) Does the program demonstrate the outcomes to be achieved?
- v) Will the project outcomes/benefits continue beyond the project?

vi) Is there a demonstrated financial need?

8. SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS AND FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with RWWA.

Successful applicants will be required to complete their projects within 12 months of project approval by RWWA.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to share updates on their project/programmes throughout the year for promotion on OTTWA and Racing WA social media channels.

At the completion of their project, successful applicants will be required to submit a brief report on the outcomes of the project and a breakdown of fund expenditure, with supporting invoices. In addition to this, RWWA may require successful applicants to provide an interim update on the progress of the project.

9. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Please contact the Animal Welfare team for feedback on the application.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Further information please contact the Animal Welfare team at animalwelfare@rwwa.com.au.

To apply, please read this FACT sheet and complete the OTTWA Community Fund Application form via SmartyGrants.