

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2025-26 - Submission #2621

Date Submitted: 11/23/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

Reach For The Stars Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies

Mailing Address*

Po Box 174

City*

NEWPORT

State*

Oregon

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Marla Bowman

Email Address*

marlab.reachforthestars@gmail.com

Phone Number*

5412729717

Name of Your Project*

Marla Bowman

Total Project Budget*

34,000

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

8000

(max \$15k for STANDARD, \$50k for IMPACT)

Location of Project Activities*

Seal Rock

Where in Lincoln County is your project happening?

Pool of Funds Applying to*

- STANDARD (\$15K Max)
- IMPACT (\$50K Max)

Project Description*

EAAT supports the development of life skills, emotional regulation, physical coordination, and social interaction. It also helps participants acquire skills that contribute to independence and employability, such as following structured routines, problem-solving, communication, and responsibility.

Many individuals with special needs do not meet insurance eligibility criteria for EAAT, leaving them without access to services that can significantly improve their quality of life and long-term self-sufficiency. The scholarship program addresses this gap by ensuring that financial limitations do not prevent participation. Reach for the stars does not require any participant to pay for services out of pocket.

Employability and Job Retention Impact:

EAAT services contribute to employability by building both practical skills and mental health resilience. Through structured skills training, participants learn time management, task completion, teamwork, and adaptability — all of which are essential in the workplace. Targeted mental health support within EAAT sessions helps individuals manage stress, improve focus, and maintain emotional stability, which are critical for sustaining employment.

For those already in the workforce, participation in EAAT can improve job retention by reducing absenteeism related to stress or mental health challenges, increasing confidence in interpersonal interactions, and enhancing problem-solving abilities. By addressing both skill development and mental well-being, EAAT equips community members to enter, remain in, and succeed in the workforce.

What is the project and what will it do for community and/or economic development? What tangible items or results will the project deliver? How will the success of this project be judged? **IMPORTANT:** This fund is not intended for staff or operations. Please describe the economic impact of the project and how it creates or retains jobs in the community.

Funding*

Reach For The Stars just received non-profit status in August of 2025, so we have not been awarded any grants yet. We are intending on apply for grants from the following by the end of the year: CTSI, City of Newport, and OCF.

If applicable, please describe the status of other funding sources you have applied for or intend to apply for, and indicate whether those funds have been awarded. Also, list any other funds for which you have applied but were not funded - how much did you ask for, from whom, and why was the application not funded?

Collaboration*

Reach For The Stars is collaborating with the Pacific Northwest Academy school, to give their students the opportunity to participate in EAAT services. The hope is these children are getting skills to help them move forward successfully through highschool and beyond. which are adults with intellectual disabilities.

The ARC of Lincoln County serves adults with Intellectual Disabilities in community and employment activities and training. We plan to give employment opportunities to some of these adults at Reach For The Stars. The ARC assists their participants with learning employable skills, how to make a resume, job coaching, and ongoing support for their participants to have success in the workplace. This will create jobs at Reach for the stars in areas such as horse care and barn maintenance.

If applicable, please list who you are collaborating with and why.

Viability*

Goals & Objectives:

Goal: Provide equitable access to EAAT for all eligible participants, regardless of insurance status.

Objectives:

Award scholarships to 100% of uninsured participants annually.

Maintain a zero out-of-pocket cost policy for all clients.

Monitor and document participant progress in life skills, independence, and employability readiness.

Activities & Timeline:

Ongoing: Accept scholarship applications and verify insurance status.

Weekly: Deliver individualized EAAT sessions tailored to participant needs.

Quarterly: Conduct progress assessments and collect feedback from participants, caregivers, and partner schools.

Annually: Publish an impact report summarizing measurable outcomes and program effectiveness.

Expected Outcomes:

Increased access to EAAT for uninsured individuals and school-based programs.

Documented improvements in life skills, independence, and employability readiness.

Retention of skilled EAAT professionals and related community jobs.

Recognition as a statewide leader in credentialed EAAT service delivery.

Sustainability Plan:

Approximately 50% of participants have insurance coverage because their treatment plans include documented needs for speech therapy, behavioral health, or mental health services. For those who do not qualify for insurance, the scholarship program covers the full cost of services.

The scholarship program will be sustained through grants, community fundraising events, and partnerships with local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and educational institutions. In the first three months of operations, individual donations to the scholarship program has totaled just under \$1000. We plan on growing the donor base to help maintain future services.

How will the success of this project be judged? State success measures and timeline. Will this project need ongoing funding? How will this be secured?

Desired Start Date*

1/5/2026

Desired End Date*

12/31/2026

Budget Documents*

Project Budget - Sheet1.pdf

Please submit as a PDF file - project budget only (not organizational budget)

Letter(s) of Support

Reach for the Stars Letter 2025.pdf

At least one letter of support is required for an IMPACT application.

Name of Chief Executive*

Marla Bowman

Title*

Executive Director

Chief Executive Email*

marlab.reachforthestars@gmail.com

Tax ID Number*

39-2550509

Type of Applicant Organization*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

REACH FOR THE STARS EQUINE ASSISTED ACTIVITIES AND THERAPIES

2026 scholarship project

INCOME				
Income to support project		Budget		
	Scholarship account individual donations	\$ 3,000.00		
	CTSI grant	\$ 8,000.00		
	Community Development grant	\$ 8,000.00		
	Fundraisers	\$ 2,000.00		
	City of Newport grant	\$ 5,000.00		
	OCF grant	\$ 8,000.00		
Total project income		\$ 34,000.00		
EXPENSES				
Project expenses		Budget		
	Program services delivery	\$ 11,915.00		
	Admin / reporting	\$ 2,620.00		
	Advertising / collaboration /community awareness	\$ 1,680.00		
	Staff professional certifications and continuing ed	\$ 2,000.00		
	Horse care for services performed	\$ 5,085.00		
	Equipment, adaptive tack, materials for sessions	\$ 5,300.00		
	Employment taxes /fee/ trainings	\$ 3,400.00		
	Facility maintenance	\$ 2,000.00		
Total project expenses		\$ 34,000.00		

PNW Coastal Academy
227 NW 12th St
Newport OR 97365

Reach for the Stars Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of PNW Coastal Academy, I am writing to express our complete support and appreciation for Reach for the Stars and the incredible service they are providing our students through their equine lessons. Under the leadership of Marla, Reach for the Stars has generously offered monthly horse lessons to every class at our school—completely free of charge. This program has already made a tremendous impact, and we are deeply grateful for Marla's dedication and commitment to our community.

The benefits of equine experiences for children are both wide-reaching and well-documented. Being around horses nurtures essential life skills that extend far beyond the barn. Students learn responsibility, patience, empathy, and confidence as they interact with and care for these gentle animals. Horses naturally encourage calmness and emotional regulation, providing a grounding environment that helps students manage stress and develop healthy coping strategies.

In an educational setting, these experiences directly support school success. Working with horses strengthens focus, listening skills, and the ability to follow multi-step directions—all critical components of classroom learning. Many students also show improved social skills, teamwork, and communication as they engage with their peers during lessons. The hands-on, movement-based nature of equine activities supports sensory needs and provides an excellent outlet for students who benefit from kinesthetic learning.

Beyond academics, these monthly lessons give our students a unique opportunity to connect with nature, build self-esteem, and explore new interests they may not otherwise have access to. For many of our students, this program is a highlight of their month and something they look forward to with excitement.

PNW Coastal Academy is proud to partner with Marla and Reach for the Stars. Their dedication to providing meaningful, enriching experiences for youth is truly exceptional, and the impact on our students is both immediate and lasting. We strongly support their mission and deeply value the positive difference they are making in our community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our students.

PNW Staff,
Erinne Irish
Talisha Liles

Nathan Scheirbech