



Guidelines for the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund

The Reining Horse Foundation Crisis Fund Review Committee is tasked with evaluating each application—considering an applicant’s eligibility, situation and financial need and then determining an amount to award. Applications are reviewed anonymously by the committee, which strives to offer a streamlined application and review process and create a fair, objective and confidential method for determining grant amounts.

Types of Grant-Eligible Crises

Heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic illnesses, mental health disorders, injury accidents and support for a family in the wake of a parent’s or child’s death are examples suitable for application. Additionally, NRHA members can apply for significant loss due to fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, hurricane or other disasters. While heartbreaking, replacement of horses and other animals is not covered by the Crisis Fund.

Virtually everyone will meet a crisis at some point in life, and it is advisable to be proactive in planning for such. The RHF Board is a strong proponent of financial literacy and carrying adequate health, property and liability insurance. The Crisis Fund should not be thought of as a replacement for these tools.

While a grant is the applicant’s to use as needed, the RHF encourages a recipient to not use the funds to pay medical bills—which can usually be negotiated and set up on a payment plan. Rather, the intent is to assist in the payment of other bills, particularly when loss of employment income has occurred.

If an applicant meets the eligibility requirements, the Board may approve up to \$7,500 in grant funds per crisis for accidents and illnesses and up to \$12,500 for disaster recovery. This is not a guarantee that the full grant threshold will be awarded.

Profound Crisis Situations

Additionally, if an applicant’s situation is a case of profound crisis, where exceptional need is determined, the RHF Board, under recommendation by the Crisis Fund Review Committee, may fund an additional amount – not to exceed 100 percent of the base grant.

Eligibility and Application

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must be an NRHA member in good standing for at least the 24 months prior to applying. However, in the case of a deceased member meeting the foregoing requirements, then such application may be made by a surviving spouse and/or parent or legal guardian of deceased member’s minor children. NRHA members around the world are encouraged to apply if in need. Consideration shall be given to the following:

- The severity of the disaster, hardship or illness and the loss of work income during recovery
- Annual gross and net family income of the recipient
- Number of children or other dependents comprising the family of the recipient
- Availability of insurance applicable to the crisis
- Any other sources of support available to recipient including: crowd funding, such as GoFundMe; American Red Cross, FEMA, similar international aid organizations; and others. (Additional sources of support do not necessarily deny an applicant assistance; rather, they help inform the decision-making process for the committee and Board.)
- Any sources of additional information requested by the RHF or Board

Additional requirements and requests for information are detailed on the application. The RHF executive director may be contacted with any questions.

NRHA members who maintained active membership for 20 years or more during their lifetime also may be eligible if their membership has not lapsed more than 10 years prior to the date of application. Membership records will be verified through NRHA's ReinerSuite.

NRHA members should encourage fellow members in need to apply.

Memorials, honorariums and donations of all sizes are crucial to the safety net and hope provided by the RHF Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund. Please give.

3021 W. Reno Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73107 * (405) 946-7400 * rhf@nrha.com * reiningfoundation.com