

## Veterans' TOT 2026 Grant Application

Deadline : April 23, 2026 at 11:59 PM PDT(Midnight) - CLOSED

### Applicant Information

**Name:** Terri Olson  
**Email:** terri@heartslandingranch.com  
**App ID:** 05818716  
**Status:** Submitted  
**Cycle:** None  
**Last Modified:** Apr 22 2026 20:51 PDT by terri@heartslandingranch.com  
**Last IP Address:** [REDACTED]  
**Common App:** 2026 COMMON APP for EDCF grants

### Organization Information

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**Legal Name of Organization** Hearts Landing Ranch

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**Mailing Address- Street number and name OR PO Box**

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8902 Quail Lane

<b>City</b>	Granite Bay
<b>State</b>	CA
<b>Zip Code</b>	95746
<b>Phone Number</b>	279-529-8279
<b>Organization's Website Address</b>	www.heartslandingranch.com
<b>Attach your organization's logo.</b>	HLR_logo.jpg
<b>Grant contact name</b>	Terri Olson
<b>Grant contact email address</b>	terri@heartslandingranch.com
<b>Executive Director/ CEO/ President</b>	Donna Eckwortzel
<b>Executive Director email address</b>	Donna@heartslandingranch.com

**Please provide names and titles of your primary board of directors: board president, board secretary, & board treasurer only.**

Donna Eckwortzel, President  
Mike Frye, Secretary  
Terri Olson, Treasurer

<b>Year Incorporated</b>	2015
<b>Number of paid staff</b>	5.00
<b>Number of volunteers</b>	20.00

**Mission Statement**

Hearts Landing Ranch combines one-to-one mentoring, Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) and Psychotherapy (EAP), and community outreach events to bring hope, healing and restoration, in a ranch environment, to those dealing with mental health issues.

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**Fiscal Agent's confirmation letter- this is only needed if the community based organization that is applying is using a Fiscal Agent (because they are not their own nonprofit). Fiscal Agent must write a letter stating that they are taking fiscal responsibility of the grant funds on the community-based organization's behalf if they are granted funds. Fiscal Agents will keep specific program related funds restricted/accounting separate for this particular project request.**

**Fiscal Agent letter must be dated within 90 days of the grant submittal.**

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### **Is Your Non-Profit in Good Standing?**

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**EIN or TIN**



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**Attach the IRS Determination letter that contains your organization's Employer Identification Number AND verifies that your organization has been given 501c3 status.**

IRS Letter of Determination\_Hearts Landing Ranch.pdf

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**Click on this link for the IRS database to find your organization. Please take a screenshot of the page that shows your organization name and the IRS filings for the past year(s). This page should show that your organization has filed its 990, 990EZ or 990N in the past three years at least once.**

HLR IRS Filing.docx

**THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.**

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**Visit the CA Secretary of State website and search for your organization. Take a screenshot of that page that shows your organization is active and up-to-date with your statement of information.**

**If your entity is registered in a state other than California, please provide a screenshot of your state's registration entity proving your active and up-to-date status. Also, your organization should be registered in CA if you are doing business in CA (like applying for these funds:)).**

HLR CA Sec of State.docx

**THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.**

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**Lastly, visit the CA Department of Justice website to verify your organization's registration. Search for your organization , and take a screenshot of the page that shows your organization name, and that its registration with the Department of Justice is CURRENT. Upload this screenshot here.**

HLR Dept of Justice.docx

**All organizations that "do business in California" are required to file annually with the CA DOJ.**

**THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.**

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**Grant Information**

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**Grant Information**

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**Grant Title: please create a title that describes what your grant is requesting**

Veterans Equine Psychotherapy Program

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**Grant Request SUMMARY: In 300 words or less please provide a summary that describes the program/project that your organization is requesting funds for.**  
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At Hearts Landing Ranch (HLR), our veteran Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) program is a specialized mental health service that uses structured therapeutic interaction with horses to help military veterans heal from trauma, rebuild emotional regulation, and strengthen overall well-being. It blends clinical psychotherapy with the unique, responsive nature of horses; creating a powerful alternative to traditional talk therapy. Sessions are led by a **licensed mental-health professional** and a **certified equine specialist**; with a **herd of horses**. The horse is used as an active partner in the healing process. All sessions are ground-based (no riding) and no prior horse knowledge is needed. The program consists of 8 weekly sessions, during which clients participate in activities based on a custom curriculum tailored to the mental health challenges they want to address. The horses elevate the sessions even more because they are highly attuned to human body language, emotional states, and nervous-system cues. They respond in real time, offering nonjudgmental feedback that helps veterans:

- Recognize and regulate emotions
- Build trust and connection
- Increase self-awareness
- Practice communication and boundary-setting

The Program addresses:

- PTSD and trauma symptoms
- Anxiety, depression, and moral injury
- Hypervigilance and nervous-system dysregulation
- Social isolation and difficulty reconnecting
- Confidence, purpose, and identity after service

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<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	\$ 19200
<b>Geographic Area Served by this Grant</b>	El Dorado County
<b>What is the need that your project/program that you are requesting funds for supports?</b>	

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Military veterans experience disproportionately high rates of PTSD, depression, anxiety, traumatic stress and social isolation, yet many struggle to engage in or benefit from traditional talk-based therapy. Long waitlists, limited access to trauma-informed care, and the stigma associated with seeking mental health support leave many without effective treatment. As a result, too many veterans remain untreated, disconnected, or at risk of worsening symptoms.

Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) addresses these gaps by offering a non-traditional, experiential relationship centered approach that resonates with veterans who may feel uncomfortable in conventional, clinical therapy settings. Meanwhile the horses respond to human emotion and body language with immediate nonjudgmental feedback helping veterans develop emotional regulation, trust, self awareness and communication skills; core areas often disrupted by trauma. The work is grounded in evidence based principles of somatic regulation and trauma recovery making it especially effective for individuals who struggle to verbalize their experiences.

The need is intensified by rising demand for mental health services and a shortage of culturally competent veteran specific therapeutic options. Many veterans report feeling more at ease in nature based environments and more willing to engage in therapy when it involves purposeful hands on interaction rather than traditional office based sessions. Equine programs also reduce isolation by fostering peer connection, community and belonging all of which are protective factors against suicide and long term mental health decline.

Expanding access to EAP is essential to ensuring that veterans receive timely, effective and dignified care that honors their service and supports their path.

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**Please provide information (DATA) demonstrating the need exists for VETERANS in El Dorado County.**

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The National Council of Behavioral Health states that 30% of our military suffer with mental health issues. With over **17,000 veterans in El Dorado County, 5,100** are potentially facing issues of PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

Veterans in El Dorado county face many of the same mental-health challenges seen nationwide, but **local conditions** add their own layers of difficulty.

Veterans in El Dorado County face unique mental health challenges compounded by local barriers such as **limited access** to veteran-specific trauma-informed care, long wait times for VA services, and **geographic isolation** (rural location challenges) that hinders community connection. These factors create an urgent need for innovative, culturally competent programs that provide faster, accessible, and effective mental health support tailored to veterans' experiences. HLR is committed to addressing these gaps by providing EAP scholarships to those in surrounding areas as an option for treatment. Supporting this initiative means investing in a program designed to meet the specific needs of El Dorado County veterans, improving their mental health outcomes and overall quality of life. Your partnership will help reduce barriers to care, enhance therapeutic options, and build a stronger, more connected veteran community locally.

In 2025, HLR provided scholarship funding for 11 El Dorado County Veterans and have requests for additional El Dorado Veterans in 2026. With the funding of \$19,200 we can get the help needed for those who are not being helped by traditional therapy.

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**How will this program/project in this grant request address the need described above?**

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This grant funding would provide Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy EAP scholarships to 8 individuals, or up to 14 if group(s) El Dorado County veterans. Our program sessions address the existing needs in El Dorado County by:

- Working experientially with a highly attuned animal addressing needs often unmet by traditional mental health care (talk therapy)
- Gives a sense of community connection in working with a therapy team or in group situations
- Opportunity to attend a program that provides results in less time
- Gives El Dorado County Veterans access to unique therapeutic options

It regulates the nervous system and reduces PTSD symptoms as horses respond to body language and emotional states creating biofeedback for veterans. A 2024 review published in The National Library of Medicine, found such services cut PTSD scores by 22.6% on average, decreasing hypervigilance and stress especially helpful for trauma stored in the body that talk therapy alone may not reach.

The EAP Program at Hearts Landing Ranch addresses veterans mental health needs by:

- Regulating the nervous system
- Reducing PTSD symptoms
- Providing a safe nonclinical therapeutic environment
- Rebuilding trust and emotional connection
- Supporting physical and psychological healing
- Reducing isolation and strengthening community
- Restoring agency and purpose

One of our therapist shared: "From my experience, clients in equine therapy have demonstrated, in 8 weeks, a significant amount of change-making behavior that can sometimes take months or years for others to demonstrate while attending traditional talk therapy/counseling in an office setting."

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**How is your organization suited to meet this need?  
Please describe how organization's mission aligns with the need and the program/project that funding is being requested for.**

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Hearts Landing Ranch (HLR) has provided equine therapy for mental health issues for over 10 years, successfully providing hope, healing and restoration to clients allowing them to move forward in life and their relationships. HLR specializes in Equine-Assisted trauma therapy. Many of our team of EAGALA (Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning Association) certified professionals have walked a similar healing path, and have a deep understanding and belief in the specialized services we provide. The EAGALA model/team involves a licensed mental health professional, an equine specialist, and horses specifically chosen to engage with the individual(s). Horses can mirror emotions and detect subtle changes in behavior, which helps reveal feelings that are often hidden in traditional talk therapy. This unique approach enables veterans to externalize their invisible wounds in a safe environment, allowing them to observe and understand their challenges.

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**What is the grant timeline and major milestones of this project?**

**Please remember, if your grant is approved, funding must be spent within a year.**

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It is anticipated this process will take 30-90 days to conduct the outreach and identify veterans who would like to participate. HLR's team will conduct the initial assessment with veterans within 90 days of the award and set a time to begin the eight-week sessions concluding within a year of the awarded funding.

Major Milestones include:

- Outreach to veterans initial intake assessment

- Existing core treatment plan customized for the individual/group

- Conducting group sessions with the EAGALA team

- Participation by the veterans in all 8 sessions of the program

- Mental Health outcomes identified by the veteran (using a scale format at the intake session and conducted again at the 8th session and compared)

- Mental Health outcomes identified by the EAGALA team (using a scale format at the end of the intake session and conducted again at the 8th session and compared)

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**What are the measurable objectives of the project/program that you are requesting grant funds for?**

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Measurable objectives include:

Reduction in stress levels of veterans

Improved ability to express in words their struggles and needs/desires.

Improvement in relational communication with spouse, family, and co-workers

Tools for anger management

Awareness of triggers that cause conflict in day to day life

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**How will the objectives be measured?**

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**Standardized Questionnaires:** Utilizing validated surveys such as the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist (PCL-5), pre- and post-intervention stages to quantify emotional well-being.

**Behavioral Observations:** Instructors and therapists utilize formal checklists to track changes in confidence, communication, and social skills (e.g., Social Skills Improvement System - SSIS).

**Physiological Tracking:** Awareness of participants' and horses' body tension and breathing to evaluate stress reduction and engagement with documentation as needed from the Equine Therapy Team.

**Qualitative Feedback:** Conducting interviews or open-ended questionnaires to document personal experiences, feelings of empowerment, and functional improvements in daily life.

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**What is the number of un-duplicated veterans to be served if this grant is funded?** 10

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**What percentage of your total clientele are veterans?** 19

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**How will you confirm/show proof of a veteran's status? Please be very specific...this data may be asked for in the final report**

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Each Veteran is asked for their status and a provided DD214 as well as confirmed status through the Veterans center that may have identified him/her for the EAP program.

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**What is the anticipated impact of the project?**

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Equine Therapy sessions occur in an environment where veterans can explore freely without judgment or shame, because horses do not judge a person's words or feelings as wrong.

Veterans who undergo equine therapy, report a variety of emotional benefits:

**Reduced stress**

**Decreases negative reactions** to people and circumstances

**Increased confidence** in decision making and boundaries

**Better Communication** from learning to put words to feelings and then communicating to spouses, family and workplace

**Improved ability to trust** others by replacing toxic coping skills with healthy detachment

Equine Therapy provides healing and hope that impacts not only the veteran but their family members, employers and community. The impact is a healthier member of society and engages in their community.

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**How will you measure the impact of this project/program?**

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The same method of objective measurements will also be used to evaluate the impact of this project through the final post evaluations and client feedback on their program experience. We often-time will hear "I've finally been able to have better conversations with my spouse because I can now put words to feelings", "I am able to regulate my emotions better", "I made a career move I was putting off", "I gained clarity about future plans".

**Standardized Questionnaires:** Utilizing validated surveys such as the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21), Post traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist (PCL-5), pre- and post-intervention stages to quantify emotional well-being.

**Behavioral Observations:** Instructors and therapists utilize formal checklists to track changes in confidence, communication, and social skills (e.g., Social Skills Improvement System - SSIS).

**Qualitative Feedback:** Conducting interviews or open-ended questionnaires to document personal experiences, feelings of empowerment, and functional improvements in daily life.

These measurements of pre, post and self evaluative statements from our veterans and clients consistently confirm the positive impact toward spouse and family relationships, healthier workplaces and engagement in community.

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**Is the project/program you are requesting funds for an ongoing program or project? If so, please describe how funding will be found to continue the project upon completion of this grant cycle.**

**What determines if your program/project continues on in regards to impact?**

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The EAP and EAL program at Hearts Landing Ranch is an ongoing program with established growth over the last 10 years. Since 2024, we have seen an increase in military clients as those that go through the program spread the word of the impact to their lives. We continually apply for grants, raise funds through our two annual fundraisers, and have a supportive community of individuals, along with corporate and community sponsors, filling in the gaps for needed scholarship program funding. However, we have not been able to keep up with the growing demand for scholarships for veterans seeking therapy.

### Grant Budget

#### Grant Program Revenue

<b>Veteran's Grant Amount Requesting</b>	\$ 19200
<b>Other Contributions</b>	\$ 0
<b>Fundraising revenue</b>	\$ 0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ 19200

#### Grant Program Expenditures

<b>Staff salaries, wages and benefits</b>	\$ 3520
<b>Occupancy and utilities</b>	\$ 3200
<b>Equipment</b>	
<b>Supplies, materials and printing</b>	
<b>Travel and meetings</b>	\$ 0
<b>Marketing and advertising</b>	\$ 0
<b>Staff and volunteer training</b>	\$ 0
<b>Contract services</b>	\$ 9280
<b>Other</b>	\$ 3200
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 19200

### Budget Narrative

**Budget Narrative**

Expenses for 8 (1:1) or up to 14 (groups) El Dorado County veterans-8 sessions/weeks

Staff salaries are \$3520 for administrative intake, Executive Director outreach to VA centers and contacts, Program Manager session schedule/pre and post evaluations.

Occupancy and Utilities include rent, electrical, janitorial, insurances for % of yearly facility use.

Contract Services are \$9280.00 for the licensed mental health professional and equine specialist that are part of the therapy team for each session.

Other; includes horse care (feed, vet, grooming) session activity items (paint, balls, noodles, cones)

In 2025, 46 veterans received scholarships from program funding, with a total of over 250 unique individuals being served. \$19,200 assures that 8-14 veterans from El Dorado County will be attending EAP sessions in FY 2026.

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### **Submit Grant Application**

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### **Signature and Affirmation**

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**By entering your full name below, you certify that all information is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.**

Terri Olson

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 09 2018**

HEARTS LANDING RANCH  
8902 QUAIL LANE  
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746

Employer Identification Number:

DLN:

17053270313047

Contact Person:

JULIE CHEN

ID# 31261

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

September 29, 2015

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947