

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR CRISIS FUND PAYMENTS

Distribution from the Reining Horse Foundation (The Foundation, or RHF) Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund will be based on a proven financial need arising from sudden and demonstrable hardship or disaster of a severe and unexpected nature or from serious physical illness. Before any distribution is approved by the Foundation Board of Directors (Board), evidence of a proven financial need must exist and be submitted to the Board through the process outlined below for review and approval. Applicant must submit formal application to the RHF. By direction of the Board, the fund at all times will be maintained with no less than 50 percent of the donated funds remaining in the fund.

To overcome any reluctance by applicants to submit an application and demonstrate need, the application is forwarded to the Foundation Coordinator, who eliminates names from the application materials prior to submission to the Board for consideration. All applications for assistance are presented to the RHF Board for final approval. The Foundation Coordinator will notify the applicant of the Foundation's approval. It is recommended that applicant's name not be shared among Board members in order to protect the privacy of the applicant, and to insure independence among the Board when reviewing the merits of any single application.

To be eligible for Crisis Fund assistance, an Applicant must be a NRHA member in good standing for at least two consecutive years. *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. In the case of a deceased member meeting the following criteria, then payment may be made directly to the surviving spouse and/or parent or legal guardian of the deceased member's minor children.*

It is recommended in evaluating evidence of financial need; consideration shall be given to the following:

- a. Annual gross and net family income of the recipient
- b. Number of children or other dependents comprising the family of the recipient
- c. Availability of insurance applicable to the crisis
- d. Any other sources of support available to recipient including: crowd funding, such as GoFundMe; American Red Cross, FEMA, similar international aid organizations; and others
- e. The severity of the disaster, hardship or illness
- f. Any sources of additional information requested by the Foundation Coordinator or Board

Additional sources of support do not necessarily deny an applicant assistance; rather, they help inform the decision-making process for the committee and Board.

