



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 total financial need and then determining an appropriate amount to award. Grants are reviewed anonymously. To streamline the process and create a more standardized and fair method for determining grant amounts, the Crisis Fund Review Committee follows a four-tier classification system. Each of the first three tiers have a set capped amount. Thanks to the generosity of donors and ongoing fundraising efforts, award amounts were increased again in January 2021.

Tier 1 is for those applying because of medical issues, including mental health. This includes those who experience a sudden isolated incident such as heart attack or stroke, as well as those suffering from chronic long-term illnesses like cancer, MS, or mental health disorders, including support for a family in the wake of suicide by a parent or their child. **The maximum award for Tier 1 is \$3,600.** Virtually everyone will meet these criteria at some point in their life, and it is advisable to be proactive in planning for this type of crisis. The intent here is not to pay medical bills—which can usually be negotiated and set up on a payment plan. Rather, the goal is to assist in the payment of other bills which may become delinquent due to extended periods where a loss of employment income has occurred.

Tier 2 is for those applying as the result of an injury accident, ranging from equine-related to automobile mishaps. **The maximum award for Tier 2 is \$3,600.** A crisis falling within this tier is less easy to plan for. Again, the intent is not to pay medical bills or insurance deductibles, but rather to assist in the payment of other bills which may become delinquent due to extended periods where employment income has been lost.

Tier 3 is for those who have experienced a significant loss due to fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, hurricane or other natural disaster. **The maximum award range for Tier 3 is \$6,000.** It is impossible to predict when and where a natural disaster will occur, and no one is immune. These situations can be difficult to prepare for financially, and insurance often falls short. When everything is lost in a disaster, it is unlikely that insurance alone will make you financially whole again.

Tier 4 is reserved for only the most extreme cases of profound crisis where a significant need is determined by the RHF Board upon recommendation by the Crisis Fund Review Committee. Applications falling under this Tier are carefully scrutinized. **Other than the existing condition that the Board never award more than 50 percent of the Crisis Fund Balance, there is no award cap on Tier 4.** However, a Tier 4 grant will not necessarily exceed the amount of other tiers.

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