



\$20,000 Joyce Webster American Saddlebred Academy Grant

Purpose: The purpose of the \$20,000 Joyce Webster American Saddlebred Academy Grant (JWASAG) is to financially assist academy instructors who are ASHBA and UPHA members and participate in The National Academy Championship Finals Horse Show on October 30th-November 2nd, 2025, in Murfreesboro, TN. The JWASAG supports both existing academy programs and the initiation of new programs, focusing on enhancing educational opportunities and resources for instructors, ensuring high-quality and innovative learning experiences while furthering participation in equestrian sports.

Deadline and Selection:

The deadline for completed applications, letters of reference, attached financials and supporting documents are due in the ASHBA office no later than **December 1st, 2025**. Funding for the JWASAG comes directly from the National Academy Championship Finals Horse Show. The selection process is determined by a panel consisting of two National Academy board members and one ASHBA employee. This panel will review the submissions and make a final determination.

Objectives:

1. **Support Existing Programs:** Provide necessary funds to maintain and improve current academy programs that have demonstrated success and impact on equestrian learning.
2. **Initiate New Programs:** Allocate resources to develop and implement new academy programs that require an initial capital investment.
3. **Enhance Educational Resources:** Invest in materials, technology, and facilities that are essential for the effective delivery of academy programs.
4. **Professional Development:** Support training and development opportunities for instructors to ensure they are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality lesson programming.

Expected Outcomes:

1. **Improved Program Quality:** Enhanced effectiveness and reach of new and existing programs, leading to better student outcomes and enjoyment and increased participation in equestrian sports.

2. **Innovation in Education:** Introduction of new, cutting-edge programs that cater to diverse learning needs and prepare equestrians for future challenges.
3. **Resource Availability:** Increased availability and access to essential educational resources, contributing to a richer learning environment and sustained participation.
4. **Educator Empowerment:** Continuous professional growth for instructors, translating into improved teaching methodologies and equestrian engagement.

Criteria:

JWASAG will be awarded only to applicants on the basis of submitted evidence on the below criteria and will be awarded in the first quarter of the subsequent fiscal year.

The grant will be determined by, and in no specific order:

1. Financial need.
2. Years of involvement in the National Academy Championship Finals Horse Show.
3. Participation in the American Saddlebred industry.
4. Number and frequency of lessons.
5. Longevity of lesson program.
6. Percentage of academy riders that your program has moved into performance riding.

Requirements for Application:

Only complete applications will be reviewed, and they must contain the following:

1. Completed and signed online application.
2. Current ASHBA and UPHA membership number and participate at the National Academy Championships Finals Horse Show to be held on October 30th-November 2nd, 2025, in Murfreesboro, TN.
3. GED or higher education and at least 21 years of age.
4. Provide a copy of the business license and the first page of the most current filed income tax return.
5. Written essay, and optional video if desired, outlining your program and how it meets JWASAG criteria, and how the grant would enhance your academy program.
6. Detailed budget for the grant funds that support the objectives. Cost estimates and breakdowns for development and implementation of new programs, technology estimates, marketing needs, facility improvements, continuing education or clinics, any related costs that might be incurred.
7. Applicants are encouraged to provide a list of academy riders that graduated into performance riders (photos of those riders are encouraged).
8. Applicants are encouraged to list academy riders that now serve our industry in any capacity including a chosen professional degree in an equestrian field.
9. Applicants are encouraged to provide letters of reference.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

To be eligible for future grants, recipients must establish and provide a yearly framework for tracking the progress and impact of funded programs, ensuring accountability and effectiveness and submit to ASHBA office by November 1st of 2025.