

NYSHC
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ADVOCACY 2026

EQUINE ADVOCACY, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEADERSHIP BOARD, SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

REQUEST

We respectfully request that a line item of \$100,000 be appropriated for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC) in the 2026-2027 budget for the expansion of education programs, workforce development, the establishment of a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board and marketing dedicated to advocating for all breeds and all disciplines of horses in New York State.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1968, the New York State Horse Council, Inc., a volunteer organization, advocates for horses, open space preservation, and trails across the Empire State. The Mission of the NYSHC is "to create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State." According to the 2023 New York State Equine Economic Impact Survey, the NYS Horse Industry and related businesses generate seven billion dollars in revenue each year. This income stream includes agricultural products, professionals (veterinarians, farriers, trainers, riding instructors) the racing industry, recreational rider, horse show participants, boarding and lesson stables, breeding operations, equestrian programs at universities, and more. With increased interest in outdoor recreation, there has been a surge in the purchase of pleasure horses and the need to educate their owners on proper care, safety, and training. The NYSHC has long promoted multi-use trails on public land, making New York a premier tourist destination for trail riders. Therefore, the New York State Horse Council, Inc. is requesting a \$100,000 allocation to support the following programs.

1. \$20,000 Equine Industry Workforce Development and Skills Training
2. \$10,000 Establish a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board with representatives from Equine University programs, Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, and others.
3. \$30,000 Equestrian and Multi-Use Trail Improvements on Public Lands
4. \$20,000 Emergency Preparedness – Large Animal Rescue Training and Safety Education for Barn Owners, Horse Handlers, and EMS personnel
5. \$20,000 Marketing and Education – includes collaboration with the American Horse Council, Coalition of State Horse Councils, Cornell University, and other Equine University and Education Programs in New York State

GOALS

The NYSHC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with significant achievements through its dedicated volunteers. The appropriation of \$100,000 would provide funding to advance the New York State Equine Industry with the following NYSHC initiatives: Workforce Development and Skills Training; establishment of a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board; funding for Equestrian and Multi-use trail improvements on public lands; Large Animal Rescue Training and Safety Education; Marketing and Equine Education. To accomplish these goals, the NYSHC plans to collaborate with other equine organizations, universities and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.