Date: 16 November 2026
To: US Dressage Athletes
From: Laura Roberts, US Equestrian Managing Director, Dressage
Re: 2027 U.S. Dressage Funding Principles

There will be three types of Funding available to athlete / horse combinations:

i. Program Pathway Training Grants.
ii. Specific Competition Grants & Funding. These are grants given to athlete / horse combinations selected to represent the U.S. at specific competitions, for example CDIOs.
iii. Non-USEF Controlled Grants. This is either applied for by an athlete or when the USEF is asked to make a recommendation to the organization / committee that decides on the funding. Athletes will be informed when there are opportunities to apply for these grants if/when USEF is notified of such opportunities. These would include grants available through The Dressage Foundation and USOPC based Awards and funding opportunities.

Resources/Support will be prioritized for building talent (which includes supporting Program Pathway members in reaching their targets) for the 2027 Aachen CDIO5* and the 2028 Olympic Games, including providing opportunities for combinations targeting European Nations Cups and the 2027 Pan American Games.

PROGRAM TRAINING GRANTS

Available funds will be prioritized across all Programs based upon the following Principles:

- Funding is awarded to support the aims of the Program Pathway; *sustained success at world and Games level.*
- Funding will be awarded to support agreed athlete and athlete / horse targets and or Key performance indicators (KPIs). Program Member Competition Planning Sheet must be completed to be eligible for training grants.
- Funding is not a right it is a privilege. Failure to follow the direction of the USEF Managing Director of Dressage, Chef d'Equipe, Coaching Staff or Team Veterinarian may result in loss of funding privileges.

Elite & Pre-Elite List Members

- Subject to funds being available, a Training Grant may be available in 6-month blocks, following athletes' Reviews and discussion of Program Member Competition Planning Sheet.
- The Training Grant may be given in order to assist athletes in attaining their agreed Targets and KPIs. Athletes are required to submit a brief report at the end of the 6-month period summarizing how the funds were utilized and the impact the funds had. Further grants will not be paid if a Report is not received. If an athlete has more than one horse eligible for the List(s), they may not receive the same financial support with the 2nd horse.
- Elite & Pre-Elite List members may receive additional funds for Target Competitions / Training including key competitions such as the 2027 Aachen CDIO5*.

Development Program Members

- Subject to funds being available, a Training Grant may be available in 6-month blocks, following athletes' Reviews and discussion of Program Member Competition Planning Sheet.
- The Training Grant may be given in order to assist athletes in attaining their agreed Targets and KPIs. Athletes are required to submit a brief report at the end of the 6-month period summarizing how the funds were utilized. Further grants will not be paid if a Report is not received.
- The level of Training Grant will be reviewed on a 6-month basis and against the Budget. If an athlete is named to the Program with more than one horse, they may not receive the same financial support with the additional horse(s).

- If it is agreed that a combination is in a transition or building year and will not be competing or have scores to review, funding may be held until the combination has reached a competitive level. The decision to allocate funds will be made by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff & Managing Director.

Emerging Program Members

- Youth (U21 or U25) members may receive funds for Target Competitions/Training the decision to allocate funds will be made by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff & Managing Director.

- Young Horse members may receive funds for Target Competitions/Training the decision to allocate funds will be made by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff & Managing Director.

Sports Science & Medicine Support

Equine

- Equine SSM support (vet / farrier / physio) available at or before specific competitions will be communicated by the Managing Director.

Human

- Access to Human SSM support will be prioritized by the Managing Director.
- The USOPC Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) places will be allocated against published criteria (currently the Santiago Pan Am and Paris Olympic athletes and traveling reserve)

SPECIFIC COMPETITION GRANTS & FUNDING:

The funding of specific competitions is not guaranteed and will be balanced against the "Program Funding" needs. The following factors will be considered when awarding all specific competition funding grants:

- Results and the trajectory of all competition results (Results achieved at CDIs will carry the greatest weight);
- Ranking of the Athlete / Horse combination on their respective USEF and/or FEI ranking lists.
- Consistency of scores.
- The potential to succeed in CDIs (achieve a result of 70% or higher).
- The age of the horse and the length of time the horse has been competing; thus, the perceived likelihood of the athlete / horse combination continuing to meet criteria.
- The soundness record of the horse.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the performance of the athlete / horse combination or the USEF Dressage Program Pathway.
- In instances where expenses are being paid directly by USEF on behalf of the athlete (i.e., entry fees, stabling, hotels, etc.) the details of what expenses are covered will be noted in the competition logistics memo and may impact the level of remaining funding or grants available for that competition.

A. European Senior CDIs & CDIOs.

i. Grants will be considered as each CDIO Nations Cup Team is named and will only be considered for those athlete / horse combinations selected to represent the U.S. on European CDIO Nations Cup Teams.

ii. Athlete / horse combinations wishing to compete in European CDIs (non CDIOs) may be considered for grants who have met a **minimum** of one of the following requirements:
   - Athlete / Horse combination is a member of the Elite List, Pre-Elite List or Development Program.
   - Athlete / Horse combination has an average of 69%+ on the USEF Grand Prix 8-month Ranking List

iii. Funds will be distributed based on the priority level of the CDI or CDIO.

iv. In extraordinary circumstances and in interest of the Aims of the Program Pathway, athlete / horse combinations may be approved for a grant that have not met the criteria. Examples of such circumstances would include upward trajectory of scores, ensuring a full team is fielded at key CDIOs, etc.

B. 2027 FEI Dressage World Cup Finals, Gothenburg, Sweden.

U.S. athlete / horse combinations that qualify to compete in the 2027 FEI Dressage World Cup Finals will be considered for grants from the USEF subject to meeting the following criteria.

i. Athlete / Horse combinations who since 1 April 2026 have met the following;
   - 70%+ in the FEI Grand Prix Tests at two CDI-Ws.
   - 77%+ in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Tests at two CDI-Ws.

ii. Grants paid by the USEF are in addition to any funding athletes receive direct from the Organizing Committee and will be paid only if the horse travels to Gotenburg. Any expenses paid directly on the athlete's behalf by USEF will be deducted from the grant amount (i.e., Hotel extra nights, flight costs, horse shipping costs, etc.)

iii. In extraordinary circumstances and in interest of the Aims of the Program Pathway, athlete / horse combinations may be approved for a grant that have not met the criteria (for example, athlete / horse combination has strong upward trajectory of scores but only earned one 70% in the FEI Grand Prix or one 77% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle however shows the trajectory to become a team member in the next 4 years).

C. US Equestrian Open Final.

U.S. athlete / horse combinations that qualify to compete in the 2027 US Equestrian Open Final will be considered for grants from the USEF subject to meeting the following criteria.

i. Athlete/Horse combinations who since 1 December 2026 have scored the following;
   - 68%+ in the FEI Grand Prix at one CDI3* / CDIO3* or above
   - 70%+ in the FEI Grand Prix at an additional CDI3* / CDIO3* or above
   - 76%+ in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle at two CDI3* / CDIO3* or above
   - And/or qualified within the top 6 athletes of the series qualifiers

ii. In extraordinary circumstances and in interest of the Aims of the Program Pathway, athlete / horse combinations may be approved for a grant that have not met the criteria (for example, athlete / horse combination has strong upward trajectory of scores but did not earn a 70% in the FEI Grand Prix or one 76% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle however shows the trajectory to become a team member in the next 4 years).

D. European Young Rider & U25 Tour Grants.

Pending confirmation of funds, these grants would be available for those athletes selected to represent the U.S. on the Young Rider &/or U25 European Tours.

Selected athletes that receive funding support (directly or indirectly) will be expected to agree targets and *key performance indicators* with the Youth Coach and/or Development Coach and USEF Dressage staff. Athletes that receive funding will be required to write a report after the tour outlining what they achieved and how they benefited. This report will be used to assess the value and the functionality of the Program and to help justify funding support.

i. European Young Rider Tour Grants
   - Athlete is an Emerging and/or Development Program member
   - Athlete/Horse combination has earned two scores above 68% in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test at two different CDI events (one score may be earned at the

2026 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships or the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships)

*Exceptions may be made to the above requirements for the following reasons:
- Trend in scores shows an upward trajectory.
- If there is not an eligible combination for the grant ranked above the athlete and the combination has demonstrated scores within 1% of the minimum criteria above, a special exception may be granted; however, the funding amount may be lower than other combinations which met the criteria.

Note: The amount of the grant may differ for those athletes and/or horses based in Europe.

ii. European U25 Tour Grants

- Athlete is an Emerging Athlete and/or Development Program member.
- Athlete/Horse combination has earned two scores above 68% in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and FEI Intermediate II Test at two different CDI events (one score may be earned at the 2026 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship or the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships)

*Exceptions may be made to the above requirements for the following reasons:
- Trend in scores shows an upward trajectory.
- If there is not an eligible combination for the grant ranked above the athlete and the combination has demonstrated scores within 1% of the minimum criteria above, a special exception may be granted; however, the funding amount may be lower than other combinations which met the criteria.

Note: The amount of the grant may differ for those athletes and/or horses based in Europe.

E. FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses, Verden, Germany.
Pending confirmation of funds available, these grants would be available for those horses selected to represent the U.S. at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses.

F. NAYC U25
Pending confirmation of funds available, it is possible that travel stipends will be provided for those qualified combinations for the NAYC U25 Championship.

G. National Championships
Pending confirmation of funds available, it is possible that travel stipends will be provided for those qualified combinations for the USEF Grand Prix, Intermediaire I and Brentina Cup Dressage National Championships. Further information on the National Championships can be found here.

Additional Information: Questions should be addressed to Laura Roberts, Managing Director - 859.225.6986 or lroberts@usef.org.