



## Great Oak Aiken Therapeutic Riding Center Financial Assistance Policies

Great Oak Aiken Therapeutic Riding Center strives to make our services available to all participants whose application for registration is accepted. Great Oak fulfills this mission through the generosity of our supporters and the administration of a scholarship program based on financial need. Our scholarship funds come in through our annual fundraising and are not guaranteed.

The actual cost per lesson per rider is approximately \$100, however the tuition is \$40, so 60% is already subsidized. Scholarships are based solely upon financial need.

### **SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES**

Great Oak determines financial eligibility using the HUD Income Guidelines Scale for Aiken County. Please keep a copy of the following scholarship policy for your records:

- A Scholarship Application Form must be completed at the time of your application for the program, including tax-returns or supporting documentation of financial need. Please note all the information is kept confidential.
- Scholarships provided are based upon financial NEED, on a first come, first served, basis until all scholarship monies are allocated and/or spent. New requests may be submitted at any time; allow 30 days for Scholarships to be reviewed and considered. Renewal requests require a new application annually, beginning January 1st.

Great Oak charges tuition per session. Scholarships are applied against the session tuition as a percentage discount. This approach allows at least some access to services for all participants who qualify.

Great Oak does not provide full (100%) scholarships for tuition. Every client must pay at least a minimal amount towards their session. All balances must be paid in full by the end of each session in order to continue riding in the following session.

All applicants must complete all sections of the application to be considered for a scholarship. This includes submission of proof of financial eligibility.

**Scholarships may be revoked if the participant misses 2 or more classes during a session.** The only exception to this rule will be a doctor excused extended absence.

If Household Gross Income changes during the year, applicant must submit new income documentation timely which may increase or decrease scholarship award.

Great Oak reserves the right to waive specific requirements on a case-by-case basis.

Scholarship recipients and/or their parents or care providers are encouraged to volunteer to help contribute towards the program needs. Here is a list of ways you can help:

- Volunteer a minimum of one hour a week during the ten week session. Parents/care givers are welcome to volunteer during their child's lesson (requires attendance at one volunteer orientation and training).
- Volunteer for a Great Oak sponsored event.
- Volunteer in the Great Oak office.
- Set up a fundraising page and raise additional funds for Great Oak.

If this isn't possible for you, please call Jennifer Flanagan at 803-226-0352 to discuss other ways to help.

It is important to emphasize that scholarship funds are limited. Scholarship requests are reviewed strictly on household income and number of dependents so as to be fair. It is our goal to assist as many children and adults with disabilities as possible who need our services.