

B.9: Therapeutic riding or hippotherapy funding

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: November 30, 2021
Branch: Social Supports Branch	Last updated: March 9, 2026
Policy number: B.9	Review date: March 9, 2029

Purpose

This policy describes eligibility conditions for clients to access funding for therapeutic riding or hippotherapy.

Policy

1. Disability Services (DS) may provide therapeutic riding or hippotherapy funding for clients aged 18 or under.
2. DS provides funding to a designated maximum per year.
3. DS requires that any therapeutic riding service provider or hippotherapist carry active certification in working with clients with disabilities through a regulatory body, such as the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association or the Certified Horsemanship Association.
 - DS may refuse to provide funding if the instructor is not suitably certified.
 - It is the client or caregiver's responsibility to ensure that their chosen service provider carries appropriate certification.
4. Client must obtain a professional referral from an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, or speech language pathologist in order to access funding for hippotherapy services.
5. DS acknowledges that the service provider has the right to set their own program and policy requirements, and determine eligibility for their own programs.
6. Therapeutic riding or hippotherapy funding does not cover the costs of equine therapy.

Definitions

Equine therapy: A form of psychotherapy that incorporates horse care (such as grooming, feeding and leading) under the supervision of a trained therapist in order to assist individuals in developing emotional regulation skills, addressing trauma, and other therapeutic goals.

Hippotherapy: A form of physical, occupational and speech therapy in which a therapist uses the characteristic movements of a horse to stimulate the client's postural and muscular reactions, with the goal of improving neurological function and sensory processing.

Therapeutic riding: Encompasses a range of horse-related activities for people with disabilities, with a focus on learning functional riding skills for therapeutic physical, psychological, educational, and social benefits. Therapeutic riding lessons are conducted by a riding instructor who has certified knowledge and skills in equine management, horsemanship, instruction, teaching methodology, and experience working with people with disabilities. Lessons may take place on a live or mechanical horse.

B.9: Therapeutic riding or hippotherapy funding

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: November 30, 2021
Branch: Social Supports Branch	Last updated: March 9, 2026
Policy number: B.9	Review date: March 9, 2029

Authorities

- *Health Act* (Yukon)
- *Financial Administration Act* (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:	Wendy McIntire-cowx	Acting Director, Social Supports
DATE:	2026/03/09	