



Community Equestrian

Strategic RFP Advisory for the Arvada Indoor Equestrian Center

Project Context: Arvada Indoor Equestrian Center

The **Arvada Indoor Equestrian Center (AIEC)** is a **city-owned equestrian facility located at 7650 Indiana Street**, operating under a **public-private model** where the City leases the facility to a private operator. ([Arvada](#))

The facility includes:

- Indoor riding arena (critical for winter access)
- Outdoor arena and equestrian infrastructure
- Educational programming (lessons, camps, equine education) ([Arvada](#))

Historical & Community Background

- Arvada has a long-standing equestrian presence dating back to **1970s-era development of equestrian facilities along Indiana Street**, driven by community demand and horse associations. ([studylib.net](#))
- The AIEC itself reflects a broader municipal strategy of:
 - Preserving equestrian use
 - Providing public recreation access
 - Leveraging private operators for programming

Recent Community & Council-Relevant Dynamics

- The facility has become a **central focus of community discussion** due to:
 - **Limited and inconsistent public access under the current lease structure**
 - **Loss of boarding and riding facilities across Jefferson County**
 - Growing demand for **year-round (indoor) riding access** ([Colorado Horse Forum](#))
- The City of Arvada has indicated:
 - Commitment to **honoring the current lease term**
 - Anticipation of a **future RFP process at lease expiration**
 - Opportunity for new operators and models to be evaluated ([Colorado Horse Forum](#))

Why This Project Matters to Arvada

The AIEC is not just a facility—it represents a **strategic community asset** tied to:

1. Access & Equity

- Indoor arenas are **limited regional resources**, especially in winter climates
- Increasing barriers to participation (cost, access, availability)

2. Preservation of Equestrian Heritage

- Arvada's identity includes:
 - Agricultural roots
 - Horse community traditions
- Continued loss of facilities threatens this legacy

3. Community Demand & Growth Pressure

- Closure of local barns and rising land values are:
 - Reducing boarding capacity
 - Displacing equestrians
- Demand for **multi-use, community-accessible facilities is increasing**

4. Public Asset Optimization

- As a **city-owned facility**, AIEC presents an opportunity to:
 - Deliver measurable community benefit
 - Align programming with city goals
 - Ensure transparent and equitable access

Opportunity: RFP-Driven Transformation

With a future RFP anticipated, Arvada has a unique opportunity to:

Reposition the Facility as a Community Hub

- Expand beyond lessons into:
 - Boarding (if feasible)
 - Therapeutic riding
 - Youth programs (4H, education partnerships)
 - Community events and clinics

Redefine the Operator Model

- Evaluate:
 - Nonprofit vs. for-profit operators
 - Hybrid partnership models
 - Performance-based lease structures

Improve Public Access & Accountability

- Establish:
 - Clear access requirements
 - Community programming expectations
 - Measurable success metrics

Leverage Funding & Partnerships

- Grants, sponsorships, and nonprofit alignment
- Regional equestrian network collaboration

How Community Equestrian Supports This Project

Community Equestrian is willing to donate their time, equestrian experience and expertise, and networking resources to help the City of Arvada develop a meaningful plan for this equestrian center and help bring in qualified candidates for consideration.

Community Equestrian is uniquely positioned to support the City of Arvada because we are:

Embedded in the Local Equestrian Ecosystem

- Direct engagement with:
 - Local riders, trainers, and horse owners
 - Jefferson County equestrian organizations
- Founded in response to **this specific facility and regional need**

Experienced in Municipal Collaboration

- Active participation in:
 - City discussions
 - County-level equestrian advocacy
 - Legislative efforts supporting equestrian access
 - Prior City of Arvada work experience – Michele Hovet 20 yrs

Focused on Practical, Implementable Solutions

We translate community needs into:

- **Clear RFP language**
 - **Realistic operating models**
 - **Sustainable financial frameworks**
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Our Volunteer Role in the Arvada RFP Process

1. Pre-RFP Strategy

- Help define goals for the facility (access, programming, financial sustainability)
- Align with city priorities and community expectations

2. RFP Development

- Draft ideas for:
 - Scope of services
 - Operator requirements
 - Evaluation criteria
- Integrate equestrian-specific operational expertise

3. Stakeholder Engagement

- Convene and synthesize input from:
 - Local equestrian community
 - Youth and nonprofit organizations
 - Regional partners

4. Proposal Evaluation Support

- Provide:
 - Technical review of submissions
 - Operator capability assessment
 - Community impact scoring

Alignment with Proven National Models

The AIEC follows a widely adopted national structure:

- **Municipality-owned, privately operated equestrian facilities**
- Long-term leases with operator responsibility for programming

Examples include:

- Los Angeles Equestrian Center (CA)
- Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre (AZ)
- Gibson Ranch Equestrian Center (Sacramento County, CA)
- Rock Creek Park Horse Center (DC)
- Lakewood Equestrian Center (CA – RFP model)
- Community Equestrian has successfully led outreach in the equestrian community for several years addressing multiple issues, including the passage of SB25-149, known commonly as the Equestrian Protections Bill, which passed into law in 2025.
- Community Equestrian has looked at comparable municipalities and their RFP processes to share with Arvada. Links below. RFP examples - Cities that are requesting proposals to lease/operate equestrian facilities:
 - [City of Marina](#)
 - [Bergan Beach](#)
 - [San Diego](#)
 - [Lakewood](#)
 - [Las Trampas](#)

Value to the City of Arvada

By engaging Community Equestrian, the City gains:

- **Local credibility + trusted community voice**
- **Reduced risk in RFP design and operator selection**
- **Higher-quality, more competitive proposals**
- **Alignment with long-term community and land-use goals**
- **A clear path to revitalizing a critical community asset**

Next Step

Community Equestrian is prepared to volunteer and support the City of Arvada in shaping the next phase of the Arvada Indoor Equestrian Center through a **thoughtful, community-informed RFP process**.

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