



PonyUp4Kids Foundation Inc.
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PonyUp4Kids provides industry-standard, career-aligned equine training to youth and adults in Dutchess County who are impacted by poverty and face barriers to traditional education and employment. We serve individuals from historically marginalized and under-funded communities, offering accessible job readiness and hands-on workforce training in a safe, supportive environment.

As one of the only programs in the county offering real-world equine career exploration, PonyUp4Kids fills a critical gap. Demand for our services continues to grow, with increasing referrals from schools, social workers, and community agencies. Participants gain foundational skills in equine care, barn management, facility operations, and safe horse handling, along with structured exposure to veterinary and farrier professionals, introducing them to high-demand career pathways.

Mounted education is offered in a limited, purposeful way to support career readiness. Participants help rehabilitate and retrain horses, including young horses, gaining valuable experience in evaluating soundness, understanding training principles, and preparing horses for adoptive homes. This innovative dual-impact model strengthens both people and horses and provides practical, employable skills.

Our central Dutchess County location is accessible by major routes and offers a safe rural setting outside high-crime and high-drug areas. We intentionally remove barriers to participation by offering low-cost or no-cost programming, flexible scheduling, and individualized support.

The equine industry contributes more than \$5.3 billion annually to New York State's economy, yet Dutchess County has few accessible entry points for residents facing economic adversity. PonyUp4Kids provides structured, hands-on training that leads to stable employment, diverse career pathways, and long-term economic opportunity. Participants also receive resume support and job placement assistance across New York State and beyond.

Comparable equine studies programs cost \$18,000–\$42,000 per year. PonyUp4Kids delivers the same depth of practical, industry-standard training without the financial barriers of tuition or lab fees, making high-quality equine education accessible to those who need it most.

PonyUp4Kids is building a legacy in Dutchess County, expanding economic opportunities, strengthening the local workforce and creating pathways out of poverty for residents who have historically been left behind.