



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director  
Regional Economic Development Council

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

Centaur Stride, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization within six miles of the downtown Village of Sherman. We would like to express our support for a NY Forward Grant that furthers our mission in service to children and families in our community.

The We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman unique sensory gym will serve many of the same children and families as we do at Centaur Stride with our fully inclusive environment for experiential growth and learning. The only difference is Centaur Stride is a ‘Therapeutic Horseback Riding Facility’. We are an adjunct to physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, using the horse as the facilitator to achieve developmental and rehabilitative objectives through sport, recreation, arts and culture.

“The mission of Centaur Stride is to provide an inclusive environment of recreational enrichment for persons with and without disabilities. A special effort is made to include the parents and siblings of the children with disabilities receiving services in our program. Our vision is to be recognized as a premier provider of a variety of alternative recreational opportunities for the Western New York and Pennsylvania region.”

Centaur Stride is a year-round facility, specifically adapted for people with disabilities. Centaur Stride is a very unique facility in that it brings together people of all ability levels and provides an opportunity for those without disabilities to develop a better understanding of the everyday challenges others must face and overcome.

We see how the mission of We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman complements ours in service to all children and families. Our locations are conveniently less than six miles apart. In fact, many of our participants come by I-86 through downtown Sherman to reach our facility at 8488 Jones Rd, Sherman, NY 14781. Our combined efforts would make Sherman the ideal location for visiting families and local families to experience multiple enriching programs in our rural community.

A NY Forward award to the Village of Sherman will benefit surrounding organizations in the area such as ours in strengthening our businesses and programming. Please take careful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Claudia Monroe, Physical Therapist  
Co-Founder of Centaur Stride, Inc.