

Dear Community Grants Chair and Committee,

We at the Busy Bees Foundation have been assisting veterans, active duty, and their families for nearly 20 years. It was our founder's goal to provide a calming retreat for military families while also educating the public about the importance of bees. We started as a small farm and over the years have expanded to 100 acres of pastoral farmland. The jars of honey collected by our dedicated volunteers and staff are donated to our local food shelter for distribution.

We respectfully request \$2,240 to expand our bee colonies and outdoor facility. Currently we have 20 hives and hope to increase to 24. Supplies to support the expansion will require \$700 of equipment, which includes PPE and a beekeeping suit valued at \$200. We hope to have the new colonies moved in by May 20, 2024 to coincide with our World Bee Day celebration. We require funding by May 1, 2024, to order the needed supplies for that event. A detailed itemized list and costs is attached.

Additionally, we would like to expand our outdoor seating area. Our gardens provide a much-needed respite for our volunteers and guests. We see approximately 50 visitors over each weekend. 80% of our volunteers and guests are affiliated directly with the military. The remaining 20% consists of volunteers and guests that are eager to provide their support. Like our precious bees, we can only grow stronger when we work together.

Our organization relies on partnerships with other military spouse associations and nature conservation societies and has numerous sources for funding other aspects of our operations (detailed list attached). Donations are also accepted from grateful patrons and local businesses. Their assistance has allowed us to grow continuously since our humble beginnings with a single hive and a dream.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you and your association members to come join us for our World Bee Celebration. Our grounds are always open to you and your guests if you'd like to visit or tour at any time.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Apis Mellifera

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Senior Operations Manager

<u>Itemized List of How Funds Will Be Spent:</u>	<u>Funding Sources for the Busy Bees Foundation (2024):</u>
New beehive at \$250 each x4 = \$1,000	Johnsonville Charity Foundation - \$1,000
New patio set \$300	El Paso Friends of Bees - \$5,000
Beekeeping starter kits \$80 each x4 = \$320	John T. Smith and Mary Grace Foundation - \$500
PPE \$10 each x18 = \$180	
Beekeeping suit \$200	
Sales tax \$160	
Total Shipping Cost: \$80	
Total Cost: \$2,240	