

## **Apocalypse Sports Project Statement**

### **Introduction**

Apocalypse Sports is a disabled veteran owned family ran business that has been in operation since 2013. We have planned to build a range for several years now. Based on limited funds Apocalypse Sports is trying to build a range facility in 4 phases, with planning that started back in 2020. Apocalypse Sports is applying for grant funds to complete phase 4 of our plans, which is the addition of an 8,000 sq ft shooting range attached to our retail building.

Phase 1: Purchase of Commercial property on Interstate I-55, completed September 2021.

Phase 2: Completion of Architectural plans, as well as acquire all permits - completed 2022-2023.

Phase 3: Build out of 12,000 sq foot retail building with classroom. (Building 1 on Plans) Start date of June 2023, estimated completion is December of 2023.

Phase 4: Addition of 8,000 sq foot indoor shooting range (Building 2 on plans) with grant funds. Estimated start date will be October 1, 2023, with a completion date estimate of March 2024. Without grant funds, Apocalypse Sports will have to postpone building until they can secure the funds to complete the build-out of the range.

Grant funds will allow Apocalypse Sports to complete the addition of the indoor range project enhancing shooters' experiences and allow us to finish this whole project within the next 9-12 months.

### **Need:**

The growing demand associated with firearm ownership calls for a safe, clean, and controlled environment for the public that will provide firearms safety training, target practice and marksmanship training. There is a dire need for access to facilities that not only provide a safe and family friendly environment for target practice, but also for training that addresses the safe handling of firearms, hunter safety, and responsible firearm ownership. In 2023 the estimated population of Tangipahoa Parish was 137,048, showing a growth rate of .89% according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Statsamerica.org reports the population within a 25-mile radius of Ponchatoula is approximately 296,295. The closest indoor facility offering target practice is approximately 40 miles away, located in Baton Rouge. An indoor range facility in Ponchatoula, Louisiana will provide a state-of-the-art facility for shooters and hunters to learn, train and practice their skills within a reasonable proximity to their homes.

### **Purpose:**

Our proposed facility will offer the residents of Tangipahoa Parish and surrounding cities a safe, clean, and controlled environment to practice shooting skills, learn about hunter safety, and safe firearms handling. The facility will be open seven days a week, closed on major holidays, offering the public year-round access for practice, training, and shooting events as well as guns, parts, and accessories for hunting and shooting needs.

**Objectives:**

We are constructing an overall 20,000 square foot indoor range and retail facility in phases which will also include a gunsmithing office and bistro located on the West I-55 Service Road in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. The Grant funds will be used to build the 8,000 square foot range facility (labeled rear ballistic range on plans) attached to the already built 12,000 square foot building (Labeled Font retail section on the plans). We want to create a family-friendly destination where families can enjoy spending time not only learning, but practicing shooting skills in a safe, clean, and controlled environment. The facility will allow us to offer concealed carry classes, basic & advanced pistol classes, basic and advanced rifle classes, hunters safety, as well as basic trauma classes. The location of the facility will offer great visibility and access to the public traveling on I-55. The Grant will allow us to upgrade the facility with the following:

- Two separate shooting bays, containing seven lanes each, offering a total of 14 lanes at a length of 25 yards capable of rifle and pistol (up to 50 cal.) with a rubber berm bullet trap.
- Rushing Ranges AC and shooting stalls to be installed:
  - OSHA standard HVAC and air filtration system giving shooters 100% fresh air, providing the range with safe clean and cool environment for shooting
  - AR-500 Ballistic deflectors and baffles with (high-tech porous expanded polypropylene panels (PEPP) that offer exclusive sound abatement
  - Specially designed stalls with angled blast panels offering floor to ceiling ballistic safety
- 900 square foot observation room to view the range room is separated by ballistic glass and will be equipped with seating for learning observations without the need of hearing or eye protection, as well as a rest area to eat lunch and have coffee
- We will already have a 900 square foot classroom/training room in the retail building
- See attached construction plans for specifications - all project elements are to be completed within 6 months of grant execution.

**Expected Results and Benefits:**

Our facility will provide the community and surrounding areas with a state-of-the-art shooting range that will encourage outdoor sporting such as hunting and fishing, skills training, and competition activities. Our hope is that our facility will promote a safe and healthy environment that will also encourage recreational target shooting and safe firearms handling. Our customers and clientele will benefit from professional and knowledgeable instructors and sales staff, increasing knowledge, firearms safety, and an increase in safe weapons handling in the community. Our goal is to increase the 2A community in our area, by offering professional classes taught by professional instructors. The classroom will be a great place for hunters' education, the 100% fresh air range will offer a cool, safe environment for shooters to enhance their skills. The entire facility is geared towards a family friendly 2A experience, promoting safety, training, and knowledge.