



**Morning Star Ranch**  
2757 College Rd • Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(P): (907) 455-6772 (F): (907) 374-4480  
Msrdirector2015@gmail.com

Answers to application questions:

1. Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization's work.

Morning Star Ranch (MSR) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to enhance lives of differently abled individuals in our community through meaningful therapeutic activities that promote community integration. The organization began in 1995 as the dream of a local special education teacher and functioned in a farm/ranch setting. Over the years MSR has transformed in many ways. Currently MSR is funded primarily through Medicaid Waivers for services that emphasize learning activities, community involvement, employment search and retention, and promoting self-sufficiency in all our clients. Services provided include day habilitation, respite care, supported living and in-home care, and supported employment.

2. How does your work align with Co-op Market's mission and values?

According to your website, Co-op Market Grocery & Deli has a mission to "work for health and sustainability by providing healthful foods and products, promoting local suppliers, and offering consumer education in an open, community-centered environment, through a viable business." Our work at MSR aligns completely with your mission. MSR works toward the health and sustainability of life for our differently abled community members. We work with local businesses to place our clients in appropriate jobs, which allows them more independence and self-support. We work with our clients to learn skills that can be used for jobs, as well as those that allow basic life functionality. MSR is completely community-centered and working to remain a viable business to help support our community.

3. How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?

We have many activities we do with our clients that help teach basic life skills. In the past we've done a series of cooking activities that allowed our clients to learn some basic cooking skills as well as some nutritional information. We would like to bring that back, and the Lend a Hand funds would be a perfect way to get those activities back on the schedule, as it would give us a budget for supplies.

The truly exciting aspect of bringing back cooking activities is that so many skills are addressed! Not only do clients gain independent living skills, but they also learn about math, fine motor skills, nutritional goals, healthy eating, and reading!

4. If your organization has received funding from Co-op Market in the past, please describe how this funding supported your organization and mission.

Morning Star Ranch has not received funding from Co-op Market in the past.



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5. What is your elevator pitch? Cashiers usually have about 10 seconds to describe our monthly recipient to a shopper. Please describe your organization and how the funds will be used in 100 words or less.

Morning Star Ranch is a local nonprofit working with differently abled adults to have a more rounded, fulfilling life by working with them to gain skills and helping with opportunities that allow them to work toward personal goals and have more independence and purpose within our community.