

Grant ID: 1685

Title of Proposal: Income Qualified Spay/Neuter

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00

Check Payable To: Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department

Website Address: www.miamidade.gov/animals

Person Submitting Proposal: Sandy Acosta Cox

Position: Grants Coordinator

Agency Head: Alex Munoz

Agency Head Email: am13@miamidade.gov

Organization Business Address: 7401 NW 74 Street

City: Miami

State: Florida

Zip: 33166

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 305-418-7106

Fax: 305-805-1619

Cell:

Email Address: sacostacox@miamidade.gov

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/14 **End:** 09/30/15

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$15,960,825.51

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$15,960,468.85

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 149 Part Time: 9

Number of Active Volunteers: 530

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 314.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Previous grantee, awarded 2014. Initially, found the FAF application through a FACA electronic notification.

Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2014 Year(s) denied/incomplete: N/A

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other
- TNR Group
- Rescue Group

List your current board of directors:**Applicant Qualifications**

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

14377 cats and 14830 dogs were admitted.

1662 cats and 6739 dogs were adopted.

1352 cats and 1763 dogs were euthanized.

12106 cats and 8847 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

If your program performs adoptions, are all animals sterilized before adoption?

No

If not all, what percentage of animals are not currently sterilized before adoption?

18%

If not all, how are animals selected for sterilization before adoption?

All animals meeting the minimum weight requirement and health qualifications are sterilized prior to release from the shelter.

If not all, describe your sterilization policies and procedures for assuring sterilization after adoption:

Animals deemed by a licensed veterinarian to be a surgical risk are released to the adopter or rescue with a sterilization agreement consenting to have the animal sterilized within 30 days. A refundable \$50.00 sterilization deposit is collected as well. The enforcement division follows up to ensure compliance is achieved within the desired timeframe.

Give additional background information on your organization's programs as they relate to this application and the qualifications of the personnel who will be in charge of this program. Show that you have the ability to carry out this program.

For over 10 years, ASD has been providing all residents of Miami-Dade County a subsidized spay/neuter program, with fixed surgery fees regardless of gender, weight, or complications. ASD covers the majority of the cost leaving only a \$15 owner copay for cats and \$30 owner copay for dogs. While this is generally affordable, it does present a hardship for recipients of government assistance. Chief of Veterinary Services, Dr. Maria Serrano. She oversees all shelter surgical programs and holds more than 7 years' experience in the management of high quality high volume sterilization programs. The support staff of 6 shelter veterinarians and 19 veterinary technicians will provide the required support to ensure success of the program. ASD's marketing team will promote the program throughout the County and in targeted areas, in addition to ASD's Customer Service staff identifying potential program participants from the Shelter and Homestead-based Clinic's daily run of customers.

If you currently have a program for sterilization of cats and/or dogs, describe your current level of funding and productivity and why additional resources are needed?

In order to provide a subsidized or reduced rate for S/N, ASD absorbs 40 to 70% of the cost of each surgery, estimated at \$49.33, adding this to its operational costs. Collecting a \$15 or \$30 copay from owners allows ASD to offer the reduced price, by making S/N affordable to most residents and offsetting a portion of surgery costs. However, to make S/N completely free in these communities, is outside of the ASD's means without additional resources contributing to that affect. ASD was able to provide this as a free service to owned pets of low-income Miami-Dade County residents through a FAF grant in 2014-15.

Target Population

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.): | Miami-Dade County |
| Total human population in target area: | 2,662,874 |
| Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: | 20.4 |
| Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): | 806932 |
| Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): | 665719 |
| Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): | 443813 |
| Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 14,377 |
| Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 14,830 |
| Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 1,352 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 1,763 |
| Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. The target population is approximately what ASD estimates, especially given ASD's own research into the correlation between poverty and owner surrender/stray intake. Overall, Miami-Dade County's poverty rate is 21%, well above the national average of 15.1%, with several communities targeted by our efforts with rates above 30% and 40% in the southernmost areas of the County referred to as South Dade. | |
| Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: ASD researched owner surrenders and general intake against low-income areas and found a strong correlation between the two. To curtail this, ASD has many programs focused on these communities. In 2016, ASD opened one such program, the Department's first dedicated community S/N clinic with the City of Homestead, in order to better serve communities in the southernmost portion of the County, known as South Dade, with poverty rates over 30%. In 2014 -15, ASD' FAF funded program helped us redouble our efforts in areas that need it most, by allowing us to conduct focused, targeted, and strategic campaigns in specific communities. While making a new award available to all qualifying MDC residents, ASD would utilize the benefits of this award to capitalize our strategic efforts in South Dade. | |
| What kinds of spay/neuter services are currently available in the target area and in what ways are these resources currently insufficient to meet community needs? ASD offers a spay/neuter services at a subsidized rate for all Miami-Dade County residents. S/N services are available through ASD's main facility centrally located along major thoroughfares in the County. However, given the expansive nature of Miami-Dade County, the third largest Florida County in terms of terrain, ASD reaches communities in need through mobile S/N clinics, as well as a newly dedicated community clinic in South Dade. Efforts like our FAF funded program in 2014-2015 help us redouble our efforts in areas that need it most, by allowing us to conduct focused, targeted, and strategic campaigns in communities with the most need. | |
| Florida Animal Friend is highly supportive of proposals that are focused on animal populations that are identified as substantial sources of dog or cat overpopulation rather than being diluted over too broad of a geographic area or diverse animal populations. Describe the specific target animal population of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Bull / large breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> TNR managed colonies of feral cats <input type="checkbox"/> Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

TNR Managed Colony Feral Cat Program/Community Cats (Free-Roaming and/or Owned) Program
Define the precise boundaries of the colony or targeted area, including estimate of square miles.

What is the criteria used for determining the target area(s) and/or eligibility for this program?

Describe whether the targeted area is rural, suburban, or urban. Is it commercial, residential, agricultural, or a designated special land use?

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area :

Estimated number that are currently sterilized:

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant:

For TNR program, describe the ability to maintain lifelong care for remaining cats, commitment level of volunteers/organizations, etc.

Detail any public education/outreach, adoption programs, etc.

Do current city/county ordinances address TNR or free-roaming cats?

Please explain what is allowed:

(NOTE: FAF will not fund any program this is inconsistent with local ordinances.)

For TNR program, list any groups or government agencies who support this TNR effort:

Describe any effort to lessen the negative impact on local wildlife.

Describe efforts that will be made to mitigate current or potential nuisance issues.

**Will the cats be ear-tipped?
Will the cats be microchipped?**

Provide any additional information that will help the grant selection committee understand how this program will operate to achieve its goals.

Objectives

What do you hope to accomplish with these funds (objectives should be specific and quantifiable)?

The goal of 2016 FAF funds will be to extend S/N services at no cost to low-income areas in our community through a multitude of outreach programs managed by ASD, including mobile S/N clinics, a dedicated community clinic in South Dade, and marketing of free services through our main facility. Last year, by only requesting to be reimbursed for the owner co-pay, ASD targeted 700 dogs and 200 cat sterilizations. This year, in order to make the program more sustainable, ASD is requesting reimbursement for the full cost of surgeries. This will allow ASD to provide a target 506 free s/n surgeries to qualifying low-income residents, at a rate of \$49.33 p/ average surgery.

How does this program increase the number of sterilization surgeries above the existing baseline?

ASD does not currently provide free s/n surgeries to the public, but rather a reduced fee due to the Department's subsidizing the service. The current baseline for free S/N for qualifying low-income Miami-Dade County residents is that achieved by ASD's previous FAF grant, 980, in which only a portion of ASD's actual costs were covered. Overall, ASD performed 2,649 paid surgeries to the public. Through FAF, 37% were offered free of charge to qualifying low-income residents.

Methods

What criteria will you use to determine eligibility for your program?

Recipients of Food stamps, Medicaid, Aid to Families with dependent Children (AFDC), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Free or Reduced School Lunch are eligible.

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience.

ASD will devise a marketing campaign through its Outreach Division focused on the targeted communities. This will include creating flyers and information regarding the program, and distributing information through local community-based social service agencies, local government official's offices, and door to door. ASD will issue press releases regarding the start of the program, and promote on a monthly basis through social media. Additionally, ASD will work with the City of Homestead in promoting this program in order to maximize our partnership in that community.

How will you address barriers to full use of the program such as transportation, illiteracy, and cultural hurdles?

Door to door personal contact will help to overcome illiteracy issues. All promotions are prepared in English, Spanish and Creole to ensure market saturation and radio spots on Spanish and English radio will be created through the Department's outreach coordinator. Zinc neutering will also be offered which is better accepted in many cultures as an acceptable option for male dogs.

Does this project involve the transportation of animals by someone other than the client? If so, describe the vehicles, methods for confinement, personnel training, liability releases used to assure the safety of the animals and handlers.

In the event an owner requires transportation for their pet it will not present an issue or hardship. The Department has drivers on staff currently to assist with TNR and to provide transportation in the ASPCA targeted community as needed. The vehicles are specialized animal transport units with A/C and heat. The cages are stainless steel and are easily disinfected between pets. Field personnel operate the same vehicles in the performance of their duties as animal control officers and are experienced in the handling, husbandry and transport of dogs and cats. The County is self-insured eliminating the liability issue, however a release form will be developed granting authority to transport pets on behalf of their owners.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

What arrangements have you made with veterinarians to perform the surgeries?

ASD staffs a Chief of Veterinary Services, with an additional 6 Veterinarians, and 19 Veterinary Technicians. This staff will rotate, ensuring that the Homestead Community Clinic is staffed with 1 Veterinarian and 2 Veterinary Assistants every day for the three days a week that the clinic is open to the public. ASD's main facility is staffed for surgeries 6 days a week.

Are they: In-house Private Vet(s) Combination

Veterinary Practices

Fee Range

What is the fee range to be paid for spay and neuter and what is the distribution to be paid by the client vs. the grant program? Keep in mind that Florida Animal Friend grant funds may only be used for costs directly associated with sterilization surgery (including anesthesia and pain control) and not for other items such as vaccines, testing, licensing, and capital purchases.

| | Amount Paid by Client | Amount Paid by Project | Total Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Range for Male Cats | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> |
| Range for Female Cats | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> |
| Range for Male Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> |
| Range for Female Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> | <input type="text" value="\$49.33"/> |

Please check each item below to indicate additional services offered at the time of surgery, whether the client is required to pay for them, and if so what the fee is. For example, if an examination is required for surgery but is not charged to the client it would be marked: Required Yes, Fee to client No

| | Required, Optional, or Not Offered | Fee to Client? |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Examination | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Rabies Vaccination if Due | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Other Vaccination if Due | <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$15.00"/> |
| Pain Medication | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Parasite Medication | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Testing | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Licensing | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$3.00"/> |
| Ear tipping | <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Other | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:

The rabies vaccine will be administered at the time of surgery at no cost. The fee for the low income sterilized license is \$3.00

Is this a voucher program? No

If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

For your voucher program, how have you determined the capacity of the veterinarians listed above to handle the projected capacity?

Will you have the ability to report the number of vouchers issued and the percentage that result in S/N surgeries?

Community Collaboration

To assure the success of your program, are there any local groups (such as rescue groups, animal control agencies, TNR groups, local businesses, local media, social service agencies, etc.) other than your organization and your cooperating veterinarians who are committed to assist?

Yes No

Please list them and detail their level of involvement with the proposed effort.

| Name | Level of Involvement |
|-----------------------|---|
| Miami-Dade County | Access to the County network and agencies is wide reaching. As a government agency the Department has access to all County Distribution Lists and agencies to promote the program |
| The Cat Network | Willing to promote the service and provide use of the mobile sterilization clinic which will be staffed by the Department |
| This is the Dog, Inc. | This is a rescue group based out of Homestead, Florida which is increasingly becoming involved in pet retention efforts. This is the Dog will assist in promoting Free S/N Services through their community events and social media presence for the South Dade based community |

Other Information

Provide any additional information that will help the grant selection committee understand how the program will operate to achieve its goals.

Over the last 6 years, ASD has worked to promote responsible pet ownership throughout the County and building towards a sustainable model for animal control in the community. Since 2012, ASD has put in place outreach programs to increase its Live Release Rate achieving a 90% Save Rate in January 2016 which it continues working to increase. Accessibility to all Miami-Dade County owned and homeless pets as an integral component in maintaining and increasing the department's success.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 80 **Dogs:** 427

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$25,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$50.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for:

A rabies vaccine will be provided to qualified pets at the time of surgery at no cost to the owner, the Department will absorb the expense at a rate of \$5 per vaccine.

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for (for example, vaccines, microchipping, ear notching, etc.):

A rabies vaccine will be provided to qualified pets at the time of surgery at no cost to the owner, the Department will absorb the expense at a rate of \$5 per vaccine.

Describe any other funding sources for this program, i.e. other grants, targeted fundraising efforts, budget allocation, etc.

The existing reduced fee spay/neuter program for owned pets is funded through donations to the Animal Services Trust Fund and through the owner co-pays for surgery. ASD operating funds will cover the cost of rabies vaccines administered to all owned pets receiving fee-waived s/n surgery.

What percent of the total cost of the program would this projected grant cover?

90.8

Timeline

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding. Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. Funding for accepted projects will be available after August 1, 2009.

Projected start date: 09/01/16/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/17

Unexpended funds

Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project.

Requests for extensions

Requests for time extensions are discouraged and not often granted. If it is imperative to request an extension, such request must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. It is FAF's policy to seldom grant more than a 30-60 day extension.

Failure to submit reports and requests within the required time period will impact your agency's future grant applications.

Future Funding to Sustain Public Spay/Neuter

***Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having sustainable plans including other grants, local donations and other services generating revenue enhances the chances of receiving this grant.**

Providing S/N surgeries for owned pets is an integral part of our life-saving approach at ASD. ASD will continue seeking grant funds to reduce the barriers that may exist to responsible pet ownership. Donations to the Animal Services Trust Fund, and partnering with local municipalities assist in offsetting costs and making services more readily available to the community in need.

Promotion of Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate

***Applicants selected for funding are expected to publicize their grant in support of their spay/neuter program and promote the sale of the Animal Friend license plate via press releases, newsletters, website links, social media, etc. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate. Grantees are required to submit documentation of promotional endeavors.**

ASD will promote the grant and the FAF S/N License Plate through press releases to all local media, ASD's social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well as mentioned in radio and TV segments with shelter staff. ASD will also publicize through posters/displays in the shelter, flyers distributed throughout the community regarding the program, as well as community adoption and pet wellness events throughout the County.