

Grant ID: 2017

Title of Proposal: COFP - TNVR Enhancement Program**Agency Type:** Municipal**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** City of Fort Pierce

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: City of Fort Pierce Animal Control**Website Address:** www.cityoffortpierce.com**Person Submitting Proposal:** Margaret M. Arraiz**Position:** Code Compliance Manager**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** parraiz@cityoffortpierce.com**Agency Head:** Nicholas Mimms**Agency Head Email:** nmimms@cityoffortpierce.com**Organization Business Address:** 100 N US Highway 1**City:** Fort Pierce**State:** FL**Zip:** 34950**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 772-467-3000**Fax:** 772-468-0457**Cell:**

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:**Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin:** 10/01/19 **End:** 09/30/20**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$42,429,972.00**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$42,429,972.00**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 366 Part Time: 13**Number of Active Volunteers:** 0**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 0.00**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** prior recipient**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 2011 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2014**Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):**

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
191	2010	Fort Pierce Animal Population Control Program (FPAPCP)	Denied
259	2011	Fort Pierce Spay/Neuter Program	Funded
1396	2014	City of Fort Pierce Sterilization Voucher Program	Denied
1729	2017	City of Fort Pierce Community Cat Program	Denied
2017	2021	COFP - TNVR Enhancement Program	Funded

Describe your Organization:

Services Provided

- Open Admission Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control

Organization Structure:

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

Spay/Neuter Services

Other

Other

List your current board of directors:

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Curtis Johnson	Commissioner	772-467-3000	Commissioner
Jeremiah Johnson	Commissioner	772-467-3000	Commissioner
Linda Hudson	Mayor	772-467-3000	Mayor
Rufus J. Alexander	Commissioner	772-467-3000	Commissioner
Tom Perona	Commissioner	772-467-3000	Commissioner

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

100 cats and 295 dogs were admitted.

0 cats and 0 dogs were adopted.

2 cats and 50 dogs were euthanized.

0 cats and 0 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

- Stray/Lost pet intake**
- Foster Program**
- Wellness services to understand pet owners**
- Volunteer Program**
- Owner surrendered animals**
- Food Bank**
- Cruelty investigation**
- High volume spay/neuter clinic**
- Lost and Found Program**
- Behavior counseling**
- Enforcement of ordinances**
- Full service wellness clinic**
- Adoption Program**
- Disaster services**

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?

n/a

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

n/a - Fort Pierce Animal Control only - not a shelter.

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

n/a - Fort Pierce Animal Control only - not a shelter

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.

To date, the City of Fort Pierce has been the sole funding source for the City's TNVR program. The grant will be administered by the City's Code Compliance Manager, who oversees the Animal Control Division. She currently monitors the existing TNVR program very efficiently, ensuring the participating veterinarians submit the required documentation and maintaining a database of the cats put through the program, the organization that did the trapping and is responsible for any aftercare, the vet that provided the sterilization surgery, the vaccination record, the microchip information, if any additional procedures were performed and the cost for the services.

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?

The current year funding is \$15,000, which only provides for roughly 275 - 300 cats or 25 cats per month, which is far below the needed # to reach our goal of zero population growth. The ability of our partners and participating vets can do much more than what our funding provides.

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical information service (GIS), etc.):	Fort Pierce, FL; St. Lucie County; 34945, 34946, 34947, 34949, 34950, 34981, 34982
Total human population in target area:	46103
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	29.4
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	13971
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	11526

Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	7684
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	174
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	671
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	9
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	109

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.

1 - In 2019, the City of Fort Pierce and its sister organization, St. Lucie County terminated their contracts with the Humane Society of St. Lucie County. Together, we created a temporary shelter to house impounded animals. 2 - The temporary shelter was not open to the public for drop offs and only animals impounded by ACOs were housed there. 3 - ACOs from both jurisdictions were under instructions to limit the number of animals impounded due to the nature of the temporary shelter. 4 - In March 2020, due to Covid-19, ACOs from both jurisdictions were under orders to severely limit the number of cats picked up. 5 - Previous years numbers were provided by the HSSLC and included not just owner drop offs but also the numbers from Port St. Lucie, who only participated in the temporary shelter for a limited time before rejoining with the HSSLC.

Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:

This application is specific for a TNVR program, so we will focus on the over population of cats: 1 - the number one source of overpopulation of cats is the number of cat lovers in our community that "help" by feeding the outdoor cats, but do not have the means or the funds to have the cats sterilized. Therefore the cats they are caring for reproduce indiscriminately. 2 - Having three major thoroughfares (FL Turnpike, I-95 and US 1) go straight through our community allows easy access for people to "stop and drop" - abandoning both cats and dogs in our community. 3 - Covid-19 curtailed many of our normal AC functions and that included limiting the number of animals we seized and impounded. Cat owners who no longer wanted their animals, or who were no longer able to care for their cats due to extended illness, or family members of cat owners that passed away due to Covid-19 and didn't want to care for the cats turned them loose in the community. 4 - Cultural and community standards that historically allowed for outdoor cats.

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?

The three local jurisdictions, City of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County and City of Port St. Lucie, now all have active TNVR programs and there are several local veterinarians that participate. However, lack of funding for the program remains the number one problem. Last years program ran over budget by March. During the final six months of the year, only 10 cats per month were allowed to be sterilized. This year's budget has improved, however, we only have funding for approximately 25 cats per month. And cats reproduce much faster than that. Therefore our program helps, but does not fully address the goals of the program. We need to be able to reach a sufficient number of cats each month that is greater than the number of kittens being born. We have great partners who are only restricted by funding. Additionally, if funding was received to help with the sterilization program, additional funding would be freed to help supply additional traps and supplies to support the TNVR program

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(s) of the spay/neuter project proposed for this grant:

Pets in low-income families Pit Bull / large breed dogs TNR managed colonies of feral cats Community cats (free-roaming and/or owned) 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.

The City of Fort Pierce (target area) is roughly 30 square miles.

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

All free roaming cats found within the target area, as well as the immediate adjacent areas. We have not yet found cats that know the City limits and stay within them, so we are happy trap and TNVR cats that cross the line from the County into the City.

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

The target area encompasses multiple zoning types. Zip code 34949 is coastal, beach and high tourist area. The western portion of the City is either agricultural or industrial and the remaining areas is mostly suburban. There are also large commercial districts due to the turnpike, I-95 and US 1, along with a downtown area.

Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 0

Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 0

Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 0

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

etc.

The level of commitment from our volunteer organizations is very high. These organizations operated "under the radar" for years, providing care for community cats long before it was legal. They were also very instrumental in having all 3 local communities amend their ordinances to allow for community cats and the TNVR programs. They are highly dedicated to the overall care of the cats and to reducing the number of cats in their care.

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

Yes

Please explain what is allowed:

A community cat must be sterilized, vaccinated, micro chipped and ear tipped. Community cats are not required to be licensed.

(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:

City of Fort Pierce St. Lucie County City of Port St. Lucie United for Animals Operation SOS Operation Catsnip Animal Medical Hospital (Dr. Miller)
Humane Society of the Treasure Coast

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

The City of Fort Pierce has not taken any specific action of what is typically referred to as "wildlife" other than helping reduce the cat population which will also reduce the impact on the native wildlife. We have, however, at the request of the dock master and the golf course manager, provided working TNVR cats to help control the rodent population that all seaside communities face.

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

The animal welfare organizations that the City has partnered with take the lead role in providing education for cat deterrents and mitigation methods. When Animal Control Officers determine there is an issue with a potentially nuisance cat, the situation is referred to these partners to attempt to resolve without AC.

Will the cats be ear-tipped? Yes

Will the cats be microchipped? Yes

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

The goal of this grant request is to expand our existing TNVR program so that it becomes an effective tool in decreasing the number of feral and free roaming cats in our community. While the City of Fort Pierce has taken the necessary steps to amend its ordinances and to forge partnerships with our local animal advocates and veterinarians, the funding has consistently fallen short. We would love to "release the hounds" and give our partners the full go ahead to TNVR as much as possible.

Objectives

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

1 - substantially increase the number of feral and free roaming cats that are processed through our TNVR program. 2 - Last year's monthly quota was restricted to 10 per month. This year's quota is restricted to 25 per month. This is totally insufficient to counteract the number of kitten litters. 3 - We need to achieve almost 850 surgeries each year to reach zero growth population. That is 500 more than is currently budgeted.

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

The animal welfare organizations have repeatedly asked for additional funding as they have the capability of doing more. And we have the veterinarians willing to do the surgeries. Operation SOS specializes in high quantity sterilization surgeries and can easily accommodate the 70+ cats per month required to reach zero population growth.

Methods

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

Free roaming cats, without ear tips, located within the boundaries of the City of Fort Pierce.

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

The City of Fort Pierce has a very robust website as well as use of all the social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The City also provides its own TV channel, Channel 27, that reaches a wide population base.

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

The barriers listed in the example are not the barriers we need to overcome. We have bi-lingual Animal Control Officers and flyers and brochures in multiple languages. The barriers that need to be overcome for a successful TNVR program is that not everyone is a cat lover and consider free roaming cats a nuisance. This is overcome with the positive attitude and unwillingness to stop that we have with all of our volunteers and partners. They have consistently fought for the community cat programs and managed to convince all three jurisdictions and obtain public support for amending our ordinances and establishing our programs.

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.

The TNVR program uses several volunteers, trappers and partners to transport the cats. They all have years of experience doing this and most use their own personal vehicles to transport. United for Animals uses a City van for their transports. Additionally, our participating vets have established policies requiring all cats to be transported in traps. Pet carriers and similar carriers are not permitted due to the safety hazards that can occur when these types of carriers are used.

Veterinary Services

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

Annual contracts are in place with our three participating veterinarians, including Operation SOS, which provides High Quality / High Volume (HQ/HV) sterilization surgeries.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Animal Medical Hospital	825 NW Dixie Hwy	Stuart	FL	34994	330-734-5045	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humane Society of Treasure Coast	4100 SW Leighton Farm Ave	Palm City	FL	34990	772-223-8822	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operation SOS	9196 SE Karin Street	Hobe Sound	FL	33455	772-222-7717	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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, which is required) and not for other items such as testing, licensing, and capital purchases. However, \$2 per animal of grant funds can be used for rabies vaccination.

	Amount Paid by Client	Amount Paid by Project	Total Amount
Range for Male Cats	<input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$30.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$23.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$32.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$55.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

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 checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| 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 |
| HW Testing | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Feline Leuk/FIV | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| County License | <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| Ear tipping | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |

Microchip

Required
 Optional
 Not Available
 No
 Yes
Other
 Required
 Optional
 Not Available
 No
 Yes

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for any of the above services, except for pain medication which is required and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

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

The agreed cost for services with all participating vets is \$40 per male cat and \$45 per female cat, which includes the exam, pain medication, surgery and microchip. \$10 per rabies vaccination. Proposed fees is based on 40% of cost to the City (client) and 60% funded by the grant. Male cats - City will pay \$12 for the surgery and \$8 for the rabies and the grant will pay \$28 for the surgery and \$2 for the rabies. Female cats - City will pay \$15 for the surgery and \$8 for the rabies and the grant will pay \$30 for the surgery and \$2 for the rabies.

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
Operation Catsnip	HIGH Operation Catsnip is an independent animal welfare organization that has been a long time cat welfare organization that provided sterilization surgeries and maintained several cat colonies before partnering with the City of Fort Pierce. In addition to trapping cats, transporting them to the local veterinarians and then returning the animals to their pick up location, Operation Catsnip also has a large volunteer base that also works with the City in finding fosters for our feral kittens that might be re-homed.
United for Animals	High United for Animals is an independent animal welfare organization that has been a long time partner with the City of Fort Pierce. They have use of a city vehicle in performing their duties. United for Animals traps cats and transports them to the local veterinarians and then returns the animals to their pick up location. They work with local residents to ensure the cats are properly fed and monitored.

Other Information

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

To be successful, we must increase the number of cats being sterilized. We must fully utilize all the resources our partners have and are willing to provide. And to do this, we must have increased funding to pay for the surgeries. We have the people, we have the traps, we have the vets. Please help us with the funding, so we can make a positive impact in the community.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 805 **Dogs:** 0

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$32.00

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

As part of the 40% covered by the City, it includes a \$5 microchip for each cat.

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

The general fund for the City of Fort Pierce covers the 40% not covered by the grant. The partners provide independent funding for purchasing traps and trap covers. The participating vets cover any additional costs (ex - pregnant cats or other feline diseases) at their own expense.

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

60

/td>

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, with the final report submitted no later than September 1 of the following year.

Projected start date: 08/01/21/ **Projected end date:** 07/31/22

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.**

We plan to continue to partner with our existing veterinarians and expand our relationships with the creation of the Sunrise Humane Society. They anticipate having a robust volunteer organization and fund raising coordinator that will assist in raising additional funds to maintain the program.

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 with their final report.**

The grant program will be publicized on our City's website, Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram and our City's TV channel.

Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:

Unknown