

Grant ID: 1984

**Title of Proposal:** Fix the Future**Agency Type:** Non-Profit**Total Funding Requested:** \$25,000.00**Check Payable To:** Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)

## Application Information

### Demographics

**Name of Applicant Agency:** Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL)**Website Address:** 6393 SW 52nd St**Person Submitting Proposal:** Linda C Norman**Position:** Co-Founder/ Board Pres.**Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:** linda.norman@vocalforpets.org**Agency Head Email:** linda.norman@vocalforpets.org**Agency Head:** Linda C Norman**City:** Ocala**Organization Business Address:** 6393 SW 52nd St**Zip:** 34474**State:** Florida**Fax:** 000-000-0000**Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):** 352-289-0800**Cell:** 352-895-3132

### Agency Details

**Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:** 02/19/2015**Dates of Last Fiscal Year:** Begin: 01/01/20 End: 12/31/20**Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year:** \$511,593.71**Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year:** \$320,999.43**Number of Paid Employees:** Full Time: 3 Part Time: 2**Number of Active Volunteers:** 50**Total Volunteer Hours per Week:** 500.00**How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition?** from another organization**Year(s) of previous Florida Animal Friend grants (if applicable):****Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications:** Years Funded: 0 Year(s) denied/incomplete: 2

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
1861	2019	Fix the Future	Denied
1902	2020	VOCAL Fix the Future	Denied
1984	2021	Fix the Future	Funded

**Describe your Organization:****Services Provided**

- Open Admission Intake Shelter**
- Limited Intake Shelter**
- Foster Network**
- Animal Control**
- Spay/Neuter Services**
- Other** low cost veterinary clinic, TNF

**Organization Structure:**

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

**List your current board of directors:**

Name	Title	Phone	Occupation
Bill Findlay	board member	352-286-9056	restaurant operator
Kate Rengel	Founder	321-427-1770	Non profit executive
Lauren Carpenter	Founder, V.P	937-725-7536	Non profit Executive
Linda Norman	Founder, Pres.	352-895-3132	Non profit executive
Mimi Eller	Board Member	352-895-3595	advertising exec
Patricia Hitchcock	director/ SY	954-520-5580	City Planner
Richard Hughes	director	352-213-1477	body shop mechanic
Rob Carney	director	352-266-5559	retired

**Applicant Qualifications****For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:****133 cats and 86 dogs were admitted.****144 cats and 72 dogs were adopted.****2 cats and 2 dogs were euthanized.****1188 cats and 441 dogs were sterilized.****Briefly describe your animal programs:**

- |                                                               |                                                         |                                                                                |                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stray/Lost pet intake                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster Program      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wellness services to understand pet owners | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Program              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owner surrendered animals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Bank           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cruelty investigation                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High volume spay/neuter clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost and Found Program               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavior counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of ordinances                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full service wellness clinic   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption Program          | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster services              |                                                                                |                                                                    |

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

Yes

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

na

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

na

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

na

**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.**

Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL) was founded in 2015 by three women with business backgrounds with the express purpose of opening a high-volume spay-neuter clinic. Kate Rengel, Lauren Carpenter, and Linda Norman saw the need for additional resources in our community to offer low-cost or no-cost spay-neuter surgeries to low-income pet owners as well as rescue groups and good Samaritans who struggle to care for the community and feral cats. While fund-raising and building the clinic we partnered with local veterinarians so that we could offer low-cost spay-neuter to the public thru our Fix the Future initiative. Our clinic opened in late 2019. Our primary veterinarian, Dr. Natalie Isaza has an extensive shelter medicine background who specializes in spay-neuter surgeries. She was a Clinical Professor at the University of Florida for 16 years where she founded and directed the Merial Shelter Medicine Program. We are very fortunate to have her expertise and experience.

**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?**

We currently have several programs that directly address the spay-neuter needs of our community. Public spay-neuter for owned animals is offered at \$100 for dogs and \$35 for cats. Even these low-prices are beyond the reach for some people and is subsidized by fund raising for our Fix the Future fund. Rescue group pricing is \$55 per dog and \$25 per cat. This does not fully cover our costs. Our TNVR program for community and feral cats is offered at no cost to caregivers. We do accept donations. Last year donations for TNVR offset \$17.93 per surgery. Since the actual cost is \$35-40 depending on whether male or female this leaves us with a funding gap. We looked at the challenges that people in our community face that present barriers to getting these cats to surgery. One is no access to traps, physical impairment, and lack of transportation. To address this we have a team of trained volunteers that trap each week and two coordinators who identify the need and assign each volunteer to a specific colony or area. Each cat is sterilized, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and given flea treatment. Other surgeries such as mass removal, limb removal, and eye-enucleations are performed as needed. Special needs cats are returned to their colonies if it is safe to do so. If friendly, they are put into our adoption program. In 2020 we sterilized 1188 cats of which 893 were community or feral cats and 441 dogs. This was despite the challenges of being closed for two months due to COVID to preserve PPE for human needs and being a brand-new clinic.

## Target Population

<b>Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical Information service (GIS), etc.):</b>	Marion County Florida
<b>Total human population in target area:</b>	365719
<b>Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:</b>	14.9
<b>Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):</b>	110824
<b>Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):</b>	91430
<b>Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):</b>	60954
<b>Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	3889
<b>Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	2286
<b>Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	195
<b>Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)</b>	110

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

Our community no longer has an open-admission shelter and people are re-homing unsterilized pets. There has been an increase in stray animals.

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

Free-roaming cats, as well as dogs & cats that reside in low-income households, are the most significant sources of overpopulation in our county.

**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?**

There are several- MCAS, Sheltering Hands, and TLC Petsnip offer spay-neuter services at various levels and requirements. This is still insufficient to meet the need- particularly with cats because they can breed so fast and the numbers are so high. We know from our food program to low-income owners (Project Feed) that many cannot afford to pay even \$20 for spay-neuter. We also know from this program that there are people already struggling with a lack of financial resources, yet they will often take in strays that need kindness, food, and vetcare. We endeavor to support these people with food, flea medications, and veterinary care; particularly spay-neuter.

**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.**

Marion County Florida is 1663 square miles.

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

Caregivers apply online for help in specific areas and our coordinators log the area, coordinate with the trappers and the clinic to schedule for trapping and surgery. When we work in an area we go back until every cat has been sterilized.

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

Colonies are in rural, suburban, urban, residential, and commercial areas.

**Estimated number of cats in the target colony area : 60000**

**Estimated number that are currently sterilized: 10000**

**Projected reduction after utilizing the grant: 500**

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

We work directly with caregivers who are committed to caring for the cats. We also support them with food from our food program and remain in touch with them.

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

Yes

**Please explain what is allowed:**

Our ordinance is very community cat friendly. The county allows for the feeding of colonies and recognizes that TNR is the most humane way to address the feral cat population. The county also does SNR for free-roaming cats brought to them.

**(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:**

Marion County Animal Services, Humane Society of Marion County, Sheltering Hands

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

We educate caregivers on setting up feeding stations to eliminate the impact on wildlife.

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

We address issues as they arise but have had very few complaints. Most often the complaints are because the cats are not sterilized so we explain that neutering will often resolve the issue.

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

**Will the cats be microchipped?** No

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

In addition to our TNR program, we also operate Project Feed to help caregivers feed their animals. Currently, there are 2039 cats enrolled in this program. 1100 are feral, the rest are owned cats. There are also 1113 dogs enrolled in the program.

## Objectives

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

We have positioned ourselves in the community as a resource for people who love their animals and caregivers of colony cats, who may not have the resources for spay-neuter and basic, humane veterinary care. Our goal with this grant is to expand our reach to these under-resourced people to deter shelter surrenders as well as to address a compelling need for more free-roaming cat sterilizations. We have already identified the need through our Project Feed program, our TNR program, as well as our vaccine clinics so this is easily measurable.

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

These surgeries will be free of charge to the applicants. This will make this attainable for people who need it the most. 500 cats and 108 dogs will be in addition to our baseline of 1200 cats and 450 dogs.

## Methods

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

For owned dogs and cats we are specifically targeting low-income clients enrolled in our Project Feed program. We also run a low-cost vaccine clinic every month and we are able to identify who is not fixed.

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

We use social media to get the word out about Project Feed and our vaccine clinics. This reaches our target audience very efficiently and is cost-effective.

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

For our community cat caregivers who need help trapping and transporting we send our trappers out. With owned cats traps are not generally needed so we assist with loaning cat carriers. Cultural hurdles and illiteracy remain challenging, but we are breaking down those barriers by developing relationships with people through our Project Feed and Low-Cost Vaccine clinics.

**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.**

Yes, our trappers are trained and we are insured for the use of their vehicles while they are used for this purpose. The caregivers and owner sign releases that disclose the risks

## Veterinary Services

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

We contract with two veterinarians- Dr. Natalie Isaza of Access Veterinary Services and Dr. Kathleen FLeck.

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

**Veterinary Practices**

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Access Veterinary Services	9652 NW 161st St	Alachua	FL	32615	352-262-9887	<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
<b>Range for Male Cats</b>	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
<b>Range for Female Cats</b>	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
<b>Range for Male Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
<b>Range for Female Dogs</b>	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$55.00

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?
<b>Examination</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Rabies Vaccination if Due</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$10.00
<b>Other Vaccination if Due</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$15.00
<b>Pain Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Parasite Medication</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>HW Testing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$15.00
<b>Feline Leuk/FIV</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$20.00
<b>County License</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Ear tipping</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Microchip</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes \$20.00
<b>Other</b>	<input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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:**

Ear-tipping will only be required for feral and community cats, not owned. Dogs will not be ear-tipped. Parasite medication will only be required if fleas are visible on the animal. Intestinal parasite medication is optional.

**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
Because of You Rescue	animals are spay-neutered and vetted at VOCAL at reduced pricing. They receive food from our food warehouse.
Chewy.com	Since 2018, Chewy has partnered with VOCAL to accept, warehouse, and distribute over 1 million lbs. of pet food annually that is not sellable due to damaged packaging. This food is distributed to 120 shelters and rescues throughout the central and north Florida area. This has fed many feral cats as well as sheltered animals and helps all us fulfill our missions to help the helpless.
Humane Society of Marion County	HSMC is partnering with us for the BIG FIX. They are providing a veterinarian, a vet tech and volunteers. They receive food from our food warehouse.
Loving Lois Rescue & Rehabilitation	Animals are spayed & neutered and vetted through us at reduced pricing. They also receive food from our food warehouse.
Marion County Animal Services	WE are partnering with MCAS for the BIG FIX. They are providing their neuter-commuter, a veterinarian, vet tech, and staff members. They receive food from our food warehouse.
Perpetual Care	Animals are spay-neutered and vetted at VOCAL at reduced pricing.
Quality of Life Rehab & Foster	Animals are spayed & neutered and vetted at reduced pricing, they receive food from our food warehouse
Sheltering Hands	We are partnering with Sheltering Hands for the BIG FIX. VOCAL and Sheltering Hands are the designated clinics. They receive food from our food warehouse.
WAGS Animal Rescue	Animals are spayed-neutered and vetted at reduced pricing. We also transferred 35 dogs and 25 cats from the rescue to rehome. They receive food from our food warehouse.

### Other Information

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

WE address the spay-neuter needs of our community in several ways-TNR, pets owned by people who can pay, and shelter & rescue pets. Where we need to expand is serving the low-income public that we are already encountering through these programs as well as our clinic.

### Budget

**Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:**

Cats: 500 Dogs: 108

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

**Average cost/surgery projected:** \$42.00

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

If the client can pay for the rabies vaccine then we will charge them. If not, we are prepared to absorb the cost of that. There is

no cost for ear-tipping. Microchipping is optional. If the veterinary exam reveals the animal is not healthy enough for surgery, depending on the diagnosis, we generally hospitalize the patient and treat the issue until healthy enough for surgery. That cost will be paid for by our fund raising initiatives.

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

We regularly fund-raise for our low-income clients and caregivers. Our clinic services fees such as specialty surgeries, dental services and product sales help to support the under-resourced animals such as ferals and those from low-income homes.

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

95

/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:** 09/15/21    **Projected end date:** 09/15/22

**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.**

Our clinic offers low-cost veterinary care to the general public and rescue groups. While we are a non-profit, we also understand that sustainability has to be built into everything we undertake. Our clinic is growing and we are not in debt. We also regularly fund-raise for our Fix the Future initiative which is specifically for people who need financial help fixing their pets or to provide life-saving surgery that they cannot otherwise afford.

## 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.**

**We have a strong social media presence, a regular newsletter and we have a website where this will be promoted. If awarded the grant we will also submit a press release to our local newspapers.**

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

Unknown