Grant ID: 2042

Title of Proposal: Low-Cost/No-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: $22,000.00

Check Payable To: Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency:	Clay County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of Clay County Animal Services	**Website Address:**	www.claycountygov.com
Person Submitting Proposal:	Megan Mosley	**Position:**	Grants Manager
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address:	megan.mosley@claycountygov.com		
Agency Head:	Aymie Hellard	**Agency Head Email**	aymie.blanton@claycountygov.com
Organization Business Address:	3984 State Road 16 West	**City:**	Green Cove Springs
State:	FL	**Zip:**	32043
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx):	904-269-6342	**Fax:**	
Cell:	904-295-4151		

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation:

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: **Begin:** 10/01/20   **End:** 09/30/21

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: $2,002,023.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: $1,550,101.97

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 18 Part Time: 7

Number of Active Volunteers: 133

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 28.30

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Online Search

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

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

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
2042	2022	Low-Cost/No-Cost Spay/Neuter Program	Funded

Describe your Organization:

Services Provided

☑ **Open Admission Intake Shelter**
☐ **Limited Intake Shelter**
☐ **Foster Network**
☑ **Animal Control**
☐ **Spay/Neuter Services**
☐ **Other**

Organization Structure:

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

List your current board of directors:

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

2996 **cats and** 1031 **dogs were admitted.**

1424 **cats and** 545 **dogs were adopted.**

101 **cats and** 41 **dogs were euthanized.**

2059 **cats and** 603 **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 welness clinic**

☑ **Adoption Program**   ☑ **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?

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

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

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.
Clay County Animal Services is responsible for animal welfare in Clay County. The shelter engages in a multitude of services for the community, including animal intake, lost and found, disaster services, enforcement of ordinances, and cruelty investigations. The shelter also provides low-cost rabies vaccines and microchipping of owned pets. Currently, the shelter does not provide spay or neuter services for owned pets. If CCAS is awarded funding by the Florida Animal Friend organization, CCAS will have the funds necessary to enact a tiered low-cost spay and neuter program and to include no-cost services for those who qualify. This program will be overseen by both the Shelter Manager, Aymie Hellard, and the Shelter Medical Director, Dr. Jennifer Broadhurst. Under their guidance, staff will perform at least eight to ten low- or no-cost surgeries per week resulting in at least an additional 420 surgeries during the program year. Clay County's Community Services Division, led by Community Services Manager, Victoria Hapner, will provide vetting and vouchers for individuals seeking low- and no-cost services using U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines for family size and income on a tiered scale. Community Services already provides vetting and screening for a host of County services. Personnel will be able to screen for low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter services need as they intake Clay County residents for prospective services. Field services personnel from Animal Services will also refer individuals and families for vetting and services as a routine part of their enforcement work in the community. Upon completion of vetting, residents will be provided with a voucher for a no-cost or a tiered low-cost spay/neuter at CCAS and will contact Animal Services to schedule their appointment.

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?
CCAS currently does not fund a low-cost/no-cost spay and neuter program. The County only spays/neuters shelter intakes and returned animals. CCAS did engage in a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release (TNVR) program until COVID-19 staffing issues made continuing the program impossible. Funding exists to restart the TNVR program Spring, 2022. While CCAS did not expend all of its

funds the previous fiscal year, the unspent funds were personnel funds for positions that were not filled because of the labor shortage resulting from the COVID-19 global health crisis. The County has since raised wages in anticipation of the $15 minimum wage law that is currently being phased in, and the funds remain available to fill vacant positions to maintain Animal Services at full staffing levels with increased wage and benefit costs. Shortly after the beginning of this fiscal year, in October, 2021, CCAS was involved in a puppy mill and animal hoarding case. The shelter was inundated with the care and placement of over 280 animals, including over 100 dogs. The total cost expended in the seizure and care of these animals was over $140,000. Given the extraordinary expense incurred at the beginning of the shelter's fiscal year, funding a low-cost/no-cost spay and neuter program would not be fiscally feasible this year without the support of grant funding. While unable to provide these services, the number of unwanted pets in Clay County continues to grow. Being able to tackle the problem from multiple angles via the revived TNVR program and a low-cost/no-cost spay and neuter program would help CCAS to make a significant dent in the number of unwanted pets and the resulting shelter intakes. The TNVR program will address the problem of community cats within the County, and if funded, the spay/neuter program would address both unwanted cats and dogs within the community via its goal of performing 420 surgeries on owned pets, with dogs being a priority area, in the program year. Most of the dogs in Clay County Animal Services' shelter are mixes of Pit Bulls or other large breeds. By engaging affordable spay and neuter services for the most financially vulnerable pet owners in the County, CCAS can make a significant impact specifically on the number of large breed dogs brought into the shelter. The shelter anticipates that 30 percent of surgeries will be performed on cats and 70 percent on dogs. Personnel also anticipate that most of the residents seeking services will fall within the lowest-income bracket and will require no-cost services.

Florida Animal Friend grants are for low-cost and/or no-cost spay/neuter programs; If you currently have such a program, please describe
CCAS does not currently have a low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter program.
Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:
Cats: Dogs:

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, geographical Information service (GIS), etc.):	Clay County
Total human population in target area:	218,245
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	9%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	66135
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	54562
Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	36375
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	2,996
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1,031
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	101
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	41

Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above.
CCAS does not believe the target area animal population is significantly different than above.

Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area:
The largest contributing factor causing dog and cat overpopulation in Clay County is lack of access to affordable spay and neuter programs. CCAS currently does not provide a low-cost or no-cost spay and neuter program. Selection for a Florida Animal Friend Grant would allow CCAS to provide no-cost or low-cost services to individuals and families who financially qualify. Additionally, a tiered system would be implemented creating a scale of affordability for low- to moderate-income individuals and families and ensuring that affordable spay/neuter services are attainable.

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?
Currently, Clay Humane provides low-cost and/or no-cost spay and neuter programs while CCAS is unable to do so. The current institutional capacity of these organizations via all programs and services combined is insufficient to meet the needs of the community. Despite their efforts, over 4,000 animals were admitted to animal control shelters in Clay County last year, including over 1,000 dogs and almost 3,000 cats.

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.
N/A

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

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

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.
N/A

Do current city/county ordinances address TNR or free-roaming cats?
No

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:
N/A

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

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

Will the cats be ear-tipped? No
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.
N/A

Objectives

What do you hope to accomplish with these funds (objectives should be specific and quantifiable)?
CCAS hopes to increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries performed by at least 420 in the year following an award, if received. Through increased spay and neuter, CCAS hopes to reduce the unwanted pet population in Clay County and decrease shelter intakes by at least 200 animals from the previous year. Via a low-cost/no-cost spay and neuter program, CCAS hopes to help low- and

moderate-income individuals and families to choose the health benefits of spay and neuter for their pets without concern about affordability. Veterinary costs lead to increased pet surrenders to Animal Services. The ability to add spay and neuter services for pet owners to the current low-cost rabies and microchip offerings will help more owners to keep their pets and reduce the number of accidental litters in the County.

How does this program increase the number of sterilization surgeries above the existing baseline?
In the last fiscal year, CCAS sterilized 2,059 cats and 603 dogs. These 2,662 animals were sterilized in the absence of an owned-pet spay and neuter program at the shelter. Adding an additional 420 sterilizations through this program, along with the renewal of the TVNR program, would allow CCAS to sterilize well over 3,000 animals in the coming year, making a significant dent in the unwanted pet population in Clay County.

Methods

What criteria will you use to determine eligibility for your program?
Community Services staff will screen applicants using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines to determine eligibility for the program. Based on household size and income level, applicants will be assigned to an eligibility tier and provided a voucher stating their tier-based cost ranging from $0 to $75. Households up to 50 percent of Median Household Income would receive surgery services at no cost. Households from 50 percent to 80 percent of Median Household Income would receive services at a cost of $25. Households at 80 percent to 100 percent of Median Household Income would receive services at a cost of %50. Households over 100 percent of Median Household Income would be asked to pay $75 for services. Households with more than one animal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that services remain affordable for all animals to receive surgery. Upon receipt of their voucher, they would schedule an appointment with CCAS to have the surgery performed.

How will you advertise the program? Explain how the advertising will reach the target audience.
A multitude of advertising methods will be used to promote the program. The County's Online Presence Team will advertise on social media. Additionally, the County's Public Information Officer will send out a press release to build awareness. Field officers will share information about the program during their routine work within the community. CCAS will ask partners, such as Clay Humane, to share information about the program. CCAS also participates in community events, including adoption events, where they can share information with community members about the program. Additionally, Clay County's Community Services Division will provide information about the program to individuals and families who they screen for other services.

How will you address barriers to full use of the program such as transportation, illiteracy, and cultural hurdles?
The most significant barrier to full use of the program in Clay County will be lack of awareness, since this will be a new program. CCAS will engage in an educational campaign via both informational brochures and social media regarding the benefits of spay and neuter. CCAS will also engage in a multifaceted campaign to promote the new program to qualified individuals and families via word-of-mouth through Clay County agencies, partner agencies, and social media.

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.
No, individuals will transport their own pets for participation in this program since the focus is on owned pets.

Veterinary Services

What arrangements have you made with veterinarians to perform the surgeries?
CCAS veterinary staff will perform the additional services. They indicate that their additional capacity, if awarded this funding, will be 8-10 surgeries per week of owned pets from low-income residences.

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

Veterinary Practices

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
Clay County Animal Services	3984 State Road 16 West	Green Cove Springs	FL	32043	904-269-6342	☑

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	$0.00	$25.55	$25.55
Range for Female Cats	$0.00	$33.79	$33.79
Range for Male Dogs	$0.00	$60.06	$60.06
Range for Female Dogs	$0.00	$60.06	$60.06

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	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Rabies Vaccination if Due	◉ Required ○ Optional ○ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Other Vaccination if Due	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Pain Medication	◉ Required ○ Optional ○ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Parasite Medication	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
HW Testing	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Feline Leuk/FIV	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
County License	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Ear tipping	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes
Microchip	○ Required ◉ Optional ○ Not Available	○ No ◉ Yes $15.00
Other	○ Required ○ Optional ◉ Not Available	◉ No ○ Yes

None of the anticipated grant funds can be used for <u>any</u> 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:
CCAS does not have the institutional capacity to provide a full-service veterinary clinic. CCAS does provide a no-cost rabies vaccine to all animal intakes. Additionally, microchipping is available for a cost of $15.

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
Clay County Community Services	Will provide financial qualification for households seeking services through CCAS and referrals to the program of qualified households.

Other Information

Provide any additional information that will help the grant selection committee understand how the program will operate to achieve its goals.
 Residents will be able to seek a low- or no-cost spay or neuter from CCAS if this program is funded. Clay County's Community Services Division will screen the applicants based on HUD guidelines and provide them with the necessary documentation to receive their services. Consideration will also be made on a case-by-case basis for residents with multiple animals to ensure that the cost of the program is tenable and allows for all of the target animals to receive services.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:
Cats: 126   **Dogs:** 294

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed $25,000): $22,000.00
Average cost/surgery projected: $53.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for (for example, vaccines, microchipping, ear notching, etc.):
Additional staffing will be needed to support the program. The County will use unexpended budgeted funds to support the necessary staffing.

Describe any other funding sources for this program, i.e. other grants, targeted fundraising efforts, budget allocation, etc.
The staffing for the program is funded via budget allocations.

What percent of the total cost of the program would this projected grant cover?
99%

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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: 08/15/22/   **Projected end date:** 07/31/23

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.
CCAS faced an extraordinary expense this year because of the animal hoarding/puppy mill incident in which over 280 animals were seized. Additionally, the shelter has seen an increase in the number of intakes, particularly of large breed dogs. A successful spay/neuter program will reduce the number of intakes. The reduction in intakes will reduce the cost of operation for the shelter

overall, and the funds saved by caring for fewer unwanted animals will support the ongoing cost of the program. Additionally, the County is developing guidelines for donations. In the future, animal lovers throughout the County will be able to donate the cost of a spay/neuter for a low-income resident to ensure that funds remain available to support this 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.

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CCAS will place Florida Animal Friend promotional materials in the shelter and ensure they are available at community events, including adoption events. Additionally, the County's Online Presence Team will promote Florida Animal Friend on CCAS social media.

Number of FAF specialty plates on vehicles of staff and/or volunteers:
5