

Grant ID: 2159

Title of Proposal: Low Income Charlotte and DeSoto Counties

Agency Type: Non-Profit

Total Funding Requested: \$20,875.00

Check Payable To: Animal Rescue Coalition

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Animal Rescue Coalition

Person Submitting Proposal: Laura McCann

Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: laura@arcsrq.org

Agency Head: Laura McCann

Organization Business Address: 6320 Tower Lane

State: FL

Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 423-321-9507

Cell: 423-321-9507

Website Address: 6320 Tower Lane

Position: Executive Director

Agency Head Email: laura@arcsrq.org

City: Sarasota

Zip: 34240

County: US

Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 12/01/1999

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 07/01/21 **End:** 06/30/22

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,351,193.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,098,211.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 15 Part Time: 6

Number of Active Volunteers: 10

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 20.00

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

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

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

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
177	2010	Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic	Funded
311	2012	ARC Mobile Spay/Neuter Program	Denied (not completed)
352	2013	Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic	Denied (not completed)
1414	2014	Spay/Neuter Services	Denied (not completed)
1446	2015	Spay & Neuter Project	Funded
1622	2006		Funded
1623	2008		Funded
1659	2016	No More Unwanted Litters	Ineligible
1735	2017	Charlotte County Spay/Neuter 2017	Funded
1873	2019	Charlotte County \$20 for 20th"	Funded
2159	2023	Low Income Charlotte and DeSoto Counties	Funded

***Type of Organization (check all that apply):**

- Municipal Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter
- Private Animal Shelter with Municipal Contract
- Public Spay/Neuter Services
- Other Public Veterinary Services
- Private Non-Profit Agency
 - TNR Group
 - Rescue Group
- Other

List the current board of directors of your nonprofit organization (Not required of governmental agency):

Name	Title
James Trivisonno	Director
Jeanne Wagoner	President
Robert Farrance	Director
William Kaser	Treasurer

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:**2974 cats and 2981 dogs were admitted.****0 cats and 0 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.****0 cats and 0 dogs were euthanized.****2974 cats and 2981 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

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 capacity to carry out this program.

ARC's Program Manager is responsible for organizing and administering the six programs which are funded by ARC donations and grants. One program, the Transport Program enables low-income families to receive transport and spay/neuter services at ARC for only \$25. Oversight for this program and others are provided by our Medical Director who assesses capacity and staffing, a Clinic Manager and an Executive Director. All program income, expenditures and impact are reviewed weekly by ARC's Comptroller and monthly by the Finance Committee and Board. We have the staffing and capacity to expand this program, especially since we are going to begin construction on an expansion to the clinic. We will have four surgical tables, two full-time vets, a large feral room and a resource center where patient families can receive information and education about veterinary care.

Florida Animal Friend grants are for low-cost and/or no-cost spay/neuter programs; If you currently have such a program, please describe

We are a low and in some instances, no cost spay/neuter program. Sixty percent of our operations are funded by donations and grants which allows ARC to keep its rates affordable. The most a patient will pay for a spay package for a non-high risk female dog is \$170. This price includes vaccines, a microchip, nail trim, e-collar and medication.

Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:**Cats:** 2974 **Dogs:** 2981

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Desoto, Charlotte counties
Total human population in target area:	228706
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	37%
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	69305
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	57177
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	38118
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A

Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	N/A
<p>Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. Low income families reside in the targeted area, many of whom cannot afford to provide their pets with quality, accessible veterinary care. Often times, they own multiple animals, further increasing need. Despite the large population of families struggling to care for their pets, there are very few affordable clinics in the region. Also, these organizations limit capacity and accessibility because of shortages in the veterinary field and due to limited funds.</p>	
<p>Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: The influx of residents into Florida has resulted in increased instances of pet abandonment or surrender, particularly because of the inability of pet owners to pay pet rents and fees charged at apartments etc. Also, the existence of hurricanes has resulted in pet abandonment and consequently overpopulation. Irresponsible breeding and the failure of pet owners to spay/neuter is another source of overpopulation. Feral cat colonies are a substantial source of cat overpopulation as the warm temperatures in Florida enable them to survive and multiply at rapid rates.</p>	
<p>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 is a gap in government subsidies for veterinary care in Florida. Two counties served by ARC, Sarasota and Manatee, have limited funds to subsidize surgeries for families with proof of low income. However, the majority of counties do not provide subsidies. Further, in addition to limited government subsidies for low income families, there is no financial support for pet care for families who live just above the poverty line or whom otherwise do not qualify for subsidy. In addition to ARC, there are only two affordable veterinary clinics in proximity to Desoto/Charlotte counties. Neither can accommodate the volume of surgeries performed at ARC. The demand for spay/neuter and ancillary services in Desoto and Charlotte counties is not being met.</p>	
<p>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:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pets in low-income families <input type="checkbox"/> Large mixed-breed dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	

Objectives

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

ARC will provide low cost spay/neuter surgeries to 264 pets of low income families from DeSoto and Charlotte counties.

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

Currently, 65% of the families from these counties and others report in ARC's customer surveys that they would not sterilize their pets due to surgical expense. ARC currently uses donations to fund surgeries for the pets of low income families from DeSoto and Charlotte County but these funds are limited and therefore there are still families who need financial assistance for spay/neuter.

Methods

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

ARC will request that pet owners provide proof of low income or represent that they do not have the resources to provide essential veterinary care for their pets.

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

ARC has over 10,000 followers on social media. We will use Facebook and Instagram to announce the grant as well as make appearances on local media. We will also send out press releases. ARC will also collaborate with local Animal Services to publicize the funding.

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

ARC provides transport to Desoto and Charlotte counties, picking animals up and dropping them off after surgery. Families who use the transport are only charged \$25 for this service. We employ 2 Spanish-speaking technicians and offer instructions and appointment forms in Spanish. We recently used Google Translate with a family who emigrated recently to the United States from Ukraine.

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.

For residents of Desoto, Charlotte and Manatee Counties who do not have transportation, ARC has a transport van that is fully insured and capable of transporting 20 animals safely. Our staff maintain and drive the transport. They are trained using ARC's Transport Protocols. All families who use the van and come to ARC for care must sign consent forms and when necessary, high risk waivers.

Veterinary Services

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

ARC employs a full-time Medical Director who has been performing high volume spay/neuter surgeries since she was licensed in 2019. In addition to the Medical Director, ARC has a part-time associate vet who can assist with surgeries. We also have access to 4 relief vets who perform high volume surgeries, including on feral days where up to 80 surgeries can be performed by two vets.

Are they: In-House Veterinarian Outside Clinic Combination

Participating veterinary practices if surgeries will not be performed in-house:**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	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Range for Female Cats	\$25.00	\$65.00	\$90.00
Range for Male Dogs	\$25.00	\$95.00	\$120.00
Range for Female Dogs	\$25.00	\$115.00	\$140.00

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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$18.00"/>
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="\$18.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>
HW Testing <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"/>
Feline Leuk/FIV <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$25.00"/>
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 type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Microchip <input type="radio"/> Required <input type="radio"/> Optional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Available	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="text" value="\$20.00"/>
Other <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 mandatory pain medication and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

If necessary, please explain the procedures and fees described above:
All clients fill out a consent form which outlines requested services and charges.

Is this a voucher program? No

If so, how will you assure utilization of 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 number redeemed for spay/neuter surgeries?

Community Collaboration

Florida Animal Friend values community/inter-agency collaboration. 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
Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County	They will assist with publicizing the existence of this program. in Charlotte County.
Desoto County Animal Services	They will raise awareness about this opportunity so that families who may otherwise surrender or animal their animals can get assistance.

Other Information

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

Access to high quality spay/neuter and veterinary care is critical in Charlotte and Desoto counties due to the limited resources. ARC has the means and capacity to spay/neuter large numbers of animals from those counties. Depending on size, gender and species, ARC's veterinary team can perform on average, 30 surgeries a day.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 151 **Dogs:** 114

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$20,875.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$79.00

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

True cost of surgery for 265 animals (based on \$144/surgery true cost estimate) - \$38,160. Estimates of dogs/cats targeted based on previous 2 years' averages of patients - 23% female dogs, 20% male dogs, 32% female cats and 25% male cats. The services which would not be paid for by this grant will be funded through private donations, corporate gifts and other grants.

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

ARC's operations are heavily subsidized as surgical costs far exceed the rates charged to patient families and the 55 rescue organizations we serve. We use our website to target donations for our programs, apply for various grants and host fundraising events to raise funds to support our mission. We also allocate monies in our annual budget to apply to programs. Our total support and revenue in 2022 was \$1,351.193.

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

55%

Timeline

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: 09/01/23/ **Projected end date:** 08/31/24

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 will fund this program for DeSoto and Charlotte counties with local grants from community foundations as well as individual and corporate donations. We also anticipate growth in gifts by implementing a legacy giving program. Also, while the costs of operating the clinic are high and we rely on donations and grant funding to keep our rates affordable, ARC and its programs are sustainable due to the income generated from the high volume of surgeries performed and the number of wellness appointments which generates income from vaccines, prevention and heartworm tests. ARC's leadership team, Finance Committee and Board of Directors also ensure that ARC 's finances are managed prudently and that donations and funding are stewarded.

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.**

ARC has over 10,000 followers on social media. We intend to use Facebook and Instagram to publicize the receipt of the grant. We will also publicize AF funding and the license plate on our website, in our newsletters and in articles in various local publications.

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

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