

Grant ID: 2127

Title of Proposal: Fix Flagler
Agency Type: Non-Profit
Total Funding Requested: \$25,000.00
Check Payable To: Flagler Humane Society

Application Information

Demographics

Name of Applicant Agency: Flagler Humane Society
Person Submitting Proposal: Amy Carotenuto
Person Submitting Proposal Email Address: acarotenuto@flaglerhumanesociety.org
Agency Head: Amy Carotenuto
Organization Business Address: 1 SHELTER DR
State: FL
Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): 386-445-1814
Cell: 386-566-3734

Website Address: 1 SHELTER DR
Position: Executive Director
Agency Head Email: acarotenuto@flaglerhumanesociety.org
City: PALM COAST
Zip: 32137
County: FL
Fax:

Agency Details

Date of 501(c)(3) Incorporation: 10/01/1980
Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/21 **End:** 09/30/22
Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,922,133.33
Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$1,704,172.50
Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 23 Part Time: 20
Number of Active Volunteers: 100
Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 500.00

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Have known about it for many many years. Originally learned through networking with other agencies most likely.

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

Previous Florida Animal Friend Applications: Years Funded: 2013,2015,2017,2019,2021 Year(s) denied/incomplete:

Grant #	Proposal Year	Proposal Title	Status
381	2013	Controlling Community Cats	Funded
1481	2015	Community Cat Diversion	Funded
1691	2017	The Big Fix	Funded
1826	2019	The Big Fix	Funded
1977	2021	Fixing Flagler's Furries	Funded
2127	2023	Fix Flagler	Funded

Auto-Generated (Previous Applications):

***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
Cathy Vogel	Vice President, Secretary
Jason Ebding	Board Member
John Reynolds	Board Member
Linda Lester	President, Treasurer
Rebecca Reynolds	Board Member
Richard Lester	Board Member
Vince Lyon	Board Member

Applicant Qualifications

**For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:
1768 cats and 1001 dogs were admitted.**

1567 cats and 953 dogs were adopted, transferred, or other live outcome.

104 cats and 47 dogs were euthanized.

1343 cats and 872 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.

FHS has had a low cost spay/neuter program since 1992. Years ago we worked with local participating veterinarians. Today, nearly all of our surgeries are performed in house, with a small percentage going out to cooperating local veterinarians. Our medical team is well established. Led by medical manager Joelene Osterhout, who trained as a phelbotomist but moved to animal welfare over a decade ago. Her team works well with a variety of veterinarians. We have a full time doctor, Dr. Carlos Aguiar who came to us from First Coast No More Homeless Pets, as well as several relief and part time veterinarians, Dr. Pam Kaitkowski, Dr. Cassie Triplett and more. They operate a wellness clinic as well as performing spay/neuter on shelter and owned animals.

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 have been providing low cost sterilizations for decades. We do not require proof of low income or county residence. Our thought is that if our assistance is needed, then we will do everything we can to help. Our veterinarian performs a pre-surgical exam prior to all surgeries to ensure safety.

Number of animals sterilized in that program in the past year:

Cats: 341 **Dogs:** 456

Target Population

Geographical target area (name of city, county, zip codes, etc.):	Flagler County
Total human population in target area:	163,132
Percent of residents living below poverty in target area:	10.5
Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3):	49434
Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0):	40783
Estimated number of free-roaming community cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0):	27189
Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1768
Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	1001
Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	104
Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known)	47

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

At FHS, we believe the actual demographics are roughly the same as estimates from the U.S. census bureau.

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

Statistically, unaltered pets belonging to owners with financial hardships account for at least 85% of the unwanted pet population. We see so very many of these pet owners when they use our vaccine clinics, our low-cost wellness clinics and pet food pantry. If we were awarded the FAF grant we would offer fee waived sterilization surgery to lower income pet owners as needed. Compliance skyrockets when fees are waived, even low cost fees can sometimes be too much for people. Fee waived surgeries will provide a vital piece of the puzzle to reduce the number of surrendered and potentially euthanized pets in Flagler County and beyond.

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?

Our low cost program which originated in 1992 is pretty much the only low cost option in Flagler County. FHS Low Cost Spay/Neuter program is staffed by our doctors and techs inside the shelter. Fees for surgeries range from \$110 to \$190 for male dogs depending on weight and from \$120 to \$200 for female dogs depending on weight. Cat surgeries are \$60 for a neuter and \$80 for a spay. We do surgeries three days per week, so we are able to keep up with the demand, we just cannot always help those who are unable to pay anything. Aside from us there is a very small group that has a low cost surgery program for cats. They have some internal issues, reputation issues and at best, they are limited to a quite small number of cats. Other than that, as a small incentive, a \$25 county spay/neuter rebate is available to Flagler County residents no matter which veterinary hospital they go to. They send in the receipt and we send them their \$25 rebate check.

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 **Large mixed-breed dogs** **Trap-Neuter-Return of free-roaming community cats** **Other**

Objectives

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

We are continually concerned that we could fail the most vulnerable animals - Animals who live in areas of severe economic hardships. As we analyze numbers within our shelter, we are tremendously successful. However, it is more difficult to gauge the population of animals that we don't see, the ones who don't make it to us. We know that hidden in our county, there are female dogs and cats giving birth whose offspring neither find good homes, nor end up in our shelter. We know there are male dogs who lose their homes because of negative behaviors which could have been solved by neutering them. Targeting our lower income areas with spay/neuter opportunities that are truly within their budget will not only save lives, but it will improve quality of life for pets and their owners. In many of these cases, we subsidize surgeries even beyond our low cost deal, however, our budget constraints are such that we are unable to help everyone without grant funding from an outside source such as Florida Animal Friend. If we follow the formula within this grant application, we have well over 56,500 cats and 68,500 dogs living with pet owners in our county who have fallen into poverty. We appreciate that over the years FAF has helped us provide owners with assistance to take the better care of their four legged family members.

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

In his third year with us, Dr. Carlos Aguiar who trained both at University of Florida and abroad, is a skilled surgeon with an unmatched record of safety. He performs surgeries quickly and even keeps the staff entertained. We have relief doctors, Cassie Triplett, Pam Kaitkowski and Tom Freiberg who handle our wellness and vaccine clinics so Dr. Aguiar can focus everything on sterilization surgeries. Dr. Aguiar formerly worked at First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville. If we are ever unable to keep up with the demand in a timely manner, we have veterinary friends within the community that would help us temporarily. Our roadblock is often cost. Our customer service staff comes to me regularly saying that we have customers asking if we have grant funding available because although our spay/neuter prices are low, they are still more than what some can afford.

Methods

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

A brief interview will be conducted either out in the field by our animal services officer, or in our lobby with a walk in or phone customer. We don't want to deny an animal in need. So although proof of residency and identification will be required and there will be an interview, we will not require proof that the pet owner is on government assistance. Too often people who work hard and are in need of assistance fall through the cracks when so much is required to determine eligibility.

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

Locals have heard of the Florida Animal Friend license plate grant funding, so it will spread quickly by simple word of mouth. In addition to that, flyers will be posted in social services buildings such as the County's Health Department. There are several family parks in our lower income areas at which our officers can post flyers. We have three Facebook accounts (the primary shelter FB, Animal Services and our Thrift Store). Information regarding the grant will regularly be posted on Facebook and our website, possibly even our business "Nextdoor" account. We can include flyers in bags at our thrift store and we even have a Pizza delivery place that has allowed us to post flyers on Pizza boxes. We will mention the grant funding on our radio show "Speaking of Animals" which airs in Flagler County Saturday mornings and on demand on line at WNZF. Much of the advertising for an opportunity like this is done by our officer speaking directly to pet owners in the community. Locals have heard of the Florida Animal Friend license plate grant funding, so it will spread quickly by simple word of mouth.

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

We are blessed to have staff from various cultural backgrounds and who speak various languages. If there are language barriers or prejudices against a certain staff member, then we can match the messenger so that pet owners feel comfortable with whomever is speaking with them. Our forms are brief, and employees or volunteers often read them to pet owners who have literacy issues. Our officers often transport animals belonging to pet owners who do not have available transportation. If officers are busy, we have a volunteer network that signs up just to run errands involving animals. There would not be an issue with helping get animals to and from their surgery appointments.

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.

FHS has a total of five vehicles. We have one basic animal control truck, with metal cages built in the back of the truck. This truck is safe to transport large and small dogs, even unruly dogs. We have two vans which can transport multiple dogs inside as we stack wire crates inside in air conditioned comfort. We also have two other vehicles that are used simply for shelter errands. Either of those are fine to transport dogs, if the primary vehicles are in use. If someone other than our trained officers or staff is providing transport, we would send a pre-approved volunteer that has some training in animal handling. Liability waivers that have been approved by our board attorney are used. We would only be transporting the animals, not the dog owners.

Veterinary Services

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

Our facility has a large surgical suite with areas for prep and recovery. Our primary doctor, Dr. Carlos Aguir is a skilled surgeon with a passion for sterilizing animals. We also have Dr. Cassie Triplett, Dr. Pam Kaitkowski and Tom Freiberg who fill in as needed. If demand exceeds our ability to provide needed services in a timely manner, we have friendships with some local and nearby local hospitals who can help a bit with overflow.

Are they: In-House Veterinarian Outside Clinic Combination

Participating veterinary practices if surgeries will not be performed in-house:

Practice Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Lead Practice
East Coast Animal Hospital	10 FL Park Dr.	PALM COAST	FL	32137	386-585-4211	<input type="checkbox"/>

Flagler Animal Hospital	130 Old Kings Rd.	Flagler Beach	Florida	32136	386-439-1606	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freiberg's Healing Paws	1437 N US1	Ormond Beach	FL	32174	386-615-7297	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tomoka Pines Veterinary Hospital	750 S. Nova Rd.	Ormond Beach	FL	32174	386-672-3137	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Emergency Clinic of East Volusia	2410 S. Ridgewood Ave.	South Daytona	FL	32119	386-761-1911	<input 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="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$50.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$60.00"/>
Range for Female Cats	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$70.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$80.00"/>
Range for Male Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$140.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$150.00"/>
Range for Female Dogs	<input type="text" value="\$10.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$150.00"/>	<input type="text" value="\$160.00"/>

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 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="\$15.99"/>
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="\$25.00"/>
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="\$35.00"/>
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 checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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 mandatory pain medication and \$2 per animal for rabies vaccination.

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

I hate that our fees have been raised so much but our expenses have gone up exponentially!

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
City of Flagler Beach	The City contracts with us to provide housing for their stray or abandoned animals. Many city workers are willing to share spay/neuter opportunities. We may inquire if the info could be sent out in a local water bill. We are often invited to city functions at which we can display FAF info.
City of Palm Coast Animal Services	The City contracts with FHS to house their lost, stray and animals in need at FHS. The officers reach out to us when they have situations in which an owner needs help. They help with transport if needed and they will surely spread the word about the spay/neuter opportunity.
Community Cats of Palm Coast	Primarily a community group of cat caretakers that promote TNvR, Palm Coast Community Cats is also great at networking and helping pet owners find the help they need. They are an asset for anything relating to spay/neuter. They help owners financially. They help with transport and they help us advertise spay/neuter opportunities.
Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare	We have been friends and partners with the folks at Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare since their inception well over 20 years ago. They have always helped spread the word for any spay/neuter opportunities that we have had. We refer people to each other depending on the need and the resource.
Sophie's Circle	Sophie's Circle is an adoption partner/rescue group and pet food pantry. We have always been friends for years and years. Sophie's Circle volunteers network to help our pets find homes and they spread the

Name	Level of Involvement
	word of spay/neuter opportunities in this and surrounding areas. They also help with transportation of pets if there is a need.
The City of Bunnell	The City contracts with us to provide housing for their stray or abandoned animals. We may inquire if the info could be sent out in a local water bill. We are usually invited to holiday city functions at which we can display FAF info.

Other Information

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

We are proud and excited to continue the partnership with Florida Animal Friend (fingers crossed) that has helped spay and neuter dogs and cats for years! Residents have been asking if we have any opportunities for even lower cost than usual sterilization again. We borrow ideas from other successful programs and are open to expanding our services. We never turn any animal in need away.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 122 **Dogs:** 122

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

Average cost/surgery projected: \$103.00

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

Rabies vaccines and pain relief are included in the price. Other options such as an elizabethan collar, additional vaccines, diagnostics or parasite control will be the responsibility of the owner. For anyone who truly cannot afford anything that is needed for the animal, we will absorb the cost.

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

Our thriving thrift store, government contracts, fees for services and fundraisers all contribute to our ability to assist pet owners in need. We watch for specials from our vendors and deals on short dated products as well. We just had some microchips donated from Fi. Our members are willing to donate and happy to be a part of a winning, life-saving team. Also, as fewer animals enter the shelter thanks to spay/neuter, the resources that would have gone to housing pets, are better spent vaccinating and microchipping pets who will not be residing at our shelter.

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

90%

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 are committed to continually offering low cost and free spay neuter programs. We celebrated forty years of service last year, with our low cost spay/neuter program nearly thirty years old itself. We are well established and respected within the community, so we aren't going anywhere (in a good way). Thanks in part to previous grants from Florida Animal Friend, our intake of animals drops nearly every year. With fewer animals residing in the shelter, there's less strain on a tight budget. If we can assist the owners who are in financial distress, then our intake numbers should continue to drop. Less intake of animals means that funds that would normally be spent on care staff, food and supplies could then be used on programs to help animals outside of the shelter, including spay/neuter. We watch for grant opportunities help us to offer more assistance to pet owners. We partner with local pet stores, some of which have national grant programs. We are a part of the Million Cat Challenge, we send our stats in to Shelter Animals Count, we are partners with Best Fiends, ASPCA and HSUS. FHS Facebook has one of the largest list of followers in Flagler County. When we put out a plea on Facebook, the response is amazing. Our other social media outlets are expanding. We publish both hard copy newsletters and eblasts to help in our fundraising efforts.

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 FAF plate always has a prominent placement on our website. We promote the plate on our three Facebook pages. We keep the rack cards up on our counter and greeter desk in our lobby. FHS hosts a radio show called "Speaking of Animals" every Saturday morning. I have talked about the plate on the show, but if anyone from Florida Animal Friend would like to do a taped radio interview, we would love to have you and can schedule around your schedule!

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

9