

Grant ID: 68

Title of Proposal: Operation LICS (Low Income Community Sterilization)

Agency Type: Municipal

Total Funding Requested: \$15,000.00

Check Payable To: Tallahassee Leon Community Animal Service Center

Application Information

Demographics

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name of Applicant Agency: | Tallahassee Leon Community Animal Service Center (TLCASC) | Website Address: | www.talgov.com/animals |
| Person Submitting Proposal: | Stephanie Sikorski | Position: | Interim Director |
| Organization Business Address: | 1125 Easterwood Drive | City: | Tallahassee |
| State: | FL | Zip: | 32311 |
| Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx): | 850-291-2966 | Fax: | 850-891-2977 |
| Cell: | 850-544-1066 | Email Address: | stephanie.sikorski@talgov.com |

Agency Details

Dates of Last Fiscal Year: Begin: 10/01/07 **End:** 09/30/08

Organization Income in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,291,748.00

Organization Expenses in Last Fiscal Year: \$2,291,748.00

Number of Paid Employees: Full Time: 27 Part Time: 8

Number of Active Volunteers: 220

Total Volunteer Hours per Week: 147.50

How did you learn of the 2009 Florida Animal Friend grant competition? Through Florida Animal Control Association membership as well as by volunteers actively looking for sterilization funding opportunities

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

Describe your agency:

Services Provided

- Unlimited Intake Shelter
- Limited Intake Shelter
- Foster Network
- Animal Control
- Spay/Neuter Services
- Other

Organization Structure:

- City, county, or tribal agency
- Private nonprofit agency
- Other

List your current board of directors:

| Name | Title | Phone | Occupation | Email |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adrienne Soule | Member | 850-606-6048 | Leon County employee | Soulea@leoncountyfl.gov.org |
| Heather Smith | Member | 850-410-7265 | FDLE, Dir. of External Affairs | smithdawg@embarqmail.com |
| Kate McFall | Chair | 850-508-1001 | Real Estate | kmacfall@comcast.net |
| Ken Johnson | Member | 850-644-9396 | Educator, FSU | ken@tallyjohnsons.com |
| Kent Hutchinson | Member | 850-487-9164 | State of Florida administrator | khutchinson01@comcast.net |
| Lyn Hagood | Member | 850-385-5141 | Veterinarian | LTHagood@aol.com |
| M. Gabrielle | Member | 850-321-8222 | business consultant | gabrielle@gabrielleconsulting.com |
| Thomas Peterson | Member | 850-412-5117 | Teaching Veterinarian | Thomas.Peterson@fam.u.edu |

Applicant Qualifications

For your organization, in the last complete fiscal year:

5276 cats and 5289 dogs were admitted.

1155 cats and 1677 dogs were adopted.

3082 cats and 2158 dogs were euthanized.

835 cats and 842 dogs were sterilized.

Briefly describe your animal programs:

1. ADOPTIONS - The TLCASC has an active adoption program in which members of the community come to the facility to adopt animals. Specialized and themed adoption events are held multiple times each year to attract diverse members of the community to our adoption programs. 2. FOSTER PROGRAM - The TLCASC coordinates a foster program and placed approximately 900 animals in foster care in 2008. Animals placed in foster care are typically infant, orphaned, sick, hard to place, or in need of additional socialization. 3. WEEKEND COMMUNITY ADOPTION BOOTHS - The TLCASC regularly brings adoptable animals to off-site adoption booths. These booths are held each weekend at major pet stores. In addition, the TLCASC is frequently invited to bring animals to community events of all sizes. 4. SATELLITE ADOPTION LOCATION - The TLCASC has a partnership with the local store of the Pet Supermarket national chain. Pet Supermarket serves as a satellite adoption site for cats for the TLCASC. The store houses and adopts out TLCASC cats. This satellite adoption location has been in place 2 1/2 years and has resulted in the adoption of 275 cats. 5. MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS - The TLCASC showcases animals every week in conjunction with local media partners. The TLCASC Humane Educator has a standing weekly appearance on both a local radio and local television show. The local newspaper also features photos of dozens of adoptable pets in a special weekly photo gallery. 6. HUMANE EDUCATION - The TLCASC employs a full-time humane educator who works actively in the local community to develop materials and deliver presentations targeting responsible pet ownership and highlighting the importance of spay/neuter. 7. UTOPIA (Undergoing Training in Prison to Improve Adoptability). The TLCASC partners with the Florida Department of Corrections to send shelter dogs to state prisons where they receive obedience training from inmates. The dogs experience an 8-week training program and are returned to be adopted. 8. FREE RABIES CLINICS - The TLCASC hosts community rabies clinics at least twice each year. The clinics are offered in low income communities and draw upon the assistance of local volunteer vets. During the most recent clinic, held in April 2009, 228 animals received rabies vaccinations in a 2.5 hour period. 9. MICROCHIP CLINICS - The TLCASC hosts community microchip clinics at least twice a year. These clinics are designed to maximize the number of dogs and cats implanted with this important identification device. Increased microchipping significantly improves the TLCASC's ability to return lost pets to their owners.

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

No

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

Approx. 37%

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

All animals must be of adoptable status: completed stray wait, be at least 2 months and 2 pounds, passed behavior and medical assessment, and received initial vaccines. After meeting above criteria we prioritize: 1. Pregnant Animals 2. Juvenile Animals 3. Adult Pure Breed Animals 4. Adult Mixed Breed Animals.

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

Pursuant to TLCASC Standard Operating Procedures, in the event the identified animal is not sterilized, adopters shall choose a Participating Veterinary Clinic from a list provided by TLCASC for rabies vaccines (if necessary), medical examination, fecal, and sterilization. The adopted animal is transported directly to the participating vet by the TLCASC. TLCASC maintains a list of veterinary clinics that have agreed to perform sterilization at a discounted rate and the adopter must sign a Letter of Agreement with the chosen clinic acknowledging his or her agreement to pay for the listed medical services. A sterilization deposit must be paid to the TLCASC if the animal is unaltered at the time of adoption. Sterilization is required to occur within thirty (30) days of adoption or prior to sexual maturity. Once the animal is sterilized by a participating vet, the vet notifies the TLCASC, which then returns the sterilization deposit to the adopter. The TLCASC works actively to follow up on adoption cases in which the sterilization deposit has not yet been returned after the 30 day period by follow up phone calls.

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.

This program will be carried out by 5 highly qualified individuals who currently hold leadership positions in the key areas involved with carrying out this proposal. These individuals will work collaboratively to successfully carry out the proposal. Dr. Rachel Reeves is an experienced small animal veterinarian specializing in the emerging specialty of shelter medicine and currently serving as the Animal Services Veterinarian for the Tallahassee Animal Service Center. Dr. Reeves has extensive knowledge in high-quality/high-volume surgical sterilization in preventative health care for animals in high-density, short-term housing environments, and treatment of infectious diseases common in animal shelters. In addition, she has considerable expertise in community outreach program development and implementation. Dr. Reeves is a graduate of Michigan State University and holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Science, and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to her duties as the Animal Services Veterinarian, Dr. Reeves is currently serving as the president of the Big Bend Veterinary Medical Association (BBVMA), a regional professional association for veterinarians in the Big Bend Region of Florida, southwestern Georgia, and southeastern Alabama. Stephanie Sikorski, Interim Shelter Director, has four years professional experience in shelter administration. In her current role, she oversees all operations and personnel of the facility and animal control operations. She works closely with county animal control operations (the TLCASC is the receiving point for the county). She previously served as the Shelter's Humane Educator, and in that role has coordinated and delivered a variety of community outreach programs aimed at enhancing animal welfare. She reports directly to executive city leadership. Interim Director Sikorski also has an active relationship with local animal rescue groups and many veterinary practices. Lieutenant Jeff Doyle oversees the animal control operations for the city of Tallahassee. An employee of the TLCASC, he is directly responsible for investigating animal cruelty, capturing lost/feral/stray animals, and working closely with community members to provide information/training enhancing responsible pet ownership. Lt. Doyle has been employed with the TLCASC for almost 10 years, serving for the last 5 years as an animal control officer and in the last 2 years as a Lieutenant overseeing 7 officers. He has certification from the Florida Animal Control Association in euthanasia, chemical capture, and animal control. He has also completed levels 1, 2 and 3 of the National Cruelty Investigators School. He holds a certification from the Humane Society of the United States in animal cruelty and fighting investigation. He has completed coursework on race relations and cultural diversity. Director Richard Ziegler oversees animal control operations for Leon County. (The TLCASC is the dropoff point for county animal control.) Director Ziegler has 25 years of experience in animal control operations and currently serves as the President of the Florida Animal Control Association. Within Leon County, he is directly responsible for investigating animal cruelty, all rabies control, capturing lost/feral/stray animals, and working closely with community members to provide information/training enhancing responsible pet ownership. He is also the county coordinator for the Animal Protection Emergency Support Function, a position in which he heads up domestic animal welfare efforts during local disasters. Heather Smith serves as a member of the TLCASC Advisory Board and as a member of the Animal Shelter Foundation board. She is has been a TLCASC volunteer for almost 4 years, dedicating hundreds of hours each year to TLCASC activities. She has been closely involved in the development, implementation, and monitoring of several animal welfare programs in association with the TLCASC. Most recently, she worked in conjunction with TLCASC personnel and local veterinarians to develop and implement a community based spay/neuter program. The program is designed to provide vouchers to citizens who relinquish litters of puppies and kittens to the TLCASC as well as to those citizens who need an incentive to alter their pets. She also worked closely with Dr. Reeves to develop and implement a post-adoption heartworm treatment program for shelter dogs. Ms. Smith serves as the Communications Director for a state agency, and in that capacity, also brings to this project experience in public relations/outreach, program management, media communications, and policy development.

If you currently have a program for sterilization of cats and/or dogs, describe your current level of funding and productivity and why additional resources are needed?

The TLCASC sterilizes only animals that are the property of the facility and that are not yet adopted. There are no dollars currently appropriated specifically for sterilization of community animals. Additional resources are drastically needed to provide spay/neuter services to animals in the community in order to help stop the flow of animals into the TLCASC. The Animal Shelter Foundation (ASF), is a non-profit organization that provides support and resources to homeless pets and works in concert with the TLCASC to raise its own funds for spay/neuter voucher programs. This auxiliary program (the ASF voucher program) has bolstered our

cooperative efforts to preclude unwanted litters of kittens and puppies. However, even combining the resources of both the TLCASC and the ASF, such resources remain inadequate in order to serve the sterilization needs of low-income residents in certain areas of our community. Although the ASF only began its sterilization voucher program for the TLCASC in November, 2008, it has allocated approximately \$17,500 for this purpose for the current fiscal year. Notwithstanding this dedicated amount, the demand (and NEED) for spay/neuter services remains unsatisfied.

Target Population

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Geographical target area (name of city, county, etc.): | Tallahassee/Leon Community |
| Total human population in target area: | 272,896 |
| Percent of residents living below poverty in target area: | 18.2 |
| Estimated number of pet cats in target area (human population divided by 3.3): | 82696 |
| Estimated number of pet dogs in target area (human population divided by 4.0): | 68224 |
| Estimated number of feral cats in target area (human population divided by 6.0): | 45483 |
| Number of cats admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 10,989 (dogs and cats) |
| Number of dogs admitted to animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | same as above |
| Number of cats euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | 5363 (dogs and cats) |
| Number of dogs euthanized in animal control shelters in the target area last year (if known) | same as above |
| Please explain if you believe your target area animal population is significantly different than above. | |
| We believe our target population is accurately reflected in the above figures. | |
| Please explain what you believe are the most substantial sources of dog and cat overpopulation in the target area: | |
| There are three primary sources of dog and cat overpopulation in our service area: 1) low-income residents who do not have the funds to pay for sterilization for their pets or who are uneducated about the benefits of spay/neuter and the need to sterilize to combat overpopulation ; 2) lack of funding opportunities available to low-income residents that would enable them to spay/neuter their pets; and 3) the large number of transients (e.g., college students and young professionals), who may not have the funds to sterilize their pets and who are suddenly apt to leave the area and, in far too many instances, abandon their unsterilized pets. Also, one should realize that some pet owners are simply NOT cognizant of the need to have their dogs and cats sterilized. Our voucher program would not only provide such services, but, moreover, publicize the need for and benefits of spaying/neutering. | |
| 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? | |
| Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of pet owners are responsible individuals to pay for their own pets' sterilization procedures, the responsibility for sterilizing far too many dogs and cats rests with either public or charitable organizations. There are some local non-profit organizations that offer assistance to the community. The Leon County Humane Society (LCHS) sterilizes pets in partnership with local vets; the Animal Shelter Foundation provides limited sterilization vouchers to the public that may be redeemed at local vets; and TREATS (Treatment Resources and Education for Animals in Temporary Shelter) provides a limited number of sterilization vouchers to the public. There is a local Spay and Neuter Clinic that sterilizes pets at a low cost, however, the waiting time for an appointment can be up to several weeks. Despite the presence of these charitable groups, the need far outweighs the financial abilities of these organizations to spay/neuter all animals requiring such procedures; hence, pet overpopulation in our area continues to expand exponentially!! Most low-income pet owners are loving owners of their pets. However, the financial hardships require them to earmark their available financial resources for necessities such as rent, utilities, food, and clothing. Even if they realize the benefits of sterilization, they simply do not have the available funds to pay for the procedures. | |
| 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 of the spay/neuter project proposed for | |

this grant:

- Pets in low-income families**
- Especially difficult or unique animal overpopulation sources**
- Pit bull dogs**
- Feral cats**
- Special spay/neuter event**
- Other**

Objectives

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

The objective of this proposal is to conduct 200 spay/neuter surgeries (approximately 100 dogs and 100 cats) for low income residents of the community. For the purposes of this grant, the community shall be defined as those residents living within Leon County who--either as individual or family--fall at or below federal poverty level guidelines. In calendar year 2008, the TLCASC took in 10,989 animals. Approximately half of these animals were unwanted puppies and kittens. Certain areas within our operating region have significant pet overpopulation problems. These problems are directly correlated with the abandonment, relinquishment, cruel treatment, or killing of unwanted dogs and cats--specifically, newly-born litters. The TLCASC is uniquely positioned to carryout this proposal. The TLCASC is a city facility and employs Animal Control Officers as well as serves as the drop off point for county Animal Control Officers. The TLCASC works collaboratively with the Animal Shelter Foundation (ASF). The ASF is a non-profit organization that provides veterinary care/resources above that which is available at the TLCASC, provides responsible pet ownership education, and works to promote spay and neuter. The ASF operates a small but growing community spay/neuter voucher program that utilizes local partner vets who provide surgeries at discounted rates. The program is specifically designed to help stop the flow of animals into the TLCASC. This proposal calls for Spay/Neuter vouchers that would be kept in vehicles operated by city and county Animal Control Officers (ACOs). These officers are in the local community on a daily basis to investigate reports of animal cruelty, respond to animal complaints, and provide education on responsible pet ownership. They are frequently present in low-income areas of the community and deal regularly with pet owners who are in need of outside assistance. City ACOs are employees of the TLCASC. County ACOs would be partners in this program. City and county ACOs are the ones who come into direct contact most often with the owners of lost, abandoned, unaltered, pregnant, and/or maltreated animals in our area of operations. Likewise, ACOs are the first to come in contact with the animal owner when there are violations of local ordinances. ACOs will identify unaltered animals in low income areas of the community and contact these animals' owners to provide them with the vouchers and other educational information about spay/neuter. ACOs will be provided with a fixed number of vouchers each month to distribute to low-income pet owners. Vouchers will be contained in a packet containing information about the benefits of spay/neuter and encouraging owners to take advantage of this "free" service. Vouchers will be dated at the time of distribution and expire 30 days after the packet/voucher is distributed. Volunteers shall follow up on any unused vouchers and extend expiration dates and offer assistance as needed.

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

The TLCASC does not conduct sterilization surgeries of animals in the community. However, within the facility, itself, 1,677 cat and dog sterilizations were conducted for animals already in the care of TLCASC last year. In course of last 4 months, the ASF, through its new voucher program affiliated with TLCASC, has altered 44 animals in the community. This program would significantly broaden the reach of TLCASC in the community and specifically target those who can least afford to have their animals altered. It is anticipated that it would increase the number of animals altered by 200 and simultaneously ensure that low income animals are targeted. Sterilization of 200 animals will reduce the potential for thousands of births of unwanted animals that would ultimately be turned in to the TLCASC. Therefore, excluding the dogs and cats sterilized "in-house" at TLCASC, the baseline is the 44 animals sterilized by veterinarians participating in the ASF voucher program. With the inclusion of TLCASC into this program (a significant expansion of this voucher "out-reach"), a total of 244 sterilizations of dogs/cats owned by low-income residents will be accomplished. The additional 200 sterilizations equates to a 650 % increase in the number of sterilizations!!

Methods

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

Pet owners in low income areas are most often contacted by ACOs in the course of their normal duties (as discussed previously). Should the dog or cat not be sterilized, the ACO would ask if the reason is financial, i.e., inability of the owner to pay for the surgery.

Should the owner answer yes, and subsequent to receiving information about this voucher program decide that he or she wants to take advantage of the voucher, then such voucher would be distributed to the requesting pet-owner (to be redeemed at a participating veterinarian). We must rely upon the judgment and experience of our ACOs in addition to relying upon the integrity of the pet owners in low-income neighborhoods. However, in a very few instances, there may be doubts on the part of the ACO about the professed financial inadequacy of a low-income pet-owner requesting a voucher. Should that occur (and we expect this to occur very rarely), the ACO may opt to request proof of financial inadequacy, e.g., pay stubs, Social Security statements, AFDC documentation, Unemployment Compensation documentation, food stamps, etc. We will target the specific low income areas of the county listed subsequently in this grant.

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

The primary means of advertisement will be through targeted, in-person contacts by city ACO's. The program will further be advertised by postings or announcements in community centers, parks, schools, churches and veterinary offices in targeted, low-income geographical areas. In addition, the program will be advertised on the TLCASC web site and on the ASF web site. The city hosts low-cost rabies clinics twice a year, and this forum draws large numbers of low income residents. This would serve as an ideal forum to reach the target audience. A clinic is planned for October 2009 in one of the Tallahassee area's neediest communities. Representatives from TLCASC would be on site at this event to distribute vouchers to pet owners who bring unsterilized animals to this event.

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

ACOs are specifically trained to deal with all sectors of the community. As part of their training, they are taught basic interpersonal skills and skills for dealing with diverse populations. Should translation services be required, one of our volunteers--who is multi-lingual--will provide such services. Volunteers are also available to liaison between the client and the veterinary hospital.

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. The animal owner is wholly responsible for transporting the cat or dog to the appropriate veterinary clinic.

Veterinary Services

Objectives

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

The TLCASC and ASF are partners which regularly collaborate to help homeless pets in the local area. The ASF already provides the TLCASC with spay/neuter vouchers that are provided to members of the public relinquishing puppies and kittens to the Shelter. The ASF also provides vouchers to TLCASC to help citizens who are requesting financial assistance. The ASF has in place agreements with 12 private local veterinarians to perform discounted spay/neuter surgeries for unaltered animals referred to their clinics by the ASF. There are several other veterinarians in the community who have expressed interest in participating and are expected to commit to the program in the near future. The local spay/neuter clinic is a participating location. Veterinarians agree to perform spay/neuter surgeries to citizens who make appointments using vouchers. The veterinarians bill ASF at pre-negotiated rates for the surgery and pain medicines used. The client is responsible for any additional costs such as vaccinations, testing, or office fees. In short, the ASF would simply act as the administrative agent for TLCASC for this expanded and focused voucher program since the former organization is the one that currently contracts with local veterinary clinics. Nevertheless, ultimate responsibility remains with TLCASC.

Veterinary Practices

| Practice Name | Address | City | State | Zip | Phone | Lead Practice |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Animal Aid Spay and Neuter Clinic | 2270 Boone Boulevard | Tallahassee | FL | 32303 | 850-386-4148 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bannerman Pet Care | 1580 Bannerman Road, Unit 5 | Tallahassee | FL | 32312 | 850-893-2043 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bradfordville Animal Hospital | 6714 Thomasville Road | Tallahassee | FL | 32312 | 850-893-3047 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bradfordville Paws and Claws | 3819 Bradfordville Road | Tallahassee | FL | 32309 | 850-906-0444 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Crawfordville Animal Hospital | 2807 Crawfordville Highway | Crawfordville | FL | 32327 | 850-926-2089 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lake Jackson Animal Hospital | 3512 North Monroe Street | Tallahassee | FL | 32303 | 850-562-0202 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lakewood Animal Hospital | 4882 Portal Drive | Tallahassee | FL | 32303 | 850-562-5116 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North Florida Animal Hospital | 2701 North Monroe Street | Tallahassee | FL | 32303 | 850-385-5141 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Northampton Animal Health Clinic | 2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy, #12 | Tallahassee | FL | 32309 | 850-668-8031 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Oakwood Animal Hospital | 2528 West Tharpe St | Tallahassee | FL | 32303 | 850-386-1138 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Timberlane Animal Hospital | 426 Timberlane Road | Tallahassee | FL | 32312 | 850-893-3112 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Westwood Animal Hospital | 216 Ausley Road | Tallahassee | FL | 32304 | 850-576-4168 | <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) and not for other items such as vaccines, testing, licensing, and capital purchases.

| | Amount Paid by Client | Amount Paid by Project | Total Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Range for Male Cats | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$55.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$55.00"/> |
| Range for Female Cats | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$70.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$70.00"/> |
| Range for Male Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$75.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$75.00"/> |
| Range for Female Dogs | <input type="text" value="\$0.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$85.00"/> | <input type="text" value="\$85.00"/> |

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 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="\$20.00"/> |
| Rabbies 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="\$8.00"/> |
| 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="\$12.00"/> |
| 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="\$15.00"/> |
| 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"/> |
| Licensing | <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 |
| Other | <input type="radio"/> Required <input checked="" type="radio"/> Optional <input type="radio"/> Not Available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes |

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

The proposed amount paid for by the grant will include the cost of the surgery AND the cost for pain control. These medicine costs are INCLUDED in the fee range approximations noted above. The costs reflect an approximate average cost for the surgery - some participating practices offer rates higher and others offer rates lower. The client is responsible for the cost of any vaccinations, testing, parasite medication or examination fees. The cost for the vaccinations noted is an estimate. However, as mentioned previously, the ASF, as an avenue to provide support to the TLCASC, will pay for vaccinations, testing, parasite medications and examinations needed if the client cannot. These vaccination and testing costs may range from \$6-20. The ASF will also consider, on a case by case basis, payment for other veterinary costs that may be required if there are larger medical concerns for the animal. The primary goal of the TLCASC and the ASF is to keep animals in homes where they are well cared for. NOTE: All listed fees to clients are general averages and vary between hospitals.

Is this a voucher program? If so, how will you assure compliance with the program?

Vouchers will be marked with expiration dates to in order to encourage prompt redemption. ACOs will acquire detailed contact information for all individuals receiving vouchers. Volunteers will make follow-up phone calls to voucher recipients to check status of surgery and accommodate any concerns. In addition, income verification checks will be done if there are doubts about potential clients' veracity concerning their income. Finally, ACO's would conduct follow-up visits to low-income pet owners as resources permit.

Other Information

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

As stated throughout several sections of this program, the TLCASC is fortunate to be partnered with and supported by the ASF. Notwithstanding the fact that TLCASC would be the recipient of the grant monies, ASF's supplemental administrative and financial assistance will ensure the success of this program. Moreover, through research and experience, the TLCASC is well cognizant of those areas designated as low-income. For example, the State of Florida's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) has determined, in its Report No. 05-37, those areas of the City of Tallahassee that are identified as either "somewhat distressed" or "distressed." These determinations were calculated using unemployment, poverty, and substandard housing indicators. Specifically, low-income Tallahassee municipal areas that will receive greater focus from TLCASC's ACO's and advertising/promotional efforts include: areas directly north of Florida State University (Bond community and Frenchtown community); Woodville unincorporated community; areas contiguous to and surrounding Florida A&M University; and areas within the far west and southwest portions of the municipal boundaries. Moreover, the research organization, city-data.com, determined that based on similar indicators, the ENTIRE southwestern portion of Leon County is economically disadvantaged. This area, which includes portions of the huge Apalachicola National Forest, is sparsely populated (12,920 residents in 2007). However, it comprises approximately 35% (233 square miles) of the county's total area (667 square miles). Yet, as a result of their low-income status, the residents of the southwest portion of the county are more likely to have unsterilized animals. Therefore, outreach and advertising efforts will be further focused in the southwestern part of Leon County to alert low-income pet owners of the opportunity to have their animals sterilized.

Budget

Total number of sterilization surgeries projected:

Cats: 100 **Dogs:** 100

Total budget requested (Budget should not exceed \$25,000): \$15,000.00

Average cost/surgery projected: \$75.00

Describe any expenses that are not included in the grant and how they will be paid for:

The ASF, as a support arm to the TLCASC, will absorb what is expected to be minimal costs for printing vouchers and for any materials that are needed to advertise the program. The ASF will also fund vaccination and other necessary costs (as cited previously) if the client is not able to pay them. The TLCASC is committed to ensuring that 200 animals in the community belonging to low income residents are sterilized with grant dollars. As participating vets offer varied fee schedules, and the grant request is based on an average cost, it is possible that the actual cost to conduct 200 surgeries may exceed the award amount by a small amount. Should this occur, the ASF is committed to absorbing the additional costs that may occur to ensure that 200 animals are sterilized.

Timeline

All projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding. Any unexpended funds must be refunded to Florida Animal Friend within 30 days of the end of the project. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the end of the project. Funding for accepted projects will be available after August 1, 2009.

Projected start date: 08/15/09/ **Projected end date:** 08/15/10

Future Funding

Explain how the organization plans to fund this program in the future. Having plans beyond "seeking funds from other funders" enhances the chances of receiving this grant.

The TLCASC has identified a creative and unique potential source of funding to help carry forward this program. As noted earlier, when an unaltered animal is adopted from the TLCASC, it is transported directly to a local vet for surgery. The adopter is required to remit a sterilization deposit. The deposit is returned to the adopter after proof of sterilization is received. The TLCASC recently changed the deposit form to enable adopters to donate their sterilization deposit to ASF. In the future, this program could be sustained by specifically earmarking these dollars towards the low income voucher program. Thus, this program can potentially be funded in the future in whole or in part through sterilization refunds directed to the ASF. The ASF could supplement these refunds with its primary funding source - private donations.

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 via press releases, newsletters, website links, etc. In addition, they are expected to promote the sales of license plates so that additional spay/neuter grants can be funded. Please describe your plan to promote the Florida Animal Friend Spay/Neuter License Plate.

If selected, the TLCASC would hold a press conference at a community center or city park in a low income area to announce the grant award and highlight its funding source and the Animal Friend license plate. The mayor and city commission would be invited to attend, as would representatives from the Florida Animal Friend grant program. A press release to local media outlets would be distributed in conjunction with the event. The grant award, along with information about how to purchase Animal Friend license plates, would be highlighted in the ASF's newsletter which reaches several thousand recipients. The TLCASC distributes customer care packets to each person who adopts from the shelter. Information about the grant award and promotional information about the license plate will be included in each packet. There are 3,000+ adoptions each year. In addition, information about the grant and the plates would be posted to the TLCASC web site and the ASF web site. Signage would be placed in the TLCASC facility (which handles thousands of visitors each year). As our facility is based in Tallahassee, we would also explore opportunities to include the executives from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in publicity events and ongoing promotional opportunities to further promote sales of the plate. Finally, the TLCASC web site and the ASF web site would both bear "icons" of the animal friend license plate which would link the visiting public to information about purchasing the plate.