

Pets & Their People Thriving Together

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Humane Society

Kim Roberts
14 Forever Friends Lane
Asheville, NC 28806

shess@ashevillehumane.org
O: 828-761-2001

Kim Roberts

14 Forever Friend Ln
Asheville, NC 28806

kroberts@ashevillehumane.org
O: 828-761-2001 ext 315

Application Form

INSTRUCTIONS

As part of the FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants program, Buncombe County requests proposals for community-based projects working toward outcomes in alignment with Strategic Plan focus areas.

Please refer to the Grant Guidelines published on the Strategic Partnership Grants website at buncombecounty.org/grants for complete information about the grant program, including: Purpose; Funding; Eligibility; Timeline; Grant writing workshop; Review process; Awards; and more.

Applications are due by 5:00 on February 14, 2020.

BASIC INFORMATION

BASIC INFORMATION – Before completing the application, please tell us a little about the request.

Project Name*

Pets & Their People Thriving Together

Strategy*

Recognizing that some projects will use more than one strategy, select the strategy that most closely applies to this project:

- Environmental Stewardship - High quality air, water, farmland and renewable energy for future generations
- Educated & Capable Community - A county where all people thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives
- Vibrant Economy - A robust and sustainable economy that builds on homegrown industries/talent and provides economic mobility for all
- Resident Well-Being - A county where residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community

Resident Well-Being

Funding Request*

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2021?

\$45,000.00

Grant Guidelines*

Have you read and understand the information presented in the FY2021 Grant Guidelines Strategic Partnership Grants?

[Click here for the Grant Guidelines.](#)

If no, please contact County staff to request assistance: Rachael Nygaard, (828) 250-6536 or rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org.

Yes

Nonprofit Status*

Upload proof of nonprofit status, such as IRS Determination Letter or documentation from the North Carolina Secretary of State. If this documentation is not available, briefly state the reason.

IRS_501(c)(3)_letter_AHS.pdf

Board of Directors*

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors. If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

AHS_Board_of_Directors_FY18-19.xls

APPLICATION

APPLICATION QUESTIONS – Responses to these questions will be scored by the grant committee. Each question is worth 10% of the final score.

Organization*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

Asheville Humane Society (AHS) rescues, reunites, rehabilitates and re-homes thousands of homeless animals each year in our community. As Buncombe County's critical safety net since 1984, we are always here to save and protect every animal. We are dedicated to promoting the compassionate treatment of animals in our community through education, sheltering, adoption and community outreach programs. AHS operates the only open-admission shelter in the County, the only one that can never, and will never, close its doors or say we're full. We are here for animals who are lost, surrendered, neglected or mistreated, and who all deserve a chance with a loving family of their very own. We provide a soft bed, food, comfort, medical evaluation, medical treatment, vaccinations, and behavioral testing for each. We place all animals who can humanely and safely be adopted into a loving home. An incredibly dedicated staff, generous volunteers and supporters ensure every animal is given all the care and resources available to help them thrive in a new forever home.

Three Highlights:

- Asheville Humane Society (AHS) is the only open-admission animal shelter in Buncombe County and we have consistently achieved a live-release rate of over 90% since 2015.
- Our Volunteer Program is one of only nine animal welfare organizations to receive Service Enterprise Certification through the Point of Light Foundation. This was a year-long effort to enhance our volunteer program culminating in certification in 2018.
- In 2015, AHS had one staff member providing safety services to pet owners in our community, and as of 2020 we have 5 full-time and 3 part-time staff providing critical services and support to help keep pets out of the shelter and in the homes where they are loved.

Need for the Project*

What is the main issue this project is established to address? What data or qualitative factors/stories are available to show that need?

The AHS Community Solutions (CS) Department focuses on providing resources for pet owners who are underserved and face barriers with language, transportation, financial, etc. We offer resources such as spay/neuter vouchers, pet food assistance, low-cost vaccines, behavior assistance, re-homing and temporary sheltering for the pets of individuals in crisis, and veterinary medical care for owned pets. Of the 3411 calls received on our Helpline in 2019, 47% were requests for veterinary assistance. We also receive a number of requests for assistance with vaccines and other wellness/preventative care. We typically deplete our monthly allocation of funds for veterinary assistance within the first 2-3 weeks of each month. In 2019, we spent over \$70,000 for veterinary assistance and it only scratches the surface of the unmet need.

The University of TN completed an Access to Vet Care survey of 5,652 households who qualify for SNAP benefits and found 80.2% of households "strongly agreed" that their pet is a member of their family. The biggest barrier for pet owners was financial. More than 1 in 4 reported they had experienced an inability to obtain the needed preventative, sick or emergency care for their pet. Percentages are higher for those with lower incomes and increase significantly when other barriers are present.

Studies repeatedly show that there are numerous mental, social and physical benefits to having pets. One study on the role of pets as facilitators of getting to know people, friendship formation and social support networks, pet-owners were found to be an important factor in developing healthy neighborhoods. Issues related to cardiovascular health and hypertension have been studied and found pets provide physical health benefits. One study found that the mere presence of a family pet during childhood can increase emotional expression and control in children, and research supports that even brief interactions with pets can lower stress levels in children.

Project*

Explain the project and how it will work. Include the overall purpose and any models or evidence-based practices that will be included. What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?

AHS has been providing safety net services to pets and their people in Buncombe County since 2015. Over the last 4+ years we have grown the CS Department to provide resources directly to the community. CS currently has 5 FT and 3 PT employees and many well-trained volunteers. Veterinary assistance/wellness care not only help keep pets out of the shelter and in the homes where they are loved, it also prevents suffering from illness and injury.

We have developed a number of ways people can request assistance in order to reduce barriers. Requests are most often made through our Helpline where our Coordinator offers support and assistance. Requests can also come from our Pet Retention Counselor, Humane Resource Coordinator who works closely with Animal Control, or our Outreach Team. Once a request is received, we gather detailed information about the problem and counsel the client about options. For medical care that needs more urgent attention, we call in approval for assistance to a local veterinarian. The client then contacts the clinic to arrange an appointment.

If the issue is not urgent, we can schedule an appointment at one of our monthly Affordable Pet Care Clinics (APCC) we provide in conjunction with Appalachian Animal Hospital. We developed the clinics to address the common medical issues presented by our clients. Often by the time they contact us a simple issue has become more severe and costlier to treat. The most common issues are flea allergy dermatitis or skin infections, ear and eye infections and dental problems. By providing access to lower cost medical care at the APCC, we reduce animal suffering and medical costs. Clients can also receive wellness/preventive services at the clinic, such as vaccines and flea/tick treatment.

The ASPCA has said that Community Solutions is one of the top three programs in country for innovative community programming. We frequently receive requests for guidance from other shelters seeking to replicate our program.

People Served*

How many people will be served by this project? Describe the people served, including demographics such as geography, income, race & ethnicity, age, etc.

Since our project provides service directly for pets, we count the number of animals served, but each animal has an individual or family and some may have multiple pets.

Medical Assistance via local veterinary clinic or the Community Solutions Affordable Pet Care Clinic:
Total project will serve between 312-416 pets. If awarded the \$36,000 for the veterinary assistance, the Buncombe County portion of those served would be 180-240 pets.

Wellness/Preventive Care (vaccines and flea/tick treatment):
Total project will serve approximately 450 pets if each pet receives vaccines and flea/tick treatment.
If awarded the \$9,000 for wellness/preventive care, the Buncombe County portion of those served would be 180 pets.

The people served through this project must be Buncombe County residents. Although the majority of people served will be living at or below the poverty level, we also serve people in crisis who may have lost a job, faced a medical crisis, etc.

We currently provide services for a variety of populations, including seniors, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, homeless, veterans, victims of domestic violence, and people with mental health or substance abuse challenges.

Results*

What results do you hope to achieve with this project? Be specific about how much impact the project will have in line with Commissioner focus areas.

The Pets and Their People Thriving Together project is not just about pets, it is about the people who love them too. This project addresses “resident well-being” in a unique, but important, way. In 2019, 67% of the households in the U.S. had pets. We tend to think of pets as benefiting from the love and care we give them, but research shows that we get many benefits from them as well. Some of the benefits of owning a pet contribute directly to the well-being of the people who live on our community.

Loneliness has been associated with heart disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and other negative outcomes, but older adults who owned pets were 36% less likely to say they were lonely than those who didn’t have a furry friend, according to a study in Aging & Mental Health.

Research published in Anthrozoös found that older homebound adults who owned cats or dogs had better executive function (the skills you need to pay attention, remember details, and use past experience to decide how to act) than those who didn’t own a pet.

A study published in the journal Circulation, which found that owning a pet is correlated with both a reduced heart disease risk and increased survival among heart disease patients.

According to one study out of SUNY Buffalo, just being around your pet is enough to reduce stress levels—even more than if you were to seek comfort from a loved one.

For those who struggle with issues like depression or bipolar disorder, one study published in the journal BMC Psychiatry, pets are able to give their owners' lives stability, continuity, and meaning when they need it most.

One study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology concluded that generally, pet owners benefit from greater self-esteem and mental wellbeing.

Ensuring the health and well-being of the pets in our community IS ensuring the health and well-being of our people too.

Evaluation*

How will you know you have succeeded? Explain the project evaluation process, including specific measures that will be tracked.

All information is entered into our Community Solutions database to allow for all client and pet data to be analyzed and reported. We will track the number of pets receiving medical care at a local veterinary clinic and at our Affordable Pet Care Clinics. We will also track the number of pets who receive vaccines and flea/tick treatment.

Beyond the numbers, we believe the project will be successful if we are able to provide veterinary medical assistance and wellness/preventative care as long as funds are available. If we help one senior living on a fixed income provide medical care for their senior arthritic pet, it is a success. If we help one family get their pet vaccinated and treated for fleas so they can stay in their rental housing, it is a success. If we help one veteran get emergency care for an injured pet, it is a success. We will count the numbers and collect the data, but each one is a story, and a success.

Collaboration*

List any formal and/or supportive partners. Describe their roles in the project. How will they make it stronger?

The Community Solutions team works very closely with a number of agencies and organizations to provide services and support to people and their pets in Buncombe County. Those partnerships are critical to the success of our community programs and our belief in a mission that goes beyond our shelter walls to embrace the people and pets in our community. Our partnerships have allowed us to cross-train with Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Helpmate. By cross-training we are each able to identify people or pets in need and make referrals for resources. The human service agencies in our community know that when a client has concerns or needs for their pet that they can refer them to Community Solutions.

Below are some of the critical partnerships between Community Solutions and other agencies and organizations:

- Homeward Bound – temporary/emergency boarding for pets and outreach
- Veteran’s Administration – temporary/emergency boarding for pets and outreach
- Helpmate – temporary/emergency boarding for pets and cross-training
- Housing Authority of the City of Asheville – monthly outreach tables and in-home support
- Appalachian Animal Hospital – Affordable Pet Care Clinics
- Family Resource Center at Emma/Emma Elementary – outreach tables and a low-cost vaccine clinic
- Buncombe County Health and Human Services, Haywood St Congregation, AHOPE, 12 Baskets – outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness
- Buncombe County Animal Services and Asheville Animal Services – case management
- University of Tennessee Knoxville’s Pet Health Equity Program/Aligncare – participating in pilot program
- Buncombe County Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services – cross-training and cross-referrals

Budget*

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses will be covered by County funds. Describe other sources of revenue, including type of funding, source, restrictions and status.

FY21_SPGrant_Budget_Form.xlsx

Total request: \$45,000

\$36,000 is requested for veterinary medical care that could include treatment of wounds, ear and eye infections, minor surgeries, pain medication or antibiotics, diagnostics, etc.

\$9,000 is requested for wellness/preventative care which includes rabies vaccines, core vaccines for felines and canines, and flea/tick treatment (cost depends on species and size).

Prior to receiving services, one of our CS staff will do a general assessment of the problem and the need. They will also explore other options for assistance, such as Care Credit. We do limit the veterinary medical assistance to once per year, unless an exception is made by a supervisor.

Other County Funding*

List all other Buncombe County funding that is provided to your organization. For each item, list the project being funded, amount of funding, source (grant, departmental contract, etc.) and whether funding is to be renewed for FY2021.

The Asheville Humane Society received \$948,000 in FY 19/20 to operate the Buncombe County Animal Shelter and provide shelter and care for approximately 5000-6000 Buncombe County animals per year. This is an annual contract that we anticipate will be renewed in 2021.

Sustainability*

How will the project continue to succeed after the funding of the grant? Explain your plan for making this an ongoing effort.

AHS has been providing veterinary assistance and other safety net services since 2010 with a significant increase in programming and services since 2015. AHS believes in keeping a very diversified funding stream through both individual donations and major gifts. We have a long history with numerous businesses in our area, and are fortunate to receive regular funding for our work with Foundations and Grantors. We also host two very successful signature events every year. We utilize direct mail and social media to reach new supporters. Our Board of Directors, leadership and donors have been very supportive of our Community Solutions programming and remain committed to ensuring those services are available in our community. Funding for the Community Solutions department includes a variety of grants, donor restricted funds, and general funds.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

OPTIONAL INFORMATION – This information will not impact grant scoring but will be helpful to the committee.

Partial Funding

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

The services provided through this project are provided as funds are available. The amount of funding varies and we spread it across the fiscal year and allocate a monthly amount so we stretch it across the year.

Any amount of funding would be fully utilized and appreciated.

Resource Support

Beyond this grant request, how can Buncombe County support your organization with this project and in strengthening your work?

Buncombe County agencies have been wonderful partners and allowed us to reach more people in need. We seek to continue to strengthen those partnerships.

Other

Is there anything else that you want the committee to know?

We are committed to being an active part of the community beyond our shelter walls and playing our part in creating a safe, healthy and thriving Buncombe County.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- IRS_501(c)(3)_letter_AHS.pdf
- AHS_Board_of_Directors_FY18-19.xls
- FY21_SPGrant_Budget_Form.xlsx



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077552417
Dec. 16, 2009 LTR 4168C 0
56-1444098 000000 00

00034615

BODC: TE

ASHEVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY INC
55 SHILOH ROAD SUITE 6
ASHEVILLE NC 28803-2954



013403

Employer Identification Number: 56-1444098
Person to Contact: Dee Anna Jarmon
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your Dec. 01, 2009, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that your organization was recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(03) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in October 1985.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section 509(a)(2).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Beginning with the organization's sixth taxable year and all succeeding years, it must meet one of the public support tests under section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or section 509(a)(2) as reported on Schedule A of the Form 990. If your organization does not meet the public support test for two consecutive years, it is required to file Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation, for the second tax year that the organization failed to meet the support test and will be reclassified as a private foundation.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

4077552417
Dec. 16, 2009 LTR 4168C 0
56-1444098 000000 00
00034616

ASHEVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY INC
55 SHILOH ROAD SUITE 6
ASHEVILLE NC 28803-2954

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Westcott".

Cindy Westcott
Manager, EO Determinations

AHS Board Of Directors
FY 2016-17
Asheville Humane Society Board Of Directors
FY 2018-19

| Committee | First | Last | Term Status | Address | City | ST | Zip |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|----|-------|
| Chair, Executive, Governance (chair) | Kim | Evans* | Second Term ends 9-19 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Vice-Chair, HR (chair) | Murphy | Fletcher | First Term ends 9-18 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Finance (chair) | Amy | Smith* | First Term ends 9-21 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Secretary, Executive, HR, LC | Ann | Barron | Second Term ends 9-19 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Development (co-chair) | Jacqui | Friedrich | First Term ends 9-19 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Governance | Robin | Ramsey | First Term ends 9-19 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Marketing | Kim | Brophey | Second Term ends 9-20 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Human Resources | Nan | Cole | First Term ends 9-20 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Marketing (Co-Chair); Development | Joe | Luna | Second Term ends 9-20 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Human Resources | Anne | Peden Symonds | Second Term ends 9-21 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Finance | Carla | Henry | Second Term ends 9-21 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| Finance | Bray | Creech | First Term ends 9-21 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| | Kristen | Collins | First Term ends 9-21 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| | Theresa | Trebon | First Term ends 9-20 | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Executive Director | Tracy | Elliott* ** | Salaried Executive | 14 Forever Friend Lane | Asheville | NC | 28806 |

* Charged with custody of funds
**Charged with solicitation of funds

Strategic Partnership Grants

Proposed FY2021 Project Budget (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Organization Name: | Asheville Humane Society |
| Project Name: | Pets & Their People Thriving Together |
| Grant Amount Requested: | 45000 |

| FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue | Amount | Committed or Pending? |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Grant | \$ 45,000 | |
| Grey Muzzle | \$ 7,500 | Pending |
| Earl Wilson Trust | \$ 15,000 | Pending |
| Schoenholz Foundation | \$ 7,500 | Committed |
| Petco | \$ 10,000 | Committed |
| List other sources: | | |
| List other sources: | | |
| List other sources: | | |
| Total | \$ 85,000 | |

| FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses | Proposed Grant | Other Funds | Total | Notes |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Personnel | | | \$ - | |
| Training | | | \$ - | |
| Travel | | | \$ - | |
| Supplies / Materials | | | \$ - | |
| Meetings (Food, Interpreting, Child Care, etc.) | | | \$ - | |
| Equipment / Furniture | | | \$ - | |
| Printing / Marketing | | | \$ - | |
| Licensing / Memberships / Dues / Subscriptions | | | \$ - | |
| Client Support | | | \$ - | |
| Contracts | | | \$ - | |
| Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc.) | | | \$ - | |
| Insurance and Bonds | | | \$ - | |
| Building Maintenance (Rent, Utilities, Repairs, etc.) | | | \$ - | |
| List other costs: veterinary medical assistance for pets | \$ 36,000 | \$ 26,500 | \$ 62,500 | average cost \$150-200/pet |
| List other costs: wellness care for pets | \$ 9,000 | \$ 13,500 | \$ 22,500 | average flea tx per month \$20/pet; average rabies & core vaccine \$30/pet |
| List other costs: | | | \$ - | |
| List other costs: | | | \$ - | |
| Total | | | \$ 85,000 | |

| Overall Organization Budget | Amount | Notes |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue | \$ 3,210,078 | |
| FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses | \$ 3,508,938 | |
| FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount | \$ 3,636,890 | |
| FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount | | FY 21 Budgeting process begins in Mar 2020 |