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Grant information

Writing grants is not as hard as you thought! It just takes some time and effort spent on preparing and then writing the grant. Once you write one grant, much of the information can be reused for others so as you write more, they will get easier and easier.

Here are some tips on writing grants tailored for rescue groups:

- 🌸 You can do customized searches of grants at the Farmington Hills or WSU Library. For the Farmington library, you do not have to live there, only provide your driver's license or your library card if your library member cooperates with them.
<http://foundationcenter.org/collections/ccmi.html>
- 🌸 There are so many grants out there, many more than you would think!! A recent search at the on the Foundation Center database turned up hundreds of possible grants for animal programs. If you have a great program/project, you probably have a great chance of getting funding.
- 🌸 Think about what you want to write the grant for and have an action plan around it. Funders like to see results and love numbers, so ensure that you tell them how many pets you will help and how much it will cost per pet.
- 🌸 Give statistics. It sounds scary but is actually pretty easy. Human population statistics can be found at www.census.gov. There are standard formulas for determining the cat and dog population, you can find many of them at www.avma.org
- 🌸 Ask someone to review what you've written and make improvements. We'd be happy to help with reviewing the grant and making suggestions. We can also write letters of support, etc.
- 🌸 Ask for a reasonable amount. If you only generate \$8,000 a year, then asking for \$10,000 may be unreasonable. It isn't out of the question, but something to consider. If you have a great program, the funders will probably think so too so don't be afraid to ask for the money!
- 🌸 Be prepared to provide budgets, animals adopted out, animals intake, previous tax returns (if applicable), financial statements (don't get scared off by this, it is much easier than you think), mission statements, program descriptions.
- 🌸 For most grants, you must be a 501(c)(3) organization. Don't let that deter you though! Maybe you can partner up with an organization that does have that status and write the grant together. Funders love to see partnerships and cooperation among groups!
- 🌸 Be patient! Some grants take months to be reviewed and approved.

- 🌸 Do your research – try to find out what the funders like to see or amounts they typically give out. If the most a grant has ever given is \$5,000, then it probably isn't realistic to ask for \$20,000.
- 🌸 Think like the grant maker – what would you want to see if you were donating money to an organization? Does it fit in with their vision? For instance, a charity focused on children's issues may not give a grant to spay/neuter pets, but they might give a grant to do education outreach to schools to provide responsible pet ownership education programs.
- 🌸 Funders like to see that the program is sustainable, either through fees or fund raising and they like to at least have a high level understanding of the plan. For instance, you may be applying for equipment to start the program but you can say you are going to hold a bowl-a-thon fund raiser to raise the \$3,000 operational costs it will take to run the program each year.
- 🌸 The more detail the better! Details show you are organized, care and put time into the grant so you will probably do the same when administering the grant.
- 🌸 Don't apply for the same program from two different grant organizations. For instance, if you are applying for a grant for purchasing a building, you would only want to apply for it to one grant maker. What you could do is divide up the pieces, for instance, apply for the building purchase to one organization, the equipment purchase to another organization, the supplies to another organization, etc.
- 🌸 Register at guidestar.org
- 🌸 Call and talk to the funder – if you aren't sure that your program fits their vision, call and ask! It is a great way to share your enthusiasm for your project and gain insight into what they are looking for. Just make sure you have your facts together and a plan of action for your program. Some sample things to say:

 - I've looked over the information on your website and I think I see a possible fit for our organization with your guidelines.
- 🌸 Top 3 reasons grants are declined:

 - Proposal falls outside funding guidelines
 - Applicant failed to follow directions
 - Can't tell what the applicant is asking for
- 🌸 Be creative

 - Is there something the funder DOES fund that you already pay for?
 - Ask for THAT, then reallocate YOUR funds to cover what you need!
- 🌸 Resources:

 - Grant writing tips
<http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>
 - Step by step proposal writing
http://www.brycs.org/brycs_fundraising4-2005.htm
 - Proposal Writing Short Course
<http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>
 - Interactive Proposal Writing Course
<http://www.purdue.edu/dp/envirosoft/grants/src/title.htm>
- 🌸 Proposal checklist

Free download at <http://www.azgrants.com/home.cfm?demo=1> , Click on "Planning Worksheets" on left, then on "Proposal Checklist and Review Worksheet"

We would be happy to answer any questions, please email us at clinic@allaboutanimalsrescue.org. We don't know everything, but we'll try to help or point you to someone that may know.

A few of possible grant listing (not inclusive of all by any means):

We find new ones all the time so don't stop here!

DJ&T Grant – dogs only

Two Mauds Foundation

Petco

Petsmart Charities

ASPCA

Elinor Patterson Baker Foundation

Bernice Barbour Foundation