

Proposal Summary
Meeting Date: 6/4/2019

PAWS Chicago Request # 115948

Project Title:	PAWS for Life program expansion
Duration:	24 months
Request Amount:	\$250,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$250,000.00
Program Area:	Public Affairs / Society Benefit
Population Served:	Economically Disadvantaged
Type of Support:	GOS and Program
Location:	Chicago, IL

Organizational Background

PAWS for Life works to reverse decades of disinvestment in underserved Chicago communities in animal welfare. Through relationship-building and resource provision, PAWS invites individuals to engage in all aspects of their work including pet care, volunteerism and job training.

Finances

Annual Revenue Sources

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	12/31/2019	12/31/2018	12/31/2017
Revenues	12,937,346	12,284,771	11,746,890
Expenses	13,066,131	12,122,703	10,729,782
Surplus (Deficit)	(128,785)	162,068	1,017,107
Net Assets	63,643,900	59,366,528	57,734,599

Grants	2.4 %
Fees	0 %
Government	0 %
Private Support	75.3 %
Earned Income	7.2 %
Other (Events)	15.1 %

Program Description

PAWS Chicago (PAWS) has been an anchor in Chicago since it was established in 1997. However, despite the impactful work in many areas of Chicago, PAWS learned over time that there are other communities in Chicago where veterinary care, pet supplies and pet food have been inaccessible. As a result, PAWS launched the PAWS for Life Community Outreach program to connect residents in underserved communities with pet wellness information and other important social services in 2014.

Shortly after its inception, the PAWS team quickly realized that although the program’s focal point was to support animal welfare services, clients in these geographic areas needed many other resources and PAWS was in a position to make important connections. PAWS also learned that they needed to connect to these residents on a deeper level in order for PAWS to gain community members’ trust. The PAWS’ team knocked on doors and spoke with clients individually about their immediate needs, with the ultimate goal to support animal owners in helping to keep pets in their homes and to identify other social services community members needed. The pet is the vehicle in which the initial connection is made.

Englewood was the initial community of focus as it is a pet resource desert, with no veterinarians or pet supply stores to serve the estimated 25,305 dogs and cats living in the community. During recent years, PAWS has expanded service to clients living in Back of the Yards and West Englewood and now conducts a monthly pet food pantry event in Englewood to provide free basic supplies for clients' pets.

With financial support from the Coleman Foundation, PAWS rented space in PAWS' long-time church partner, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church last year. A key element in the success of the PAWS for Life program has been forging partnerships with non-traditional animal welfare partners such as churches, community centers, social welfare agencies, food pantries, schools, homeless shelters and local businesses. The space provides a 'home base' for the team while working in the community. This space embeds PAWS for Life within the community and allows them to connect with clients that may not otherwise be reached. With support from the Coleman Foundation, PAWS developed the first community development partnership with the only pet groomer in the target areas.

Year one of this grant is proposed as General Operating Support while year two supports significant expansion of the PAWS for Life programming specifically for the community medicine services program and the internship program (which focuses on job training).

Funding will allow PAWS to expand the community medicine services provided by PAWS for Life and develop a new veterinary assistant apprenticeship program to provide hands-on job training and skills for residents living in underserved communities in 2020. The expanded program would provide free veterinary services for clients an additional three days each month. The new veterinary assistant apprenticeship program would give apprentices the opportunity to assist in more than 400 community medicine cases each year. Apprentices would learn skills such as animal handling, disease prevention and technician skills such as administering vaccinations and drawing blood samples. The veterinary assistant apprenticeship will provide an opportunity for residents of underserved communities to learn practical job skills and expose more clients to possible careers in animal welfare. Providing a stipend for apprentices will help remove a potential barrier for many applicants as they could not afford to take part in an unpaid apprenticeship. This exposure may make job opportunities in animal welfare accessible to some who may not have seen this as a viable career path prior to PAWS coming to their community. Funds would pay for the community medicine veterinarian's time, a staff member to manage all client appointments and communications and the creation of a new veterinary assistant apprenticeship program.

Funds would also support the expansion of the existing internship program (which focuses on job training) by supporting salary for the Outreach Manager. The internship program engages students from many levels and backgrounds, with preference given to students residing in the specified underserved areas. The Outreach Manager oversees all program interns and provides individualized, hands-on attention to help them succeed. Interns study at a diverse range of schools and preference is given to students residing in areas Paws for Life serves. Currently, the program hosts work-study students from Kennedy King College, the City Colleges location in Englewood, and has also partnered with Malcom X College community health department to host community outreach interns. PAWS also partners with Urban Alliance to provide meaningful work experience to high school and college students living in under-served areas. Interns acquire valuable employment skills including training in soft skills, professional communication and time management. Students gain exposure to veterinary science, social work, and animal welfare by working alongside pre-vet and master's level social work students, creating social capital and exposure.

Why Fund

Although the focus of PAWS for Life is to help move Chicago closer to creating a No Kill Chicago, the program has a significant ripple effect of benefits in underserved communities. Veterinarians serving through the program create exposure to animal welfare and veterinary medicine as a career path, and interns are engaged as volunteers, increasing networks and exposure to job opportunities. By engaging community members to really be a part of the program, community members are joining efforts to bring about change and make the animal welfare job space more diverse and inclusive. Additionally, through continued outreach, PAWS is able to identify specific client needs of residents in underserved areas through home visits and is therefore able to make specific referrals for important social services.

Prior Grants

Last Grant Date: 8/22/2018	Number of Prior Grants: 2
Last Grant Amount: \$165,000.00	Total Amount Granted: \$190,000

Grants Budget (Year One) general operating \$100,000

Grants Budget (Year Two)			
Expenditure Category	Recommendation	Other Sources	Total
Personnel	\$57,500	\$122,232	\$179,732
Spay/Neuter Expenses	\$0	\$135,000	\$135,000
Community Medicine	\$86,200	\$2,500	\$88,700
Transportation	\$2,800	\$9,434	\$12,234
Community Space	\$3,500	\$1,300	\$4,800
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$0	\$13,600	\$13,600
Totals	\$150,000	\$284,066	\$434,066