



## 2016 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

Applications for 2016 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at [ctoomay@lawrenceks.org](mailto:ctoomay@lawrenceks.org) by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2015. Applications received after the deadline or not following the attached format **will not** be reviewed by the Social Service Funding Advisory Board.

**General Information:** Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. These funds are to be used to support activities that align with the Community Health Plan which was developed with input from many people throughout the community. The five areas for the plan are listed below:

- Access to healthy foods
- Access to health services
- Mental health
- Physical activity
- Poverty and jobs

More information on the Community Health Plan can be found at <http://ldchealth.org/information/about-the-community/community-health-improvement-plan/>.

Applications will be reviewed by the Social Service Funding Advisory Board at meetings held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on May 27. **Applicants are asked to make a contact person available by phone at that time in case questions arise.**

Following their review, the Advisory Board will forward recommendations for funding to the City Commission. Recommendations will be based upon the following criteria:

- availability of city funds
- the stated objectives of the applicant's program
- alignment of the program with the Community Health Plan
- the efforts to collaborate and create a seamless system of support for residents
- outcomes that move program participants from total dependency toward measurable levels of independence
- ability to measure progress toward the program objectives and the Community Health Plan
- past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate)

The final decision regarding funding will be made by the City Commission when they adopt the Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget in August.

Please note that funds will be disbursed according to the following schedule unless otherwise agreed to in writing:

- First half of funds will not be disbursed before April 1
- Second half of funds will not be disbursed before October 1

**Questions?** Contact Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager at [ctoomay@lawrenceks.org](mailto:ctoomay@lawrenceks.org) or at 785-832-3409.



## City of Lawrence

### 2016 Social Service Funding Application – Non-Alcohol Funds

#### SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name of Agency: Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, Inc.  
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: Loving Paws  
Primary Contact Information (must be available by phone 5/27/15 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)  
Contact Name and Title: Raven Rajani, Executive Director  
Address: 1102 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66046  
Telephone: 785-979-7937 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: [Lovingpawsanimaltherapy@gmail.com](mailto:Lovingpawsanimaltherapy@gmail.com)

#### SECTION 2. REQUEST INFORMATION

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2016: \$12,620
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities?) If so, please describe: Yes. A portion of the funds are requested to cover office rental and utilities for 6 months
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds? Yes. If so, how: A portion of the funds are requested to cover the director's salary. The director's job responsibilities include building funding capacity through donor outreach and organizing fundraisers.
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2015? No. If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.):
  - 1. How would any reduction in city funding in 2016 impact your agency?
  - 2. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2015, please explain why and exactly how the additional funds will be used:

#### SECTION 3. PROGRAM BUDGET INFORMATION

- A. Provide a detailed budget for the proposed program using the following categories: personnel (list each staff position individually and note if new or existing), fringe benefits, travel, office space, supplies, equipment, other. The budget is attached in an excel spreadsheet.
- B. What percent of 2016 program costs are being requested from the City? 9.6%
- C. Provide a list of all anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2016: Projected income sources are in the second tab of the attached excel spreadsheet.

#### SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM / NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY PROGRAM

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.

Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, Inc. responds to the need to provide innovative community-based responses to mental and physical health problems experienced by both children and adults in Douglas County. Of Kansas's approximately 2.8 million residents, close to 95,000 adults live with serious mental illness, and about 31,000 children live with serious mental health conditions. Douglas County is no exception to these startling rates of mental illness, as the hospital discharge rate for mental health disorders in children age 15 and younger was 29.29% per 10,000 in 2012 (Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 2012). In 2011, approximately 600 adults and 24 children were hospitalized for mental health issues in Douglas County (Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 2014). Countless other Douglas County residents face nontrivial physical health ailments.

Loving Paws Animal Assisted Therapy, Inc. targets hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices, courts, jails, prisons, and other stressful environments to access vulnerable

populations who may benefit from animal assisted activity. According to the Mayo Clinic (2013), pet therapy is gaining in use and popularity because it helps people recover from and better cope with health problems, like heart disease, cancer and mental illness. Additionally, pet therapy may help children who are at risk or are currently experiencing mental health issues to feel comfort and ultimately develop healthier coping strategies.

Loving Paws serves a broad and diverse cross-section of the Douglas County community who may benefit from our services. At Grace Hospice, Brandon Woods at Alvamar, and the Lawrence Cancer Center, we provide comfort to older community members who may have chronic health conditions. At Professional Treatment Services-Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment Group and the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center, our teams of therapy dogs and volunteers work with children who are struggling with substance abuse, mental health issues, and problematic externalizing behaviors. At the University of Kansas, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, Lawrence Public Library, and Lawrence High School, our organization utilizes animal assisted therapy as educational support for a diverse group of area students.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, Inc. was founded in Lawrence, KS, in August, 2013, for several reasons. First, many communities have animal assisted activity programs that provide services in schools, long-term care facilities, and other social service agencies; yet, no agency provided these services in our area. Second, research has consistently demonstrated that animal assisted activity, when administered in these settings, has positive physiological and psychological benefits for both children and adults. Thus, Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, Inc. was founded to respond to an unmet need in Lawrence for animal assisted activity, which has been demonstrated to improve overall wellbeing.

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

The City Commission of Lawrence has demonstrated a commitment to providing support to organizations that promote the overall health and wellbeing of Lawrence residents. With the formation of Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, the City Commission has the opportunity to support an innovative community-based endeavor that addresses several of our residents' needs including: (a) providing animal assisted activity to vulnerable populations as they struggle with difficult circumstances; and (b) providing an opportunity for residents and their pets to volunteer to help others. Loving Paws fills unmet community need, as we are the only organization that utilizes an evidence-based animal assisted activity approach to improve the health and wellbeing of our community members.

D. How does the program align with the Community Health Plan (see page one)?

The work of Loving Paws aligns with two components of the Community Health Plan. First, Loving Paws responds to the Community Health Plan's emphasis on mental health, as we provide a service that is empirically demonstrated to help improve perceived psychological and emotional wellbeing. Because Loving Paws visits people in stressful and highly-charged environments, we bring a calming presence to environments than can often exacerbate mental health symptoms. Secondly, Loving Paws works to "assure that services are provided at times that allow people to utilize services", as mentioned in the Community Health Plan's focus on access to health services. Because research has suggested that animal-assisted therapy can help lower stress and anxiety specifically related to physical health complications, our human-animal therapy teams visit residents who may be facing difficult health and end-of-life issues at Lawrence Cancer Center and Grace Hospice.

## **SECTION 5. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM SERVICES**

A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 4. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

Loving Paws recruits human/dog teams that volunteer to provide animal assisted activity in our community. Before providing services, the dogs are evaluated and the human/dog team complete training to prepare them to safely and effectively deliver services. Next, Loving Paws partners with area healthcare, educational, social service agencies to provide animal assisted therapy to their consumers. Currently, we have 25 dog/human teams delivering services to 12 locations. The different service environments determine the nature of the interaction between Loving Paws teams and our clients. Here are few examples:

- In an educational environment, such as at the University of Kansas, we take teams to the library during highly stressful times of the semester to help ease students' anxiety. Students are able to freely interact with the dogs—petting, playing, or cuddling. According to Student Health Services at the University of Kansas, our teams have served over 9,900 in the last year, providing stress busting clinics and one-on-one visits.
- A minimum of four times per week, Loving Paws volunteer teams visit youth being housed in the Juvenile Detention Center in Douglas County. Youth 'earn' the opportunity to attend animal therapy, and enjoy freely interacting with the dogs. Sometimes, the youth enjoy playing ball or fetch with the dogs and teaching them 'tricks.' The dogs afford those housed there a sense of 'normalcy' and joy that is often missing in a restrictive environment such as youth detention. Numbers served vary depending on those housed, but since last fall, Loving Paws has provided over 80 hours of service.
- In long-term and independent care facilities (Brandon Woods) and palliative and hospice care (Grace Hospice), our volunteer teams navigate throughout the facility, checking in on residents and paying one-on-one private visits to many. Personal visits afford the residents the opportunity to pet and love on the dog and receive love from the dog. Residents often reminisce and share stories of former pets. Such visits are highly anticipated by both residents, resident families, and staff, as the dogs have a way of brightening the mood and bringing joy. Over the last nine months over 500 hours have been spent in these facilities.

- B. What other agencies in the community are providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to avoid duplication or coordinate services with those agencies?

Loving Paws Animal Therapy Program, Inc. is the only program of its kind serving Douglas County. The closest operational programs providing animal assisted activity include the Pets for Life program and the Mo-Kan Pet Partners program, both located in the greater Kansas City area. Neither program provides training, support or animal assisted therapy services to the Douglas County area. Given that these organizations do not operate in our area, there is little chance for duplication or coordination of services.

## SECTION 6. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2016. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, "75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired," "increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2016," "credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2016," etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six-month and annual reports to the City.**

Objectives for 2016 include:

- The addition of 30 new certified teams.
- The addition of 15 new facility partnerships
- Planning and holding a fundraising dinner in Spring of 2016 with projected revenue of \$10,000.
- Planning and holding a fundraising 5-10K trail race in the Fall of 2016 with projected revenue of \$6,000.