

Community Cats Grants

A Matching Grant Program for Community Cat Spay/Neuter

Apply & Learn More: unitedspayalliance.org/community-cats-grants

Questions? Email us at grants@unitedspayalliance.org

Grant Timeline & Key Dates

Phase	Spring/Summer Cycle	Fall/Winter Cycle
Application Deadline	March 31	August 31
Decisions Announced	End of April	End of September
Kickoff & Proposal Approval	Early May	Early October
Fundraising Period	Mid-May – Mid-August	Mid-October – Mid-January
Fundraising Report Due	Late August	Late January
Grant Funds Distributed	Mid-September	Mid-February
Final Report Due	Mid-November	Mid-April

What is the Community Cats Grants Program?

United Spay Alliance offers matching grants to help grassroots TNR groups, rescue organizations, and low-cost spay/neuter providers expand their fundraising capacity and increase the number of community cats sterilized.

- **Grantees raise \$2,000** through a new fundraising initiative.
- **We match it with \$2,000**, doubling their impact.
- Funds must be used for **spay/neuter services for community cats**.

This program was founded in 2017 by Community Cats Podcast to support small organizations making a big difference for outdoor cats. In 2024, it transitioned to United Spay Alliance, continuing the mission to empower local groups to expand their work.

Yes, you CAN fundraise for spay/neuter!

Even if you're a small, grassroots group with little or no fundraising experience, this program is designed for you.

Never written a grant before?

Never organized a fundraiser?

Passionate about getting outdoor cats spayed and neutered?

This is the grant opportunity to take your program to the next level.

Why This Grant is Different

We know that grassroots groups have limited time and resources, so we've designed this grant to be as simple, supportive, and impactful as possible.

✓ A Streamlined Application & Reporting Process

Unlike many other grants, we keep it simple—no excessive attachments, no complex invoices. Our process is straightforward and time-efficient, so you can focus on getting cats spayed/neutered, not paperwork.

While we do not require invoices or receipts with our reports, we reserve the right to request documentation if needed.

✓ Built-In Support & Networking

- **Monthly Support Calls:** During the fundraising phase, we facilitate group calls where grantees can share ideas, get advice, and build connections with others in the field.
- **One-on-One Support:** Grantees have direct access to United Spay Alliance staff and a network of professionals and leaders in the field for guidance and mentorship throughout the grant cycle.
- **Fundraising Tips & Strategies:** All grantees receive access to our evergreen Fundraising Tips document, packed with ideas and advice from past grant groups to help you succeed.

✓ Beyond the Grant: Take Your Fundraising to the Next Level

Through a special partnership with Get Fully Funded, grantees will have the opportunity to continue strengthening their fundraising efforts even after the grant cycle ends.

This isn't just a grant—it's an opportunity to grow your impact, expand your network, and build sustainable funding for your work.

How the Grant Works

1 Apply & Get Selected

- Applications are open twice per year (March 31 & August 31 deadlines).
- Priority is given to first-time applicants.
- Organizations can receive funding a maximum of two times and must skip one cycle before reapplying.

2 Plan Your Fundraiser

- Grantees attend a kickoff session and submit their fundraising idea for approval.

3 Fundraise & Get Matched

- Raise \$2,000 (net) within 3 months.
- Submit a fundraising report at the end of the fundraising period.
- Once all groups have submitted their reports, United Spay Alliance will provide the \$2,000 matching grant.

4 Use the Funds & Report Impact

- Grantees have 3 more months to use the funds for spay/neuter of community cats.
 - Spending can begin during the fundraising phase, as long as funds are available.
 - A final report is required at the end of the cycle.
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Grant Spending Guidelines

All funds – including both the amount fundraised and the matching grant award – must be spent on spay/neuter services for cats who live outside (community cats). Funding cannot be used for any cats or kittens that are diverted into foster or adoption programs.

Receipts and documentation of expenses may be requested as part of the reporting process to ensure compliance with grant guidelines.

Eligible Expenses

- Spay/neuter surgery costs for community cats
 - *Whatever care is included in the organization's standard "TNR package" (e.g. vaccines, flea prevention) is eligible for funding.*
- Clinic supplies/equipment (case-by-case approval)

Ineligible Expenses

- Medical treatments unrelated to spay/neuter (e.g. wound care, dental procedures, illness treatment)
 - *Any medications, surgeries, or care above and beyond the standard “TNR package” must be funded separately.*
 - Trapping equipment or other supplies for TNR
 - Transport vehicles and repairs
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Who Can Apply?

To be eligible for the Community Cats Grants program, your organization must:

- ☒ Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit (or fiscally sponsored) for at least 2 years
- ☒ Be based in the U.S. and in good standing with the IRS and home state (must have submitted IRS Form 990, 990-N, or 990EZ)
- ☒ Have an active TNR or spay/neuter program for community cats
- ☒ Have an annual revenue that does not greatly exceed \$150,000
- ☒ Require spay/neuter before adoption (if applicable)
- ☒ Not routinely combo test (FIV/FelV) community cats
- ☒ Have a GuideStar profile (Bronze Seal or above preferred)
- ☒ Be willing to track and report data as required
- ☒ Be prepared to meet the fundraising and spending challenge
- ☒ Be eager to collaborate and make the most of this opportunity!

Priority is given to first-time applicants. Organizations may receive a maximum of two grants and must wait one cycle before reapplying.