



Building a Movement for Community Cat Programs Nationwide

The Summerlee Sustainable Solutions Grant Program combines professional certification, peer learning, and targeted funding to transform grassroots TNR organizations into high-impact, data-driven programs.

39 Organizations · 22 States + USVI | Cohort 2025 | Benerd College at University of the Pacific

39 FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS	\$246K TOTAL AWARDED	1,000+ CATS STERILIZED (MID-PROGRAM)	8 wks CERTIFICATION COURSE
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THE MODEL

A New Kind of Animal Welfare Grant

Most grants write a check. This program builds organizations. Every grantee completes a professional certification course *before* receiving funds — ensuring they have the tools, language, and community to execute effectively.

- **Competitive Selection** — Evaluated on project strength, targeting strategy, and organizational readiness.
- **8-Week Certification** — Fully funded enrollment in the Community Cat Program Management Certification at Benerd College at University of the Pacific.
- **Cohort Funding** — Grants of \$4,000–\$8,000 for targeted, measurable projects with defined geographic focus.
- **Peer Learning Community** — Bi-weekly cohort calls, mentorship, and shared tools build lasting organizational capacity.

WHAT MAKES IT WORK

Certification First. Community Always.

The requirement to complete certification before receiving funds creates a shared framework, vocabulary, and peer cohort that makes everything more effective. Grantees show up better prepared and better equipped.

INNOVATIONS BORN IN THIS COHORT

- Community Cat Calculator and Multiplier tools — created by Operation Catnip of Richmond and shared with all 39 grantees
- Voucher-based spay/neuter model piloted by Bay Area Cats with honest data on redemption rates
- Community Outreach Coordinator model demonstrated by TippedEars in Compton, CA
- Full Circle Cats launched their own monthly spay/neuter clinic — a lasting community resource

2025 COHORT OUTCOMES

Real Impact, Real Organizations

- **T-Town TNR (Tulsa, OK)** — 97 cats sterilized in one low-income housing complex, with door-to-door transport for owned cats.
- **TippedEars (Compton, CA)** — Community Outreach Coordinator found 35+ cats in 2 blocks — 12 pregnant — on her first clinic day.
- **Purrfect Partners of Mobile (AL)** — 86 surgeries in two months, on pace to exceed 143-cat goal. Growing requests for owned cat services.
- **City of Tempe (AZ)** — 148 cats TNR'd across two mobile events; a third targets 85 more in April.
- **Laurel Cats (MD)** — Helped start up a new local spay/neuter clinic after their longtime provider relocated — now operating weekly.

“We are truly grateful...I’ve learned so much from the Community Cat Program Management course, and our board [is] very interested in the modules and concepts that we [were] taught!”

— Cory Piland, Operation Catnip of Richmond

THE OPPORTUNITY

Scale What's Working

This model works — and it scales. With additional funding, we can expand the cohort size, extend the implementation window, and build a growing alumni network of high-capacity TNR leaders across the country.

Every dollar invested here doesn't just sterilize cats. It builds the organizations doing the work for years to come.