



City of San Marcos
HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING APPLICATION
Fiscal Year 2022

Name of Agency/Organization: Pet Prevent A Litter (PALS) of Central Texas

Address: P.O. Box 401

City, State & Zip: San Marcos, TX 78667

Contact Person: Kelli Keenan Title: Vice President

E-Mail Address: pal@preventalitter.com Website: PreventALitter.com

Phone: 512-754-7257/512-431-7416 Fax: _____

Program Title: PALS, Helping Underserved People for a Healthy Community

Amount of Funds Requested: \$20,000

Status: (check one) Existing Program Program Expansion New Program

Briefly describe the program proposed for funding and the services it provides:

Companion animals are a source of emotional comfort, especially during hard times and are considered by many to be members of the family. Although too often, people who cannot afford to “fix” their pets end up with accidental litters of kittens and puppies to care for. PALS provides a human service in that we assist socio-economically challenged people to extend their limited earnings for their families, rather than caring for and feeding unwanted, surplus pets. Health risks are fewer when pets are neutered and vaccinated; pets will roam less and be less aggressive when sterilized.

PALS collaborates with other human services agencies that serve the same vulnerable client populations in order to make individuals and families aware of the availability of spay/neuter/vaccination services. We target the recipients of health clinics, food stamps and public assistance through collaboration with human services agencies: Hays County Area Food Bank, Community Action, and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

In recognition of the valuable services PALS provides to enrich the health and well-being of our community, we have been awarded the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) license plate funded grant. This is a statewide, highly competitive grant program reflecting PALS excellent reputation and the ongoing need in our community.

People are more likely to require assistance than ever before. In the current COVID-19 crisis, more people are experiencing financial uncertainties and unemployment. More are surrendering their pets and more are unable to afford to sterilize pets, thus adding to the ever-growing volume of surplus pets born unwanted to become a burden/ added to the existing capacity for the regional Animal Shelter. Requests for assistance are constantly increasing with the Hays County regional annual growth of 4.96%. Hays County is the second fastest growing large county in the United States according to the Austin Chamber of

Commerce. The remarkable increase in population comes with a corresponding growth in the number of pets to the area. This new influx of animals makes more sterilizations imperative.

PALS is experiencing a large rise in requests for assistance over the past year due to the economic hardships, unemployment, and closures exacerbated by COVID-19.

Describe who will benefit from this program and how:

PALS was established to assist economically challenged people to extend their limited resources to their families, rather than caring for and feeding unwanted, surplus pets. Our clients are those members of our community living in poverty: the elderly, disabled, the unemployed, underemployed, on public assistance, social security, or welfare. Compassionate, life-saving service to our community is the reason for PALS existence.

PALS serves a vital function in San Marcos. PALS provides services to low income and public assistance clients for pet spay/neuter/microchipping/vaccination; requests for assistance are constantly increasing with the regional growth and economic challenges. We achieve this through two methods: 1) provide clients with vouchers to reduce or eliminate the cost of surgery; 2) host day-long spay/neuter clinics to target special populations. Our voucher recipients are often disabled, receive public assistance or are suffering personal hardships and may not otherwise be able to sterilize their pets.

Submitted By:

Kelli Keenan
Board Vice President and Grant Contact

9/2/21
Date

Kelli Keenan
Printed Name Board Vice President and Grant Contact

Approval:

Norma G. Kelvin
Signature of Board Treasurer

9-2-21
Date

Norma Kelvin
Printed Name of Board Treasurer



HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING QUESTIONNAIRE FY 2022

The Board strongly requests that all answers be typed.
Responses should not exceed 75 words per question.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS.

1. What is the agency's or organization's mission?

PALS serves a vital function in San Marcos. The mission of PALS is to help end pet overpopulation and pet homelessness in Hays County. Our clients are members of our community living in poverty: the elderly, disabled, the unemployed, underemployed, on public assistance, social security, or welfare. By assisting low-income individuals with the cost of pet sterilization (spay/neuter surgery), we reduce the financial strain on their households.

2. Regarding the program for which funding is being requested, what evidence suggests this program is needed in San Marcos or nearby?

Hays County is the 2nd fastest growing large county in the US with regional annual growth of 4.96%. There is a large rise in requests for assistance over the past year due to the economic hardships, unemployment, and closures exacerbated by COVID-19. The need is greatest in San Marcos where the average per capita income is \$21,598 and the average poverty level is 32.1%. PALS is receiving 150 to 250 spay/neuter voucher applications a month.

3. What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?

The goal of the *City of San Marcos Human Services* funding portion of *PALS Helping Underserved People for a Healthy Community* program is to spay/neuter 150 cats with \$7500 and 147 dogs with the remaining \$12,500. Using an average of \$50 per cat and \$85 per dog, the total numbers of each species sterilized is dependent on many factors including sex of the animal, size and weight, and if the pet is in-heat, pregnant, or cryptorchid.

4. How will you measure results throughout the year?

PALS will measure results monthly, tabulating the number of cats and dogs that are sterilized in our clinic and at our partner veterinarians.

5. Please answer the following questions if funding is requested for staff:

Funding is not being requested for staff. PALS is a volunteer-based non-profit, there are no salaried positions; we utilize a contracted veterinarian, clinic coordinator and veterinary technicians for our PALS cat and dog spay/neuter clinic and our animal shelter-sponsored clinics.

a. List the title of each position for which funding is requested, how many hours per week will be spent on this program vs other programs, and the activities associated with each position.

b. If staff funding requests can only be partially funded, how will you supplement the funding to cover the remainder needed?

c. Staff pay may only be funded for one year. What will you do to provide for this position next year?

6. Funding Questions:

a. What has your organization done in the past two years to raise different funding for this program?

PALS has done a variety of things in the past two years to raise different funding for this program. We have secured a booth at the Wimberley Market Days, the San Marcos Flea Market and the San Marcos Farmers Market where we accept donations and educate the public. Several businesses in our community have held fundraisers on PALS behalf. We have also applied for additional grant funding. Last year, we held a very successful Virtual Pet Fest.

b. What do you plan to do this year to find different funding for this program?

This year, we are planning a Gala. We are also researching additional grant opportunities. We will continue to partner with businesses in the community to hold fundraisers.

7. What additional funding is your agency requesting for this program ?

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Pending (Y/N)
Hays County Grant	\$25,000		Y
Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Animal Friendly Spay and Neuter Grant Program	\$15,000	\$12,000	N
San Marcos Lions Club	\$1000		Y
Pet Fest	\$10,000		Y
PALS Gala	\$12,000		Y

8. Describe any differences between the way you had proposed spending last year's allocation and the way you actually spent it.

PALS is spending the allocation as proposed.

9. How many volunteers does your agency or organization have and how many hours do they spend on the program requesting funding?

PALS volunteers include well-educated and experienced professionals who provide valuable services; While the actual number of PALS volunteers fluctuates during the year, there are typically between 25-50 volunteers actively supporting PALS activities at any given time. PALS is managed by a 9-member working board; these board members contribute an average of 25 hours per week. The average number of hours (administration, clinics, and fundraising) per other volunteers is 15-20 hours each week over the year.

10. Board of Directors Questions:

a. How is the agency's or organization's Board of Directors selected?

The Board of Directors is selected by the members at the annual meeting.

b. How often does the Board meet?

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month. We also communicate regularly by email and text.

c. What actions do Board members take to support the programs of the agency or organization?

Our board is a working board. We volunteer in the clinics, monitor the website and Facebook page, manage the finances, write grants, foster animals, and plan and participate in the fundraisers and community events.