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Organization Information**Official Name**

*** Legal Name** Township of Edison
AKA Name Edison Animal Shelter
Address 100 Municipal Blvd
City Edison
State New Jersey
Zip 08817-3302
County Middlesex
Country United States

Website Address www.edisonnj.org

Contact Information

Contact Type CEO / Executive Director

*** First Name** Kirsten
*** Last Name** Briggs
*** Telephone** 732-248-7278
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Contact Information

Contact Type Finance Staff

*** First Name** Nick
*** Last Name** Fargo
*** Telephone** 732-248-7325
*** E-mail Address** KDeRoberts@edisonnj.org

Request Information

*** Project Title** Edison Animal Shelter Temporary Pet Housing Project
*** Requested Grant Amount** \$5,000.00

*** Identify the primary organizational type for this request**

Municipality (City, County, Tribal, First Nations, Metis, or Inuit entity)

*** Project Start Date** 08/01/2019*** Project End Date** 12/31/2019**Describe the proposed project for funding***** Describe the human population this grant will serve:**

Deployed members of the armed forces
 People experiencing domestic abuse
 People experiencing homelessness
 People requiring hospitalization, medical treatment or hospice care

If you selected Other, please explain: N/A*** Which population(s) does your program serve?**

Both

*** Is this a new or existing program?** Existing Program**If yes, explain your program (as it currently exists and goals for program growth).**

The Edison Animal Shelter (EAS) provides animal services including, but not limited to, animal control, spay neuter services, and pet adoptions on behalf of the Township of Edison, New Jersey. In addition to this, the EAS has contractual arrangements to provide animal control services for several surrounding municipalities including Highland Park, Dunellen, Metuchen and Piscataway. In total, the EAS is responsible for servicing the nearly 200,000 residents who reside within these communities. The EAS has an ongoing program with the goal of keeping pets and their families together in situations where owners might need temporary housing for pets. In the past, this program has serviced members of the armed forces, people experiencing domestic abuse, people experiencing homelessness, and people requiring hospitalization, medical treatment, or hospice care. As these members of the community are often in the most need of additional care, the EAS offers this temporary housing at a low cost. These individuals can house their pets at the EAS for up to three months. The EAS provides these animals with food, shelter, necessary vetting, and medication.

This program is vital to the communities the EAS services. The EAS wishes to expand this program by increasing capacity to take in more pets, as well as to increase awareness of the availability of this service all while not increasing the costs associated with this program. Therefore, if awarded a PetSmart Charities Preserving Families Grant, the EAS will use the requested funds for direct animal care and marketing costs.

*** Please describe the program for which you are seeking support, including program design and the community need(s) being met (describe services, cost structure, intended result):**

According to the ASPCA, a leading voice within the animal welfare community, keeping people and pets together should be a priority of animal shelters as it "is often the best outcome for the pets, the people, and the community." According to the ASPCA Position Statement on Keeping Pets and People Together, research shows that "pet owners who have strong emotional bonds with their pets would choose to keep their pet, if only provided the short-term help needed to make it possible." Local animal shelters play a crucial role in keeping pets and people together as they provide refuge, protection and care for animals in need. Moreover, it has been shown that shelter policies, including high prices for care of pets during their temporary stay, have created barriers to reuniting pets to their owners and that it is encouraged to reduce these fees as much as possible to reduce these barriers.

As certain policies can inadvertently discriminate against some of the neediest people and pets, the EAS is devoted to its programs which seek to assist pets and owners during situations where the pet would need temporary placement at the shelter. To operate this program, the EAS must use funds from its budget specifically towards these services to ensure that costs remain low, allowing families to keep their pets even during times of greatest need. In order to keep its prices low and reduce the barriers for reuniting pets with their owners, the EAS is requesting funds

to offset the high budgetary costs of this program. The EAS works with an approximate budget of \$250,000. As it serves communities with over 200,000 residents cumulatively, this is not an extensive budget to work with, often limiting the number of low-cost programs it can offer. In order to run this temporary pet housing program effectively and continually, the EAS must devote approximately \$10,000 of the budget towards this program; however, in order to see the program expanded, this amount must increase. Therefore, the EAS is requesting \$5,000 from PetSmart Charities, and has an in-kind match of \$2,000 to put towards this program. \$6,000 of the requested funding will go directly towards animal care, allowing for an increase in the number of pets the shelter takes in. Further, the EAS is requesting \$1,000 of funding for marketing costs, so the EAS can develop marketing tools which can be used to further the effects of this program by ensuring all within the community are aware of its availability.

- * Select the time frame that recipients will using this service:** 0-3 months
- * Who are your partners in this project?** The EAS partners with the Edison Police Department - Division of Adult Protection Services and Animal Control on projects that involve temporary care of animals. The Edison Police Department is the law enforcement branch of the Edison Department of Public Safety. The Department has approximately 125 members devoted to the protection of Edison. The EAS also works with Edison Animal Control to place displaced or mistreated animals, as well as answer calls for pets needing a temporary home. The Animal Control Unit is run within the same department as the EAS. Animal Control officers are available 24/7. These officers are responsible for enforcing town ordinances pertaining to animals and investigating animal cruelty/neglect. The EAS will also occasionally receive calls from the police departments of the surrounding communities it serves, including Highland Park, Dunellen, Metuchen and Piscataway, which have contractual arrangements with Edison Animal Shelter and Edison Animal Control. Finally, the EAS works with the Middlesex County Animal Response Team (CART), which is a group of volunteers and other entities with resources and personnel to respond to animal issues in disasters. It is organized under the County Office of Emergency Management. This collaboration of partners allows the EAS to best serve the pets and people within its surrounding communities, ensuring that in times of greatest need, there are resources available.
- * How do you collaborate?** The EAS works with partners to service individuals experiencing domestic abuse, homelessness, or entrance into jail, and people requiring hospitalization, medical treatment, or hospice care. Depending on the circumstances around the need to relinquish a pet, the EAS receives a call from either the Edison Police Department - Division of Adult Protection Services, Middlesex CART, or directly from the pet owner or their family to request temporary housing. The EAS then works with Edison Animal Control to work with the family to set up a time to drop off the pet or to pick the pet up for temporary housing. The EAS also works with these families to plan for the reunification with their pet after the completion of the temporary housing. These partners are vital to the EAS as they often receive calls before the EAS itself. Additionally, these partners work to update the community of this program as some do not know that they can house their pets temporarily instead of giving their pet up altogether. By working collaboratively, the EAS is able to better serve the community.
- * Is there a resource exchange between partner organizations?** There are no monetary costs for the partnerships. All of these groups work collaboratively. The Edison Animal Control and Edison Police Department - Division of Adult Protection Services bring pets to the shelter. Additionally, Middlesex CART and surrounding police departments can bring pets to the shelter.
- * Do you have formal agreements (MOUs)?** No
- * How will you measure the success of this program?** The EAS possesses software that tracks the intake of pets and the reason for their stay at the animal shelter. With this software program, the EAS will be able to quantitatively measure the success of the expansion of this program and marketing efforts. At the end of each month, the EAS will measure the number of pets taken in for temporary housing and compare to previous months. From there, the EAS will work to alter its marketing plans to determine if we can reach more members of the community. As expansion is a goal of this project, this software will allow the EAS to accurately determine the effects of this expansion effort, and further, plan for future costs of this program by analyzing the increase in pet intake.

* **Proposed number of people to be served in the overall project:** 20

* **Proposed number of animals to be seen/served in the overall project:**

- **Dog** 15.00
- **Cat** 15.00

Total 30.00

* **How are you communicating the availability of the program to recipients?**

The community is made aware of this program through the different departments who partner to provide these services. The EAS and Edison Animal Control advertise this program on their website, which is currently under construction, but will be listed on the final website. Further, the Edison Police Department and surrounding police departments are aware of this service and regularly offer it to residents. Finally, these departments use word of mouth to make residents aware of this program in times of need. The EAS would like to increase advertising of this program throughout the community ensuring that all are aware of its presence. For this reason, the EAS is also seeking funding for marketing efforts of this project through this grant program. This will be used to create fliers and brochures describing this program and its services that can be displayed in municipal hall, local stores, the police department, and at the local hospitals, ensuring that those most likely to use this service are aware of it during their greatest time of need.

* **What is the plan for program sustainability after this grant?**

A portion of the EAS's budget goes towards this program on an annual basis as temporary care for pets facing displacement is an ongoing activity of the EAS. The EAS does wish to see this program expanded through more community members becoming aware of its existence. Therefore, after the completion of this grant cycle, the EAS will look for other sources of funding and additional community support that can be used to support the animal care portion of this request or to offset the cost of other portions of the budget, leaving more funding available to support this program. The requested funding for marketing for this project will have a long-lasting effect as these materials can be used annually to advertise this program to the community and will therefore outlast the grant cycle.

* **Program Budget** \$7,000.00

* **Program Funding Sources: Please detail expected program budget funding sources.**

- **Amount Requested from PetSmart Charities (Should match Requested Grant Amount above)** \$5,000.00
- **In-Kind Donations** \$2,000.00

Total \$7,000.00

* **Grant Budget Breakdown: Please provide a breakdown of the categories of expenses of the grant budget that will be funded by this grant request.**

- **Direct Animal Care** \$6,000.00
- **Marketing/Outreach** \$1,000.00

Total \$7,000.00

* **Program Budget Upload**

- [PetSmart Charities Budget.pdf \(95.9 K\), uploaded by Melani Filosa on 04/24/2019](#)

* **Disclaimer** Signature

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