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New York City Animal Welfare Grantmaking Program Call for Request for Proposals

Overview

For 30 years, The New York Community Trust has supported New York City's nonprofit animal care sector, releasing more than \$2.5 million in grants to provide veterinary and humane care to the City's companion animals. With a recent bequest from the Marjorie S. Isaac Fund for Animals, The Trust has expanded its animal welfare program, with new funding opportunities for organizations based in and/or serving New York City.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Trust invites requests for proposals from nonprofit groups for one- and two-year grants for projects designed to achieve one of the two following priorities:

Priority 1: Support the welfare and humane treatment of animals in captivity and communities across the five boroughs.

We will consider grants to projects that:

- advocate for and provide training, technical assistance, and oversight to help facilities offer rigorous standards of care for animals;
- develop and promote certification programs that encourage the ethical treatment of animals;
- reduce animal surrenders through education on adoption, pet care, and behavior training as well as increased access to veterinary care and the provision of supplies and care in under-resourced communities;
- develop protections for animals affected by mistreatment and natural or other disasters;
- reduce the consumption or purchase of animal-based products (including meat) produced with unethical, unhealthy, or inhumane practices;
- offer opportunities for New York City residents, particularly children, to connect with and appreciate animals in their communities and participate in humane education.

Priority 2: Support the conservation, protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of animals in the wild, specifically wildlife that resides in or passes through New York City's five boroughs (e.g., migratory birds, mammals, and pollinators), with a focus on protected species.

We will consider grants to projects that:

- advocate, lobby, and conduct research to protect wildlife in New York City, including the creation, restoration, or conservation of critical habitat;
- increase the capacity of wildlife conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation nonprofits to protect more animals and/or improve systems and public understanding;
- create or expand community-driven efforts to protect and conserve wildlife in under-resourced neighborhoods;
- offer educational, citizen science, and volunteer stewardship opportunities for New York City residents that help them better understand, appreciate, and live with wildlife.

For both priorities, grant awards will fall into two categories:

- 1) Grants of \$30,000 to \$60,000 over a 12- to 24-month period for a single organization's internal capacity building; citizen science efforts; community engagement or volunteer-based activities; discrete research projects; and/or organizations that are volunteer-led or operate with a budget of less than \$250,000; or
- 2) Grants of \$100,000 to \$150,000 grant over a 12- to 24-month period for sector-wide improvements; advocacy to achieve policy or systems change; expansion or replication of proven or innovative practices; or coalition building.

The Trust encourages organizations serving underrepresented communities to apply and will give priority to projects that involve multiple groups and have the potential to achieve long-term improvements in the City's systems and policies relevant to the treatment of companion animals and wildlife.

Organizations seeking renewed support are eligible to apply; however, we will place significant emphasis on the progress achieved since the previous grant. Applicants must present a compelling justification for continued funding, demonstrating both the impact of prior support and the necessity of additional resources to advance their work.

Submission Guidelines and Notification of Awards

Submission Guidelines

Applicants may submit *one* Request for Proposal and must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (or have a 501(c)(3) as a funds administrator) operating in the five boroughs of New York City. Organizations that are based outside of New York City but predominantly serve the City, and/or lead efforts relevant to the City's animals, may also apply.

Request for Proposals should include the following:

1. A three-page narrative (in 12 pt. font) including:

- a. Brief descriptions of the organization(s) involved;
 - b. Summary of lead organization's mission, history, and record of accomplishment in animal welfare programming, advocacy, and/or research;
 - c. Short discussion of the need, challenge, or opportunity the project will address;
 - d. Description of proposed project, including the project's goals and the activities designed to reach those goals;
 - e. Description of how the project will advance one of the above priorities; and
 - f. Plan for measuring and evaluating results.
- g. *For current grantees seeking renewed support, please include a summary of progress made under the previous grant and a compelling justification for continued funding.*
2. A project budget listing personnel, other program, and administrative expenses and sources of revenue, including foundation, government, and corporate funders. Note that funding for equipment and supplies may not exceed 10 percent of the overall budget. For other sources of revenue, please specify the amount of each grant award and if the award is committed or pending.

Submission Instructions

1. Combine items 1 and 2 (listed above) into a single PDF file no larger than 25 MB in size using the following file format "Applicant Organization Name.pdf".
2. Go to The Trust's [Grants Portal](#) and click on the "Apply" button next to the New York City Animal Welfare Grantmaking Program RFP.
3. Complete the Proposal Cover Sheet and upload your single PDF.

Submissions must be uploaded by February 27, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

Notification of Awards

This opportunity is competitive and not all qualifying or meritorious proposals will receive grants. The Trust will notify applicants by email if the submission is of interest may ask for additional information, site visits, and/or follow-up phone calls. The Trust will announce grant decisions by summer of 2026.

Information Session

The Trust will hold a virtual information session to answer questions regarding this RFP on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 2 pm to 3 pm ET. To register, please click [here](#).

Please direct all questions about this solicitation to Rachel Pardoe, Program Director, at rpardoe@thenytrust.org.