



Tax Checkoff Grant Guidelines **(For spay/neuter of pets owned by individuals)**

Background

The Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund (CPOF) is a specific charitable fund established in 2001 by the Colorado State Legislature. CPOF exists to work with animal care and control organizations (including pet rescues), veterinarians and local communities to curb pet overpopulation in Colorado and to educate the public about the importance of controlling pet overpopulation. CPOF is administered by an eight-person board of directors appointed by the Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture and offers an annual grant cycle for each program.

CPOF has two primary revenue sources benefitting either owned or shelter animals:

1. Tax Checkoff

- Taxpayer donations to the “Pet Overpopulation Fund” checkoff on the state income tax form are allocated primarily for the spay/neuter of dogs and cats *with owners*.

2. Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet License Plate

- Revenue from the purchase and annual renewal of this specialty license plate are directed to CPOF and are dedicated to spay/neuter, veterinary medical care and microchipping costs of pet animals *in the custody of animal care and control agencies (i.e., shelter animals)*.

Both the tax checkoff and license plate grant programs support overpopulation education initiatives.

Tax Checkoff Grants

CPOF tax checkoff funds are only available for the base fees of spay/neuter surgery for pet animals owned by individuals. Base fees do not include laboratory tests, immunizations, and unforeseen surgical complications (e.g., pet animals that were pregnant or had medical conditions). Tax checkoff funds may not be used for unowned animals such as those awaiting adoption at a shelter. (Please see the Adopt-a-Shelter-Pet License Plate Grant Guidelines.)

CPOF encourages funding from multiple sources for each procedure. Examples of these funding sources include the collaborating organizations, participating veterinarians, the animal owner, and community support (such as individual donations, corporate giving, and foundation grants). Grant requests that clearly identify commitments of support from multiple funding sources will be favored during application review; the support may come in the form of cash or in-kind services in the case of veterinary discounts and/or grant administration. For instance, the local animal welfare agency would contribute a percentage of the cost of a surgery, the veterinarian would discount the cost of service, and the owner would be asked to contribute another portion by either purchasing a voucher or making a co-payment to the veterinarian at the time the surgery is performed.



Tax Checkoff Grant Application Requirements

The application must propose a program that promotes and/or subsidizes spay/neuter surgeries for pets owned by residents in underserved Colorado communities.

Grant applicants must represent one of the following entities:

- Government entity with animal care or control function.
- Local, not-for-profit humane organization working within the community to assist pets.
- Colorado-licensed veterinarian who owns, operates or is employed in a private veterinary practice in Colorado. Veterinarians who participate are expected to support the program by discounting services that are subsidized by CPOF and reporting the dollar value of that discount on the CPOF final report form.

Applications are accepted through the online grant portal. To create a grant application account or sign in to an existing one [click here](#). Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding. Please [visit the CPOF website](#) or connect with CPOF on social media for the most current information and upcoming deadlines.

Tax Checkoff Grant Awards

Applicants can expect to be notified of their grant status within eight weeks of the deadline. All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement before funds are issued. The Tax Checkoff program is no longer utilizing a reimbursement process to access awarded funds. Instead, grantees will receive a lump sum payment and will be required to submit a final report detailing surgical numbers and average costs at the end of the grant term.