



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Montgomery County

Program Title: ACAC: Pet Food Pantry

Program Category: Community and Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Angela Hill

Title: Assistant County Administrator

Signature: *Angela Hill*



Award Nomination VACo Achievement Award
Category: Community & Economic Development
ACAC Pet Food Panty

Executive Summary

The mission of the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) is to foster a culture of compassion within the community by providing health services, education, and recreational opportunities. The staff and volunteers at the 16,300-square-foot no-kill facility are dedicated to helping the homeless cats and dogs in our community find forever homes. Adapting to and addressing the needs of pets in our community is a daily occurrence for the ACAC. That's why in the summer of 2020, ACAC responded a community need by launching a Pet Food Pantry using grant funding. Community members who are experiencing financial hardship can contact the ACAC and receive dog and cat food to help feed their pets. Grant funds have been used to purchase dry, canned and soft dog food and cat food. This food has been handed out to our community on an as needed basis to help handle the hardships in our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This service not only helped keep pets in their homes, but also allowed the center to assist more people in getting their pets spayed or neutered.

Brief Overview

In response to a community need in the summer of 2020, the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) launched a pet food pantry to help those who are experiencing financial hardship feed their pets. This program was launched thanks to a \$2,500 Rachael Ray Save Them All COVID-19 Relief Grant from Best Friends Animal Society.

To receive food from the pantry, citizens in Montgomery County complete a brief online form. Then, they are able to pick up the food they need from a stocked pantry housed in the ACAC's Community Room. During the pandemic, contactless pick up options were made available. Grant funds have been used to purchase dry, canned and soft dog food and cat food. This food has been handed out to our community on an as needed basis to help handle the hardships in our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This service not only helped keep pets in their homes, but also allowed the center to assist more people in getting their pets spayed or neutered.

Award Submission

While the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) is a safe place for homeless pets, they expanded their services in the summer of 2020 to help families who needed assistance in feeding their pets with a pet food pantry. In an effort to launch the program, the ACAC applied for and received a \$2,500 Rachael Ray Save Them All COVID-19 Relief Grant from Best Friends Animal Society.

The grant funding was used to purchase food for the pantry. Once the food pantry was stocked, a brief online form was created for citizens to complete. The form was shared on the ACAC's website and social media platforms. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, contactless pickup was made possible at the ACAC.



The words “we need to surrender our animal” have become increasingly more common during the time of COVID. So, it is a wonderful feeling to be able to offer the community a resource like this pet food pantry, ultimately allowing them to keep their pets in their home. A family called the ACAC needing to surrender their two cats. The husband had taken a large pay cut due to the pandemic, making it difficult to feed their family and to pay their bills. Thanks to the grant funding, the ACAC was able to offer the family cat food for their two cats so they

could remain in their home instead of being surrendered. The family was so grateful, and there is no better feeling than being able to offer a bit of relief by keeping a family together during difficult times.

The ACAC received a call from a sweet, older lady who had fallen on hard times. She heard about the pet food pantry and was wondering if she might qualify. When she came to pick up her food, she talked about her animals, and the ACAC learned about the recent loss of her husband. This loss hit her hard and left her feeling like she would not be able to keep



her animals, the only loving family she had left. As she discussed her challenges with the ACAC staff, it was discovered that the ACAC could help her and her animals in other ways as well. She could not have been more thankful for the services the ACAC provided but she was most thankful for the food that allowed her to keep her animals, along with all the love and memories they provide.

The grant funds have been used to purchase dry, canned and soft dog food and cat food. This food has been handed out to the Montgomery County community on an as needed basis to help handle the hardships in our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This

service not only helped keep pets in their homes, but also allowed the center to assist more people in getting their pets spayed or neutered.