

OccuPaws Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

OccuPaws, founded in 2005, is a Madison, Wisconsin volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization which provides fully trained Guide Dogs at NO COST to the blind of Wisconsin and surrounding states. All our beneficiaries have physician documented legal blindness and have been carefully screened to verify that they have a use for a Guide Dog. They also need to have documented Orientation and Mobility skills. (How to use a guide dog.) We use the standards of the International Guide Dog Federation to assure that the beneficiaries and their new partners are a safe and effective team.

OccuPaws is one of 13 guide dog schools in the United States that is accredited by the International Guide Dog Federation (<http://www.igdf.org.us>). We are the only school in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. Accreditation means that OccuPaws is among the best in the world at providing Guide Dogs to the blind. We recently passed our second accreditation 5year review with flying colors!

Because of IGDF accreditation, our blinded veteran clients receive all veterinary care paid for by the VA. Many of our veterans are on limited incomes so this is very important.

Statement of Need

We are requesting \$7,500 to help with our Guide Dog placement program in Wisconsin, but any amount would be helpful. Each dog costs OccuPaws \$15,390 to prepare for the beneficiary. The blind beneficiaries receive their fully trained Guide Dog, training with their dog (one-on-one for 10-14 days) and all essential equipment at NO COST. We are requesting funding from the Wispact Foundation as the Foundation provides funding for the disabled.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

With OccuPaws' unique program, we train and place our guide dog teams in the beneficiaries' own home area. Most guide dog schools train the guide dog teams at the school's location for a month or longer, far from family, medical care, and employment. Because OccuPaws only uses an in-home placement model, our clients train in their own home, go to their stores with our Guide Dogs. We have the opportunity to train individuals at the beneficiaries' workplace, visit doctors, entertainment venues, etc. Our home placements have been very important in servicing our beneficiaries in this "COVID" age as this training occurs one-on-one.

This year we have decided to assist a new Guide Dog Instructor obtain her accreditation. This is an important training undertaking as it helps provide future Guide Dog Mobility Instructors for our blind beneficiaries. Becoming a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor takes three years of training beyond a bachelor's degree.

Project Implementation Plan

Along with developing a breeding program, we are expanding our puppy play area to accommodate our growing puppies and their moms. The increase in our breeding program, will help us provide more assistance to our blind beneficiaries.

Evaluation Plan

Success in the program is measured by the number of dogs that can be matched with a disabled individual in need as well as the success of the trained dog once placed. The organization has been able to increase the percentage of successful guide dogs by a factor of 10% given the accredited training program.

Budget

Grant Budget for OccuPaws Guide Dogs Wispact Foundation

<i>Pre-Placement/Raising Expenses per dog</i>	
Puppy Acquisition Expense (minimum) - Includes puppies from our own breeding program.	\$3,000
Misc toys	\$200
Vaccinations and vet care (approx, average) during early training	\$1,000
Spay/Neuter	\$260
Hip/elbow evaluation	\$300
Eye Evaluation - Donated by UWVet School	\$0
Dog food - 18 months	\$900
Heartgard/Frontline - 18 months	\$540
Expenses associated with the four to five months of individual guide dog training which the future Guide Dog receives - approximately \$5,000 per dog.)	\$5,000
<i>Total Pre-Placement Expenses per dog</i>	<i>\$11,200</i>

<i>Placement Expenses Per Dog</i>	
Leash/crate/bed grooming tools	\$400
HeartGuard/Frontline for 12 months for client	\$240
Final veterinary Exam and shots	\$250
Trainer expenses when training client in his or her own home environment* (For example, hotel, food, salary, gas) - Estimated 10 day placement. Expenses are higher for a more specialized or longer placement.	\$3,300
Average Placement Expenses per dog:	\$4,190
Total of Pre-lacement and Placement Expenses per dog.	\$15,390

<i>Total for Anticipated Placements in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. - 10</i>	<i>\$153,900</i>
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<i>Estimated Orientation and Mobilib!training Expenses (12 clients)</i>	
Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Hotel/Food, Salary (12 days)	\$5,280
Extra Follow-up Supplies for Client Teams 12	\$2,400
Car/Gas	\$1,000
Total For Follow-Up	\$8,680

Total for 10 placements and 12 individuals needing additional Orientation and Mobility Training	\$162,580
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Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be recommended for approval. This will support the placement services associated with matching the dogs to the disabled individuals who need them and directly benefits those in need of the guide dogs. This costs addressed via grant meet the initiatives of the foundation.