

Shelter Ally Project: Pet-Inclusive Housing Mentorship

Safe, stable and secure housing is a foundational building block in creating equity for pet ownership and keeping families together. Our housing-centered mentorship seeks to build awareness and action that will reduce the number of animals flowing into shelters and keep more pets in their homes. This mentorship runs twelve months and includes up to \$15,000 in grant funding.

Deep dive into housing inequity



Before advancing policies that support affordable and accessible, pet-inclusive housing, an understanding of the origin and scale of the housing crisis is needed. Together with other experts in the field, the Humane Society of the United States will provide background on the systemic issues of poverty, housing insecurity and government-sanctioned programs and policies that have resulted in a legacy of economic and racial segregation, income inequality and the racial wealth gap in America.

Shelters participating in the mentorship will begin by researching and collecting data on the current landscape of affordable housing in the communities they serve, to identify the challenges families face.



Training and action

Despite many properties touting their units as pet-friendly, it is increasingly difficult for people with pets to find housing that welcomes their cat or dog without breed or size restrictions, or that doesn't charge exorbitant pet fees or high pet rent. There are numerous benefits for landlords and property owners/operators who remove arbitrary restrictions on pets in their buildings. Shelters participating in the mentorship will complete training to learn how to effectively advocate for pet-inclusive housing by eliminating barriers for people and pets.



Structural inequity in housing insecurity is a long-standing problem that has been compounded and exacerbated by the economic impact of the pandemic, creating even greater challenges for households with pets. The consequences that evictions have on a community, the direct implications on animal shelters and rescue organizations, and the trauma that displacement has on pets and their families is vast. Shelters participating in the mentorship will complete training on responding to the eviction crisis in their community and develop ways to support people and their pets while navigating obstacles and roadblocks. These approaches may include local or state policy initiatives and/or expansion of safety net programming.

To find out more information or to apply for a Shelter Ally Project mentorship visit humanepro.org/shelter-ally-project

