Steps to the Application Process

Part One

1. You will contact the veterinary practice that is treating your dog or cat and ask them if they work with nonprofit organizations for financial assistance. If they say yes, read on.
2. You must read the guidelines and policies thoroughly.
3. You will gather all of your required documentation to prove hardship.
4. You will complete the online application. If you are unable to locate the online application, you have not thoroughly read the guidelines and policies.
5. Once your application for assistance is received, your application goes into Incomplete Status.
6. Your application for assistance will not be responded to until your proof of hardship documentation is received by Paws 4 A Cure.

Part Two

1. You will email or fax your required documents for yourself and for all members of your household that are over 18 years of age to Paws 4 A Cure IMMEDIATELY after completing the online application for financial assistance.
2. You are responsible for providing the Veterinary Packet below to the veterinary practice that will be performing the treatment or direct them to the Veterinary Professionals page. Do NOT write on any of the veterinary documents. The Veterinary Packet is for the veterinary practice to complete. The veterinary practice should email or fax their documents directly to Paws 4 A Cure.

Part Three

1. Your required documentation is received.
2. Your application will go into Pending Status.
3. You will receive an email acknowledgement that your application has been received.

Part Four

1. If all of your proof of hardship and the treating veterinary practice’s required documentation are received, Paws 4 A Cure will start the application review.
2. You MUST apply to several different financial assistance programs along with applying to Paws 4 A Cure, links to which can be found on our Helpful Resources page. DO NOT RELY ON A PAWS 4 A CURE GRANT ONLY

Decisions are based upon several factors, including: medical urgency, financial need, available funding, and eligibility. Due to the overwhelming number of applications we receive, we cannot help everyone.

Part Five - If the application for assistance is approved

1. You will receive an approval email with an acceptance letter that you are to provide to the treating veterinary practice before the treatment is performed.
2. You will complete the requirements so that Paws 4 A Cure can create your dog or cat’s fundraising page.
3. Once you receive the email that your fundraising page is completed, you are REQUIRED to raise money by sharing the fundraising page that Paws 4 A Cure creates with your friends, family and local news media to help generate donations for your dog or cat’s veterinary care. If you do not want to share the fundraising page with your local media, you will need to explain why.
4. You must provide Paws 4 A Cure the contact information for the news media that you reached out to. Paws 4 A Cure cannot use your already existing GoFundMe page. You must provide the links to the online news media articles if they create an article on their websites. If you do not fundraise for your dog or cat’s veterinary care, Paws 4 A Cure will not send payment to the veterinary practice and you will be responsible for the charges.
5. Your dog/cat will receive the veterinary treatment.
6. The veterinary practice will email or fax the detailed invoice to Paws 4 A Cure.
7. Paws 4 A Cure will send a check via the U.S. mail to the veterinary practice within 30 days following receipt of an itemized invoice emailed or faxed by the veterinary practice.

If you are approved, you are REQUIRED to raise money by sharing the fundraising page that Paws 4 A Cure creates with your friends, family and local news media to generate donations for your dog or cat’s veterinary care. You must provide Paws 4 A Cure the contact information for the news media that you reached out to. You must provide the links to the online news media articles. If you do not raise money for your dog or cat’s veterinary care, Paws 4 A Cure will not send payment to the veterinary practice.
You do **NOT** qualify for financial assistance through Paws 4 A Cure under any of the following circumstances:

- You are not a resident of the United States of America;
- You cannot prove ownership of the dog or cat;
- You do not provide Paws 4 A Cure with all the required documents;
- You have been approved for the entire amount needed by CareCredit;
- Your veterinarian will not accept payment from Paws 4 A Cure;
- You are seeking payment for an outstanding bill;
- Your pet is being held at the veterinary office until payment is made;
- You are seeking reimbursement for a paid bill;
- Your veterinarian has agreed to a payment plan with you;
- Your pet requires testing to determine a diagnosis;
- You are seeking assistance for elective surgery and/or surgery that is not essential for the survival of the pet;
- You are a breeder or rescue group;
- You cannot prove hardship;
- You have received financial assistance from Paws 4 A Cure in the past. (exceptions are on a case by case basis)

**Funding Information**

Decisions are based upon several factors, including: medical urgency, financial need, available funding, and eligibility. Due to the overwhelming number of applications we receive, we cannot help everyone. Please be advised that the maximum assistance available from Paws 4 A Cure is $500. If your application is approved, Paws 4 A Cure will set up a fundraising page in order to solicit these funds. The creation of a fundraising page is not a guarantee that the full (or any) amount applied for will be raised. All moneys that are received by Paws 4 A Cure through donations to a particular applicant’s fundraising page will be disbursed to the veterinary office in accordance with Paws 4 A Cure’s general practice; provided, however, that any funds raised in excess of those for which the applicant initially applied (minus the assistance initially awarded directly by Paws 4 A Cure) shall be deposited into Paws 4 A Cure’s general fund to assist other applicants. In order that Paws 4 A Cure may create a fundraising page, you will be required to provide: a picture of your dog/cat, a family photo, including your dog/cat, your dog’s/cat’s story including his/her medical condition, information as to why additional assistance is necessary, and a "thank you" to donors helping your dog/cat.
Application Checklist

- Complete the online Application (required)
- Copy of your license or ID for all members of your household over 18 years of age (required)
- Copies of your most recent bank statement for all members of your household over the age of 18. (required)

Below is a list of documents that are acceptable proof of hardship. You do not have to provide all of the documents, you just need to prove why you cannot afford to pay for the veterinary care on your own.

- Last pay stub (if employed) for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- All pages of your 2019 tax return for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- Copy of your SSI or SSDI benefit letter or, proof of any federal or state assistance or, unemployment benefits letter or, W2 or 1099 from employer for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- Copy of your approval/denial letter from CareCredit (if your veterinary office accepts) for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- Your most recent CareCredit statement (if applicable) for all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- A copy of the front and back of your pet’s insurance card (if applicable)
- Any document that proves that you cannot afford the veterinary care on your own or all members of your household over 18 years of age.
- Letter of hardship (explanation why you cannot afford the treatment on your own).

Your completed documentation can be sent using one of the following methods:

- Via fax (866) 799-5166
- Scanned as a PDF file and emailed to grants@paws4acure.org

Do NOT mail your documents. It slows down the process. Image files must be legible (not blurry). The documentation must be close-up for Paws 4 A Cure to read. We cannot process your application if we cannot read them.

Scanners and faxes are available at copy stores, libraries, business offices and at your veterinary practice.