GUIDE DOGS OF TEXAS
San Antonio, TX

PROJECT TITLE: OPERATIONS

GRANT DESCRIPTION: Operations grant, with $2 for $1 KCF matching, in support of providing services to the blind and visually impaired to improve mobility and independence.

GRANT AMOUNT: $50,000
APPROVED: March 26, 2014

PROJECT START DATE: January 1, 2014
PROJECT END DATE: December 31, 2014

CHARITABLE PURPOSE: Health & Human Services\Disabled\Blind

GRANT TYPE: General Operations

GRANT OBJECTIVES: With the use of a guide dog, clients will have greater independence and self-sufficiency.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED FINDINGS:

During the reporting period for this grant, Guide Dogs of Texas provided the following programs/services:

- Train Guide Dogs to safe standard – Eight dogs entered the advanced training
  - Four dogs are serving with clients as certified guide dogs
  - Four dogs expected to be matched with clients in 2015
- Client intake and assessment
  - 100 applicants counseled
  - Seven in-depth interviews conducted for potential placement
- Match/train Guide Dog and client together
  - Four Guide Dog teams placed
  - Two of the new teams were from the KCF counties of interest (placement of dogs and clients based on mutual compatibility)
  - Average client wait time of 32 months for placement
    - Matched clients who had been waiting a long time due to their preferences and requirements
    - Every waiting client is considered bi-annually to create the best match possible
- Support applicants and Guide Dog teams – 60 aftercare visits conducted
  - 14 routine aftercare visits
  - 26 priority or emergency visits
  - 16 post-class visits (1-2 weeks after graduation)
  - Four (4) matching visits
  - Four (4) visits were to retire the guide dog (typically at age 10)
- Breeding Program
  - Four dogs selected for breeding program (one stud and three broods)
  - No litters were born during this reporting period
PAWSitive Approach Program
- One puppy with a particular training concern was transferred to the Dominguez State Jail to be raised by non-violent offender
- Three dogs were raised in this program in 2014

Administrative Accomplishments/Challenges
- Organizational restructure resulted in
  - Postponement of breeding Litter G until 2015
  - Delay of intake of dogs to Advanced Training by six months
  - Dogs in Puppy Raising Program were sufficient to meet the needs of clients
- Strategic Plan updated to expand delivery of services
  - Phased decentralization of instruction staff from San Antonio to other major Texas cities
  - Timeline established for satellite operations
    - Austin – 2015
    - Houston – 2016
    - Dallas by 2020
  - Satellite instructors will office and work out of their homes
  - Dogs in advanced training will be housed with host families in the community
  - Client training will be done in their homes and once they have started training the dog will remain with them
- Recorded 100% graduation rate for applicants selected for the program