

Funding Resources for ICAN Clients

Although ICAN offers affordable assistance dog services, it is not uncommon for applicants to seek financial assistance to offset part of all of the cost of obtaining a dog. While an ICAN assistance dog costs a client \$950, ICAN's training cost over two years' time is considerably more. Here are a few suggestions to assist you with covering the \$950 cost for your service dog while also assisting ICAN with offsetting a portion of their costs.

The ICAN Afford a Service Dog program

ICAN is developing an optional fundraising program to assist clients with raising the funds that are due in full before a client receives his or her assistance dog. The ICAN Afford a Service Dog program is available at no cost to the client and clients are not required to participate. The program involves ICAN setting up an Internet fundraising page for the client where friends, family, colleagues and community members can make donations on the client's behalf to underwrite the expense of the dog. The program also offers information on various fundraising activities that a client can do to raise funds. Funds raised up and above the \$950 client fee may qualify the client to receive dog-related items that will be helpful once the service dog is received. For more information, contact the Client Services department at ICAN or send them an email at ann@icandog.org.

ICAN Bank-As-You-Go

In anticipation of your eventual placement with a service dog, you can begin to bank funds with ICAN after you have received notification that your application has been reviewed and approved. Monthly or weekly you can send a payment in to ICAN in the amount of your choice where it will be applied against your \$950 dog placement fee.

Because ICAN requires payment in full before a service dog is placed with a client, this is an easy way to reduce the final amount you owe at the time of placement.

Other Organizations

Often times, community and civic organizations will become involved in fundraising for you. Organizations you may want to speak with include Kiwanis International, Rotary Club, and Lions Club to name a few. You may also find other groups in the community who are interested in underwriting or supplementing the dog placement fee, such as religious organizations, corporations, corporate foundations, or local businesses that you interact with.

Inquiring about funding assistance through your county or state disability-related organizations is also an option to investigate.

Assistance Dog United Campaign has a program that can help a client obtain a dog. Contact the organization at www.assistancedogunitedcampaign.org for more information about their Voucher Program and their application deadlines.

Fundraisers & Media

Many clients hold their own fundraisers to help defray the cost of an assistance dog. ICAN can provide brochures and newsletters to educate people who contribute to your fundraising about assistance dogs. You may find your local media will help promote your fundraiser, so contact the newsrooms of media outlets by phone, email or fax and share your plans.