Veteran's 2025 Grant Application

PROGRAM DEADLINE : May 01, 2025 at 11:59 PM(Midnight) - CLOSED

Applicant Information

Name:	Alisa Johnson	
Email:	grants@dogsondeployment.org	
App ID:	05257218	
Status:	Submitted	
Cycle:	None	
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Common App:	EDCF 2025 Grant COMMON APP	

Organization Information

Organization Information

Legal Name of Organization	Dogs on Deployment	
Mailing Address- Street number and name OR PO Box		

970 W. Valley Parkway, Box 667

City	Escondido
State	СА
Zip Code	92025
Phone Number	619-324-3467
Organization Website Address, if applicable	https://www.dogsondeployment.org/
Executive Director/ CEO/ President	Alisa Johnson
Executive Director email address	grants@dogsondeployment.org
Grant contact name (please provide a second contact besides ED)	Courtney Hilborn
Grant contact email address	grants@dogsondeployment.org

Please provide names and titles of your primary officers or directors (i.e. board president, vice president, chairperson, secretary, treasurer, etc.)

Alisa Johnson, President Shawn Johnson, Vice President Courtney Hilborn, Executive Director

Year Incorporated	2011
Number of paid staff	4.00
Number of volunteers	8.00
Mission Statement	

Our mission is to give America's Heroes peace of mind concerning their pets during service or hardship through connection, compassion, and care.

No military, veteran, or first responder should ever have to choose between serving their country and loving their pet. By alleviating the stress of pet care for our nation's heroes and their families, Dogs on Deployment enhances their mental health and well-being as well as supporting our communities and the pets we love.

Attach your organization's logo.	Logo.pdf
Fiscal Agent's confirmation letter- this is only needed if the community based organization that is applying is using a fiscal agent (because they are not their own nonprofit). Fiscal agent must write a letter stating that they are taking fiscal responsibility of the grant funds on the community-based organization's behalf if they are granted funds. Fiscal agents will keep specific program related funds restricted/accounting separate for this particular project request.	
Fiscal agent letter must be dated within 90 days of the grant submittal.	
Is Your Non-Profit	in Good Standing?
EIN or TIN	45-3109600
Attach the IRS Determination letter that contains your organization's Employer Identification Number AND verifies that your organization has been given 501c3 status.	501c3 Determination Letter-address.pdf
Click on this link for the IRS database to find your organization. Please take a screenshot of the page that shows your organization name and the IRS filings for the past year(s). This page should show that your organization has filed its 990, 990EZ or 990N in the past three years at least once.	Tax Exempt Organization Search Details _ Internal Revenue Service.pdf
THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.	
Visit the CA Secretary of State website and search for your organization. Take a screenshot of that page that shows your organization is active and up-to-date with your statement of information. If your entity is registered in a state other than California, please provide a screenshot of your state's registration entity proving your active and up-to-date status. Also, your organization should be registered in CA if you are doing business in CA (like applying for these funds:)). THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is	California Secretary of State.pdf
a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.	

Lastly, visit the CA Department of Justice website to verify your organization's registration. Search for your organization , and take a screenshot of the page that shows your organization name, and that its registration with the Department of Justice is CURRENT. Upload this screenshot here.		
All organizations that "do business in California" are required to file annually with the CA DOJ.	DOJ Current status.pdf	
THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED unless organization is a faith based organization, a government entity or a Native American Tribe recognized by the federal government.		
Grant Inf	ormation	
Grant Information		
Grant Title: please create a title that describes what your grant is requesting	Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP)	

Grant Request SUMMARY: In 300 words or less please provide a summary that describes the program/project that your organization is requesting funds for.

At Dogs on Deployment (DoD), our mission is to give America's Heroes peace of mind concerning their pets during service or hardship through connection, compassion, and care. We are committed to supporting veterans by ensuring their beloved pets remain a source of strength, not stress. Veterans often face unique challenges post-service, including financial strain and mental health struggles like PTSD or isolation. Pets offer companionship and emotional support, yet caring for them can become a burden during deployments, emergencies, or hardship. Without support, veterans may face the heartbreaking choice of surrendering or euthanizing their pets, deepening their emotional distress as well as placing burdens on local animal shelters.

DoD's **Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP)** brings together three proven programs to enhance veterans' lives: **Hero Pet Boarding Network (HPBN)**:Veterans transitioning to civilian life might face additional hurdles like housing issues, employment, or health treatments where pets are not allowed. HPBN supports veterans by connecting them with volunteers who temporarily board their pets at no cost during these transitions, reducing one stressor during a challenging time, and preserving the veteran-pet bond critical for mental health. **Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP):** VAP provides financial aid for emergency veterinary care, covering costs like surgeries or treatments. This relieves economic pressure, allowing veterans to maintain pet ownership without sacrificing financial stability.

Operation Pet Wellness (OPW): OPW provides financial aid for preventative care through vaccinations, spay/neuter services, and wellness checks. By keeping pets healthy, it reduces long-term costs and supports veterans' peace of mind.

VPP stands out by supporting veterans' existing pets throughout their service or post-service life, offering a safety net that prevents separation rather than just facilitating a one-time match. Unlike adoption-focused organizations, it doesn't introduce new pets but provides recurring aid and a community network that other groups don't replicate post-placement.

Grant Amount Requested	\$ 20000	
Geographic Area Served by this Grant	El Dorado County, CA	
What is the need that your project/program that you are requesting funds for supports?		

The Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP) fills critical gaps in pet care services not provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or similar organizations. While the VA excels in healthcare and housing, pet supportessential for financial and mental well-being—is largely absent. Many organizations focus on providing trained service animals to veterans and the VA offers veterinary benefits for ADI-accredited dogs, covering mobility or sensory impairments, not emotional support.

The gaps become evident when a veteran needs help with a pet that is not a trained service animal. Non-service dogs or emotional support animals without formal training likely comprise 98-99% of veterans' pets. VPP ensures all veterans' pets—accredited or not—are supported with the care they deserve.

Pet Care Need: Deployments, hospitalizations, or housing transitions often separate veterans from pets. Support provided by the HPBN potentially saves veterans thousands of dollars, while relieving stress of worrying about their pet when they are separated.

Financial Need: The VA offers no funding for pet expenses, yet 60% of veterans own pets, facing \$1,000 annual costs or \$2,000+ for emergencies like cancer (AVMA data). For veterans near poverty, this risks pet loss.

Mental Health Need: Pets reduce PTSD and anxiety by 25% (studies show), but the VA's therapy focus excludes pet support.

VPP's holistic approach—healthy pets via OPW, recoveries via VAP, and continuity via HPBN—bridges these gaps with compassion, ensuring veterans' pets remain lifelines, unlike any VA or similar offerings.

Please provide information (DATA) demonstrating the need exists for VETERANS in El Dorado County. _____

El Dorado County, CA, home to over 17,000 veterans, their dependents, and survivors, faces a clear need for veteran-focused support like Dogs on Deployment's Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP). Data underscores the financial, mental, and social challenges veterans encounter, particularly regarding pet care, which our programs address.

Financial Need: Veterans in El Dorado County often grapple with economic strain. The county's median household income is \$88,000, but veterans, especially those transitioning or disabled, earn less—about 20% below non-veterans statewide per VA data. Pet care costs, averaging \$1,000 or more per year can overwhelm limited budgets. In 2023, 8% of California veterans lived below the poverty line, suggesting roughly 1,360 local veterans face similar risks. Without aid, pet-related expenses force tough choices for veterans—surrendering pets or skipping essentials like rent, housing, food, or medical treatment of their own.

Mental Health Need: Over 30% of veterans nationwide report mental health issues, including PTSD and depression, per the VA. In more rural areas like El Dorado County, where mental health access may be limited, pets are vital lifelines, reducing anxiety by up to 25% per studies. Yet, financial or geographic barriers threaten these bonds. Losing a pet deepens isolation-a risk for 5,100+ local veterans with mental health challenges.

Social Need: Veterans often feel disconnected post-service. El Dorado's Department of Veteran Services notes housing and employment gaps, with 200+ veterans seeking aid yearly. Pet surrenders, driven by costs or transitions, strain shelters (e.g., 10% of intakes statewide are veteran-related).

How will this program/project in this grant request address the need described above?

Financial Need: With many veterans earning 20% less than the county's \$88,000 median income, pet care costs—\$1,000 annually for basics, \$2,000+ for emergencies—strain budgets, risking debt or pet loss for roughly 1,360 veterans near poverty. HPBN eliminates boarding expenses during deployments, transitions, or hospitalizations by connecting veterans with volunteers, saving an average of \$50-70 per day per pet. VAP provides grants for urgent vet care, covering nearly 70% of costs like \$1,000 surgeries, while OPW funds preventative care (e.g., \$50 vaccinations), reducing future bills.

Mental Health Need: Over 5,100 local veterans face PTSD or isolation, worsened by scarce mental health resources. Pets ease anxiety by 25%, per studies, but costs threaten this bond. HPBN ensures pets stay with veterans, VAP supports recoveries (e.g., 80% of funded pets heal), and OPW keeps pets healthy, boosting well-being by 25% (stress dropping from 3.5 to 1.5, per surveys). These programs preserve lifelines, reducing emotional distress.

Social Need: Veterans seeking help find it within the community through connection delivered by the VPP. VPP's 95% pet retention rate prevents shelter strain, while interaction with volunteers and veterinarian partners foster empathy, with 80% reporting stronger ties. These collaborations stimulate local economies and encourage a culture of mutual support, as businesses and residents rally around a common cause.

How is your organization suited to meet this need? Please describe how organization's mission aligns with the need and the program/project that funding is being requested for.

Our mission—to give America's heroes peace of mind concerning their pets during service or hardship through connection, compassion, and care—aligns seamlessly with these challenges, ensuring veterans and their pets thrive.

Founded in 2011 by military service members, our programs are distinct from other organizations due to their targeted focus on unique challenges faced by veterans, flexible delivery models, strategic partnerships, and a broad community support system to build awareness.

Financial support is prioritized to assist applicants with military-specific challenges like housing and low pay. OPW and VAP provide direct-to-veterinarian grants, allowing families to choose providers and benefit from strategic partnership's discounts and matches that amplify impact.

DoD is recommended by military base family support centers and VA caseworkers, who refer pet owners facing veterinary cost challenges to utilize DoD's programs, ensuring DoD's resources are accessible when and where military families seek help.

Animal Welfare Groups: By connecting with shelters and rescue organizations, DoD prevents pet surrender, aligning with groups that share our goal of keeping pets with their families.

VPP supports all pets—98% non-service—free of charge, with no membership fees.

Overall, the organization has built a boarding network of over 47,000 nationwide and has boarded over 3,000 pets, saving service members an estimated \$30-40 million in boarding costs. In addition, we have given financial assistance in excess of \$500,000 solely through fundraising. The programs, processes, and determination are in place as we continue to expand and enhance our ability to assist service members in need.

What is the grant timeline and major milestones of this project?

Please remember, if your grant is approved, funding must be spent within a year.

We're excited to bring this comprehensive support to El Dorado County's 17,000+ veterans by the end of 2025, but rely solely on supporters like you, not fees, to expand our geographic reach.

While specific 2025 financial assistance grant timelines depend on funding sources, we can utilize our 14 year history of building support networks nationwide and existing initiatives to build a community base that will be ready to fulfill the requests from veterans in need.

Our approach will create strategic partnerships and outreach programs to ensure robust support for the county's veterans and their pets.

Boots on the Ground Volunteer Initiative to increase Volunteer Base: Presents opportunities for civilians to connect with and support veterans directly, fostering empathy, understanding, and a shared sense of purpose across the community. https://dogsondeployment.blog/f/boots-on-the-ground-your-path-to-making-a-difference

Veterinary Clinics Partnerships: Builds relationships with local veterinarians to secure in-kind discounts for veterinary services. Our voucher system provides payment directly to clinics ensuring transparency and encouraging ongoing participation. https://www.dogsondeployment.org/page/veterinarians-can-help

Operation Shelter Partner Initiative: Promotes awareness of our services among animal shelters and rescue groups to prevent unnecessary pet relinquishment which reduces strain on shelters. https://www.dogsondeployment.org/page/operation-shelter-

partners#:~:text=Operation%20Shelter%20Partners%20is%20more,family%20members%20by%20their%20side

Local Veteran Services: Collaborate with local organizations to identify veterans needing pet care support, ensuring VPP's programs reach those facing financial or mental health challenges. By introducing tried and true programs like the Veteran Pet Partnership can offer to your area, you will be building a lasting network of support for the veterans who reside there.

What are the measurable objectives of the project/program that you are requesting grant funds for?

The Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP) provides financial and mental health stability for veterans:

Financial Relief: By covering pet boarding costs through HPBN, emergency veterinary expenses via VAP, and preventative care with OPW, we reduce financial burdens for veterans. This frees up resources for essentials like housing, food, and healthcare, stabilizing veteran households and reducing economic stress within the community.

Mental Health Boost: Pets are vital for veterans' emotional well-being, helping combat isolation, PTSD, and depression. By ensuring veterans can keep their pets, VPP fosters healthier, more resilient individuals who can engage more fully in community life—whether through work, volunteering, or social connections.

The Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP) will deliver wide-ranging benefits to the community:

Volunteers and local partners engage, fostering empathy and economic growth. By preventing pet surrender, we ease shelter strain and promote public health with healthy pets. Stable veteran households ultimately lower community costs, while VPP's success inspires broader impact and awareness. Veterans stay connected, volunteers thrive, and neighborhoods improve—creating a resilient, compassionate community.

How will the objectives be measured?

We track the number of requests for financial and boarding assistance received and fulfilled, and measure success by the outcome – how many pets were saved from relinquishment or financial euthanasia, and the level of relief provided to the service members, financially and emotionally. This has a ripple effect that benefits the community at-large.

Feedback from partner organizations such as shelters, pet rescues, veterinary offices, and veteran-focused agencies provide critical information that allow us to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of our programs. Veterans provide valuable feedback through follow-up measures to report on the outcome and satisfaction with the process.

Financial Success Metrics:

Total Cost Savings: Sum savings across programs—HPBN's free boarding (\$50-75 per day), VAP's emergency grants (\$500 average, 70% of \$1,000 bills with discounts/matches), and OPW's preventative care (\$150 average)

Mental Well-Being Success Metrics:

Mental Health Improvement Score: Average well-being boost from pre/post-service surveys

Treatment/Boarding Success Rate: Proportion of VAP-funded pets recovering, or pets boarded successfully, reducing stress and providing emotional support to veteran

Veteran Satisfaction: Qualitative feedback via testimonials, videos, communications with DoD staff and boarders

Community Connection Success Metrics:

Pet Retention Rate: Percentage of pets staying with veterans

Community Engagement: Number of volunteers recruited and retained

Pets Served: Total pets aided

asked for in the final report	
How will you confirm/show proof of a veteran's stat	us? Please be very specificthis data may be
What percentage of your total clientele are veterans?	25
What is the number of un-duplicated veterans to be served if this grant is funded?	100

All applicants must register on the DoD website and provide specific information - a DD214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, and their I.D. - to ensure eligibility in our programs. Examples of eligibility criteria are: Veterans must be honorably discharged, pets entering boarding care must be spayed/neutered, and up to date on vaccinations.

All applications are reviewed and approved by staff to ensure veracity and eligibility. In addition, the veterinarian clinics will require I.D. It is essential that website capabilities and staff are compliant with legal security and personal information protection policies.

What is the anticipated impact of the project?

The anticipated impact Veteran Pet Partnership (VPP) in El Dorado County will be significant for veterans, their pets, and the broader community.

Financial Impact:

Objective: Save 60 veterans \$16,000+ in veterinary care costs. Unknown number of veterans to be served through the no-fee boarding network – value averaging \$50-75 per day.

Details: Allocation of Financial Assistance Grants:VAP (\$10,000): Emergency grants average \$500, covering 70% of \$1,000 vet bills. Serves 20 veterans ($10,000 \div 500 = 20$). OPW (\$6,000): Preventative care (e.g., vaccinations) at \$150 per pet. Serves 40 veterans ($6,000 \div 150 = 40$).

Mental Health Impact:

Objective: Improve well-being by 25% for 60+ veterans.

Details: Preserving pet bonds—95% retention—reduces PTSD and anxiety, critical for veterans with mental health challenges. VAP ensures 80% pet recovery, OPW prevents illnesses, and HPBN maintains companionship during transitions.

Social Impact:

Objective: Strengthen community ties for veterans and engage robust volunteer network , veterinarians, shelters, and veteran assistance agencies.

Details: Preventing surrenders lowers shelter strain (10% of intakes veteran-related). Volunteers and vets report 80% stronger connections, while veterans engage more in work or volunteering.

HPBN Networking / Outreach to Community: Printed materials supplied/mailed to partner organizations and community leaders to promote awareness, and increase volunteer base. DoD staff to conduct social media campaigns and communicate with community partners to establish broad network of support.

How will you measure the impact of this project/program?

Financial Impact Measurement: Track total cost savings via subsidized costs vs. market rates.

Mental Health Impact Measurement: Mental health improvement score from surveys (e.g., stress drops from 3.5 to 1.5), plus qualitative stories from veterans and their families.

Social Impact Measurement: Pet retention rate and community engagement and volunteer feedback.

Is the project/program you are requesting funds for an ongoing program or project? If so, please describe how funding will be found to continue the project upon completion of this grant cycle.

What determines if your program/project continues on in regards to impact?

The VPP will be an ongoing initiative throughout the U.S., and was designed to deepen Dogs on Deployment's impact and reach, specifically in outlying rural areas where veterans may inadvertently be underserved. The sustainability of the programs is based on continued funding as no fees are ever charged to participants (recipients or volunteers).

While it is our desire to help as many veterans as possible, we can't offer financial aid if the funds are not there to give. In addition, the HPBN is a free service due to our amazing and generous volunteers, but there is a small staff and website that must be maintained to ensure accountability and success of the programs into the future.

Therefore, sustainability depends solely on continued support from volunteers, donors, and granting organizations. The assurance of transparency, coupled with more than a decade of expertise is what Dogs on Deployment offers to communities wishing to enhance their veteran residents' lives.

Grant Budget

Grant Program Revenue

Veteran's Grant Amount Requesting	\$ 20000	
Other Contributions		
Fundraising revenue		
Total Revenue	\$ 20000	

Grant Program Expenditures

Staff salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 1000	
Occupancy and utilities		
Equipment		
Supplies, materials and printing	\$ 2000	
Travel and meetings		
Marketing and advertising	\$ 1000	
Staff and volunteer training		
Contract services		
Other	\$ 16000	
Total Expenditures	\$ 20000	

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative

A \$20,000 grant from El Dorado Community Foundation would support the VPP in the following areas:

HPBN Network / Community Outreach (\$4,000):

This allocation is essential for promoting the HPBN and ensuring that it remains visible to service members who need pet boarding services as well as the other services DoD provides. Costs to mail printed materials such as rack cards and flyers can run from \$50-200 per community partner. Operational expenses include subscription services for CRM and other tools which are indispensable for managing the network of pet boarders and service member clients efficiently.Staff payroll to effectively process and approve eligible applications for assistance, both for boarding as well as financial vouchers. Staff is also a critical support system for boarders while service members are unreachable.

VAP (\$10,000): Emergency grants average \$500, covering 70% of \$1,000 vet bills. Serves 20 veterans (10,000 \div 500 = 20).

OPW (\$6,000): Preventative care (e.g., vaccinations) at \$150 per pet. Serves 40 veterans ($6,000 \div 150 = 40$).

Submit Grant Application

Signature and Affirmation

By entering your full name below, you certify that all information is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.	a Jollota
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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE P. O. BOX 2508 CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT C/O ALISA LORRINE SIEBER-JOHNSON 2480 SPYGLASS CIR PENSACOLA, FL 32526

DEPARTMENT	OF	THE	TREASURY
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Employer Identification Number: 45-3109600 DLN: 17053062362022 Contact Person: ID# 31217 JOAN C KISER Contact Telephone Number: (877) 829-5500 Accounting Period Ending: December 31 Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) Form 990 Required: Yes Effective Date of Exemption: August 4, 2011 Contribution Deductibility: Yes Addendum Applies: No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,

Lois G. Lerner Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

Dogs on Deployment

EIN: 45-3109600 | Escondido, California, United States

Publication 78 Data

Organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Users may rely on this list in determining deductibility of their contributions.

On Publication 78 Data List: Yes

Deductibility Code: PC ?

Determination Letter

A favorable determination letter is issued by the IRS if an organization meets the requirements for tax-exempt status under the Code section the organization applied.

Final Letter(s)

FinalLetter 45-3109600 DOGSONDEPLOYMENT 02272012 01.tif [https://apps.irs.gov/pub/epostcard/dl/FinalLetter 45-3109600 DOGSONDEPLOYMENT 02272012 01.tif]

Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Organizations who have filed a 990-N (e-Postcard) annual electronic notice. Most small organizations that receive less than \$50,000 fall into this category.

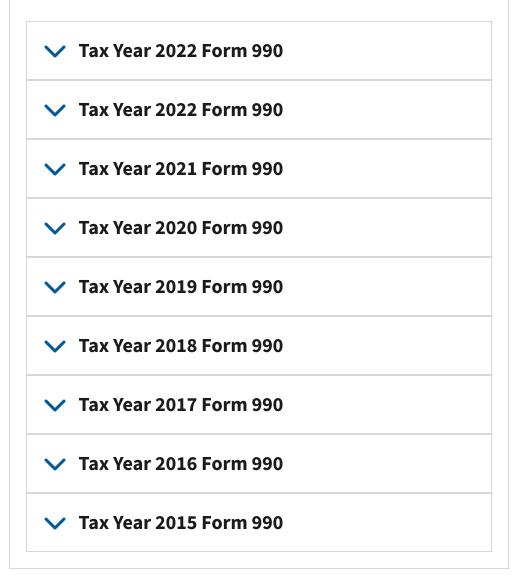
Tax Year 2013 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

✓ Tax Year 2012 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

✓ Tax Year 2011 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Copies of Returns (990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, 990-T)

Electronic copies (images) of Forms 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF or 990-T returns filed with the IRS by charities and non-profits.



DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT (3402752)



X

Initial Filing Date	08/04/2011
Status	Active
Standing - SOS	Good
Standing - FTB	Good
Standing - Agent	Good
Standing - VCFCF	Good
Formed In	CALIFORNIA
Entity Type	Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Public Benefit
Principal Address	970 W VALLEY PKWY ESCONDIDO, CA 92025
Mailing Address	970 WEST VALLEY PARKWAY #667 ESCONDIDO,CA92025
Statement of Info Due Date	08/31/2025
Agent	Individual ALISA SIEBER-JOHNSON 970 WEST VALLEY PARKWAY #667 ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

		Registrant Details registered with the Secretary of State or based on founding & registration documents.	
Organization Name: Entity Type:	DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT Charitable or nonprofit corporation	IRS FEIN: SOS/FTB Corporate/Organization Number:	453109600 3402752
Registry Status: RCT Registration Number: Record Type: Date of Last Renewal:	Current CT0198290 Charity Registration 1/21/2025	Renewal Due/Exp. Date: Issue Date: Effective Date: DBA:	5/15/2025 8/9/2013 8/9/2013
		Mailing Address	
Street: Street Line 2: City, State Zip:	970 W VALLEY PKWY BOX 667 ESCONDIDO CA 92025		