S50 K9 FUND Application

Check Eligibility & Apply at

bit.ly/s50k92027

In partnership with:

DEAN AND BARBARA WHITE FAMILY FOUNDATION

S50 K9 FUND

Despite the invaluable role played by K9 units in law enforcement, many departments face financial constraints, with K9 expenses often overlooked in their budgets. The S50 K9 Fund addresses this gap by offering financial assistance to enhance the training and support of K9 teams. Across Northwest Indiana, approximately 50 working dogs, along with an additional 50 search and rescue team dogs, serve our communities. The primary objective of the S50 K9 Fund is to provide support to K9 handlers to acquire advanced training and resources necessary for their vital work.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the S50 K9 Fund is to provide funds to K9 programs to increase the number of better-equipped and trained working dogs across our communities.

MISSION

Our mission is to enhance and strengthen community relationships with law enforcement agencies through strong and robust canine programs in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, and Starke Counties.

FUND ALLOCATION CRITERIA

The funds from the S50 K9 Fund can be used to purchase a new K9, harnesses, leashes, E-collars, collars, muzzles, cages, car inserts, outdoor kennels, heat alarms/door poppers, training that involves the handler AND K9, K9 first aid kits, and bite suits. Funds can not be used for operational costs such as vet care, medicine, software, boarding, or food. Applicants will be evaluated on financial need, community engagement, and demonstration that the grant funds will make a difference within that K9 program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a first responder organization with an established K9 policy and active working dog program.
- Applicant must be a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(8) organization or a government entity.
- A maximum of one application per department.
- Training requests must include handlers with their K9.
- Applicant must provide a letter of intent signed by the agency Chief and K9 Unit Commander.
- Applicants must have trained at the MAAC within the last 24 months.
- Applicants must agree to make at least (1) public appearance per year by visiting Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation partnering organizations such as Big Shoulders Schools, MAAC Foundation, YMCAs, and Boys & Girls Clubs.
- There will be an annual cycle for grant applications. K9 units will be notified of the deadline for grant proposals to be received.
- The maximum grant is $5,000.
- The deadline for 2027 grant requests is Tuesday, December 15, 2026 by noon CST.

"The establishment of the S50 K9 Fund will have a great impact on K9 teams in the Region. It will help strengthen police departments in the area, as many do not have the resources to develop successful K9 programs or secure their growth over the years. The creation of this fund ensures that our communities will have teams that are ready and able when the call comes in."

– Sergeant Todd Kobitz, Valparaiso Police Department



The S50 K9 Fund is named after Valparaiso Police Department Officer, Steve Kobitz, who died in the line of duty. His badge number was 50.

Background

The S50 K9 Fund commemorates the late Valparaiso Police Department Sergeant Steve Kobitz, who passed while on duty, bearing badge number 50.

At the MAAC Foundation, our vision is to cultivate a secure and flourishing community where residents take pride in their surroundings. Central to this vision is the belief in inclusivity, equal access to education and essential services, and the promotion of opportunities for all individuals to thrive. Paramount in this endeavor is ensuring the safety of every member of our community, irrespective of socioeconomic status or ethnicity, regardless of their place of residence.

We provide comprehensive training opportunities for our first responders, fostering a safe environment for both them and our neighbors. The Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation has generously supported our efforts as part of their commitment to integrating with NWI's pillar organizations.

Through increased on-campus training sessions and partnerships with esteemed organizations such as Big Shoulders Schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and others, we aim to bolster the skills and capabilities of our law enforcement professionals.

Contributions in support of the S50 K9 Fund are tax deductible under the IRS 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(8) guidelines. Contact Nicole Gladstone at MAAC for further information. 219-510-9111.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated on financial need, community engagement, and demonstration that the funds will make a difference within that K9 Unit.

GRANT COMMITTEE

The grant committee may be comprised of a MAAC representative, community representatives, and current or retired K9 representatives from Lake County, Porter County, Newton County, Jasper County, LaPorte County, or Starke County. Current committee members include:

Jacki Stutzman
Todd Kobitz, Chair
Jerame Simpson
Simon Gresser
Adam Suarez
Joe Cowser
Brenda Sheetz
Jim Cunningham
Nicole Gladstone

Application

Name of Department or Organization: _____

County: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Department or Organization Phone: _____

Name of Primary Contact: _____

Phone of Primary Contact: _____

Email of Primary Contact: _____

Size of Department or Organization: _____

Lead K9 Trainer: _____ Cell Phone: _____
(REQUIRED)

DETAILS OF YOUR S50 K9 FUND REQUEST

(Please answer all the questions listed)

1. Describe in detail your request and the total cost for its implementation.

2. Identify any budget constraints and challenges your unit may be experiencing.

3. Describe how this proposed request will benefit your organization and the impact it will have on the community.

4. Identify the specific population that will be served by this grant.

5. Describe your plan to sustain the request once the grant dollars have been expended.

DETAILS OF YOUR S50 K9 ORGANIZATION

(*Please answer all the questions listed*)

1. What year was your K9 unit established?

2. What is the current number of K9s in your program?

3. Name your current partnerships and collaborations with local businesses and organizations.

4. Name plans to expand the number of partnerships and collaborations.

5. Has your law enforcement agency participated in any training at the MAAC in the last two years?

6. Identify how you will raise awareness of the existence of the S50 K9 Fund.

7. In an effort to support and strengthen each K9 unit please list any grants you have previously received and the contact information so it can be shared among other K9 units.