



STATE OF MAINE  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
 DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH  
 28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

JANET T. MILLS  
 GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL  
 COMMISSIONER

April 13, 2022

Dear HFM stakeholders,

The Animal Welfare Program (AWP) has spent \$468,912 to pay for **3,845** Help Fix Me (HFM) vouchers since the start of the current fiscal year (7/1/21). A major update to the HFM program occurred in January 2022, when the reimbursement rates to veterinarians were increased by 50% to activate better utilization of this program. Updating the reimbursement rate proved to be a success, and now, with the program's popularity and the success of clinics that use large quantities of vouchers, demand for HFM vouchers is close to outpacing available funding.

The HFM program currently has \$309,057 in outstanding vouchers with \$317,266 available funding as of 4/8/22. AWP anticipates receiving another \$41,130 in revenues to cover the remaining HFM expenses until the end of the fiscal year (6/30/22).

Below is a breakdown of the Help Fix Me revenues and expenses from 7/1/21 through 4/11/22:

**Help Fix ME - Estimated Budget (as of 4/11/22):**

*Expenses & Revenue (7/1/21 to 4/11/22):*

Starting budget	\$ 560,226.19	
Revenue received to date	\$ 279,411.80	\$ 839,637.99
Expenses	\$ 59,811.79	
Vouchers paid to date	\$ 468,912.00	<u>\$ 528,723.76</u>
Cash available 4/11/2022		<u>\$ 310,914.23</u>

*Estimated Expenses & Revenue (4/11/22 to 7/1/22):*

Estimated Revenue		<u>\$ 41,130.00</u>
		<u>\$ 352,044.23</u>
Estimated expenses:		<u>\$ 34,778.59</u>

E. ANN GIBBS, DIRECTOR  
 90 BLOSSOM LANE  
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Available to pay vouchers:

\$ 317,265.64

Vouchers outstanding

\$ 309,057.00

AWP understands that HFM is a critical program to its stakeholders and that demand is high for the vouchers to successfully meet the needs of our partners. However, given the robust activities presented above, it is important to be fiscally prudent and avoid issuing vouchers beyond funding availability.

AWP recognizes that spring is a key timeframe for spay services. HFM will honor the requests for May clinics and individual voucher applications that the program has already received. Otherwise, as of April 13, 2022, AWP will temporarily pause the HFM program until such time that there is funding availability to sufficiently cover voucher demand. AWP will continue to carefully watch HFM revenue streams and evaluate reopening on a monthly basis. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to monitor the situation carefully. Other spay service resources that may be available can be explored at: <http://www.spaymaine.org/>. You can also monitor HFM's progress at [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal\\_welfare/#fixme](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_welfare/#fixme) as we provide ongoing updates.

Sincerely,



Ann Gibbs, Director  
Animal and Plant Health Division