



221 Old Dairy Road, Unit 1
Wilmington, NC 28405
CaninesforService.org | 910-362-8181
EIN: 56-2118747



Service Dog Application Process

Before review the steps below outlining the application process:

- Step 1:** Complete Pre-Screening Questionnaire
- Step 2:** If based on the pre-screening questionnaire you are eligible for the CFS service dog program, you will be sent the official application to complete. *(Please allow up to 14 days for a response)*
- Step 3:** Complete the CFS application and submit all supplemental documentation (i.e. DD214, VA Rating Letter, Mental Health and Medical History forms completed by providers)
- Step 4:** Video Interview is Conducted with CFS staff members.
- Step 5:** Application is reviewed by the CFS Client Review Committee who meets on a quarterly basis.
- Step 6:** Applicants will be notified if they are approved or denied for the program. Since CFS is a smaller organization, we are limited on the number of Veterans we are able to serve and cannot guarantee approval of all applications. **If approved, the average wait time to receive a service dog is 2 years.**

Program Eligibility

Before beginning the application process, please review the following information to ensure you are eligible for the Canines for Service ("CFS") service dog program:

Veteran Status

- CFS only serves Veterans and a copy of the applicant's DD214 is required to verify service. Transitioning service members may begin the application process but will not be eligible for review until a DD214 is received.
- CFS service dogs are trained to assist with service-connected diagnosis of PTSD, MST, TBI and/or Mobility Limitations. Applicants with other disabilities may still be considered, but CFS would not be able to train the service dog on task work to assist with the other disabilities.

Home Environment

- Applicant must have safe and stable housing for over six consecutive months. Proof of stable housing may be required.
- No other dogs, cats or free roaming animals are permitted to be in the home at any time throughout the application process and post-approval/placement.



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Background Check & Criminal History

- All applicants must consent to a criminal background check.
- Any criminal history in a civilian or military jurisdiction involving crimes against animals, violent crimes or felony convictions are not permitted.
- Misdemeanor charges will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Substance Abuse

- History of substance abuse is considered on a case-by-case basis. Treatment plans and consultation from care team members will be requested.

Mental Health

- PTSD applicants must have consistent treatment with a licensed mental health provider.
- History of suicidal ideation and/or attempts are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Treatment plans and consultation from care team members will be requested.

Required Application Items

- **Completed Service Dog Application for Canines for Service.**
- A copy of the applicant's **DD214**
- A copy of the applicant's **Veterans Affairs Rating Decision Letter**. This form shows the percentage breakdown of each disability AND a written explanation of why the percentage was assigned.
- **Completed Medical History and Mental Health History Forms** by each attending physician/mental health professional
- **Three personal references with full names, addresses and email.** These personal references **should not** be immediate family members or doctors/medical staff, but rather a friend, teacher, neighbor, co-worker, etc. Reference forms will be sent from Canines for Service to the personal reference directly.
- **Spouse/Significant Other/Partner Form** (as applicable)
- **Video** tour of your home, both inside and outside to show where the dog would be living. Please also show footage of the street or surrounding area where your home is located.

Please contact Lexi Green, Director of Client Services, with any questions at lgreen@caninesforservice.org