

Loretta Spencer  
Mayor



"The Space to be  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

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Denise Taylor, Director of Public Communications  
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## **"Fixin' Alabama" recognized as one of Alabama's Innovative Government Programs**

Dr. Karen Hill Sheppard accepts award for city's Animal Services

**Huntsville, Ala.** --- The city of Huntsville's Animal Services department's "Fixin' Alabama" was recognized by the Auburn Montgomery Center for Government as one of Alabama's Innovative Government Programs. The center sought nominations of new and innovative methods used to help Alabama state, county and municipal agencies reach new levels of efficiency and/or responsiveness.

Mayor Loretta Spencer nominated Dr. Sheppard and the city's Animal Services department for the approach they are taking to help combat pet over population. "Fixin' Alabama" assists low income pet owners who chose to have their pet spayed or neutered but cannot afford costs associated with the surgery.

"Responsible municipalities are tasked with managing the problems associated with pet over population," Mayor Spencer commented. "Sterilizing the pets of low income citizens saves money and makes pet ownership more enjoyable for residents."

"Fixin' Alabama requires qualifying status. Citizens must show proof of one of the following programs or income status: Medicaid, Women Infant Children (WIC), Food Stamps, federal disability or a household income of less than \$25,000. Qualifying individuals are asked to show their commitment with nominal co-pay of \$5 for a female cat or \$10 for a female dog.

The program was launched in August 2006 and has assisted with surgeries for 112 dogs and 63 cats. The total births prevented and possibly lives saved is approximately 4,000 when considering that there are usually 5 births per litter during a 12 month interval.

"I'm so proud to work with two individuals, Mayor Spencer and Chief Reynolds, who believe in being proactive and visionary in all areas of city leadership. Our city leaders want to care not only for our citizens, but also our four legged furry friends," stated Dr. Sheppard.

In a ceremony in the old Archives and History chamber of the Capitol, the Auburn Montgomery Center for Government honored the city of Huntsville's Animal Services Department with one of four honorable mentions given.

The awards are the only such honors in Alabama that target individuals or teams that have brought about constructive change in local, county or state government.

Agricultural Commissioner Ron Sparks, State Department of Corrections Commissioner Richard F. Allen and the Alabama Department of Finance's State Buildings & Space Management Office won top honors.

Honorable mentions also went to Steve Carter, Manager of the Athens Gas Department; the Department of Children's Affairs Alabama Resources Management System (ARMS) Team; and the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations' Application Development Team.

For more information on the Center for Government, visit [www.cgov.aum.edu](http://www.cgov.aum.edu).

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