



Cruelty Research Seed Grant RFP Companion Requirements Guide

Program Description

Enhancing communities' capacity for coordinated responses to animal cruelty is critical to the welfare of animals and people. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) aims to advance our 2030 goal of empowering communities to prevent and respond effectively to cruelty by promoting the growth of high-quality research that will advance anti-cruelty policy initiatives and heighten awareness and responses to animal cruelty by key professional audiences. To this end, the ASPCA invites grant applications for our Cruelty Research Seed Grant program. This program seeks to support research that advances knowledge in preventing and responding to animal cruelty.

Grant Amount

The typical grant amount under this solicitation is \$10,000-\$15,000, with a maximum individual grant of amount of \$25,000. The study period is one calendar year from the time of award, with recipients eligible to apply for one, no-cost extension that will extend the project period for one additional year. The total funding amount available for this grant opportunity is \$55,000.

Eligible Applicants

We acknowledge that the effort to prevent and effectively respond to animal cruelty can be advanced by multiple disciplines and diverse areas of expertise (e.g., public health, criminal justice, law, public policy, psychology, sociology, social work, veterinary medicine, animal behavior). For the 2021 funding call, we are inviting applications from investigators whose projects will contribute to advancing these goals, rather than constraining the scope of applications to specific scientific areas. We invite investigators and organizations that meet the below criteria to apply for a cruelty research seed grant:

- Investigators and/or research teams affiliated with US public and not-for-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, veterinary hospitals and clinics, and other institutions are eligible to apply.

Note: Applications from researchers from historically (and currently) under-served backgrounds and/or those who are in the early stages of their career are strongly encouraged.

Eligible Projects

The 2021 Cruelty Research Seed Grant program solicits research proposals that will inform public policy, the legal field, and/or criminal and clinical casework. Of particular interest is research that heightens awareness of animal cruelty and provides evidence that informs key community stakeholders and allied professionals in preventing and responding to this animal welfare issue. Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Animal Welfare Organizations

- Legislators
- Veterinary Professionals
- Law Enforcement and Prosecutors
- Social Service Professionals

Projects with the primary aim of providing services or building infrastructure will not be considered. In order to be responsive to this request, projects must have a clear research question with appropriate methodology to address the proposed research aims.

ASPCA as a Resource

An ASPCA Research Director and/or content expert affiliated with the ASPCA may be available to lend expertise to study design considerations as requested by grant recipients. ASPCA personnel will not participate in data collection, analysis, or manuscript writing and the proposed budget and application must provide the personnel and expertise to accomplish these tasks.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance – the proposed research directly informs cruelty prevention/response approaches and techniques
- Approach – the study design is justified and appropriate to achieve the project goals (e.g., the study is adequately powered to answer the questions, the statistical analysis is appropriate, ethical issues are addressed, the project timeline is logical and feasible).
- Potential impact – the potential for the research to substantially strengthen cruelty prevention and response in the United States.
- Generalizability – the results can be used by many stakeholders in different settings.
- Credentials – the ability of the team to carry out the work.

Timeline:

Interested applicants should complete an application via the following link by Monday, October 25, 2021, at 5 p.m. ET: <https://airtable.com/shr5266mXhh5tczSM>

Finalists will be notified via email on or around Monday, November 15, 2021, and invited to complete a formal application in our grant management system.

Funding decisions are expected before December 31, 2021.

How to Apply

For application inquiries, please contact ASPCAResearch@aspca.org.

All eligible, interested organizations are invited to [submit an application](#) for consideration with the following information:

- Basic Organization Details:
 - Federal Tax ID/Employer Identification Number (EIN)

- Organization Contact and Primary Investigator information
- For 501(c)(3) organizations, you will be asked:
 - If your 501(c)(3) exemption is current
 - If you're in good standing with the Secretary of State in the state where you are incorporated.
 - This means that you meet all state-imposed requirements, which may include: filing reports/forms, paying required fees, appointing a registered agent, etc.
 - If you aren't sure, go to your state's Secretary of State's website (or do an online search for: your State, "secretary of state," "business search") and look up your organization.
 - If your board includes at least 4 Board members
 - If the majority of your board is independent
 - This means that fewer than half of your Board members can be paid employees and/or family members or close relatives
 - If your board chair and treasurer are not compensated by the organization
- Amount of grant funding requested
- Project Title

You will be asked to provide the following as attachments (page numbers = single-spaced; please use 11- or 12-point font):

- Brief description of the project leadership team/ key personnel (1 page): provide a list of team members and their credentials, and a brief explanation of why your team is well-positioned to carry out this work.
- Biosketch, CV, or resume for all key research personnel (no page limit).
- Project description and justification (1,500 to 2500 words). Please include:
 - *Project title*
 - *Background/Significance*: explicitly address how the project meets the criteria of the grant program and will empower communities to prevent and respond effectively to cruelty.
 - *Research question(s)*: clearly stated research question(s) or aims, including hypotheses to be tested.
 - *Methods*: description of the planned research methods, including the sample, research design, and planned statistical analyses.
 - *Impact*: description of how the results will be used to inform and advance policy and/or practice, along with a plan for disseminating the findings and measuring the impact of the research. Please include specific conferences and scientific journals you will target in your dissemination efforts.

- Project timeline (1 page): include anticipated start and end dates, major project milestones (e.g., data collection, analysis), and timeline for dissemination of project findings.
- Budget (1 page): total amount requested, along with a breakdown of income and expenses for the project if it were to receive the requested funding. If the total project cost is higher than the amount requested, explain how the project will be fully funded.
- How you learned about this grant opportunity
- Required supporting documents (for finalists asked to submit a formal grant request):
 - Most recently filed Form 990
 - Prior year Form 990
 - Budget vs. Actual report for most recently ended fiscal year (income and expenses)
 - Approved budget for current fiscal year (This is the original budget document as it existed prior to the start of the fiscal year.)
 - Most recently completed audited financial statement, unaudited financial statement, OR previous fiscal year's balance sheet
 - Current board list, including the year joined, and biographies or resumes for the board chair, treasurer, and executive director. (Biographies or resumes for other board members optional.)