

ASPCA 2025 National Shelter Grants Initiative: Psychological Health

Psychological Health Application Questions

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

- Funding category you are applying for: *(limited to one application and to one category per organization)*
 - Animal Outcomes
 - Access to Veterinary Care
 - Animal Psychological Health

Eligible funding options include, but are not limited to: professional consults for shelter or community animals (e.g., behaviorists; consultations and follow-up with a credentialed (IAABC, CPDT) trainer), play yard/enclosure build (including catios), kennel/cage improvements (e.g., portals; double sided dog runs; fencing off-leash areas; visual barriers; soundproofing), staff training and retention (e.g., low-stress handling certifications), supplies (e.g., food dispensing toys; scratching pads), costs to provide low-cost remote and/or in-home consultations, enrichment (e.g., cost of actual enrichment items; cost of consultation with behavior expert specializing in shelter enrichment strategies/structure), setting up or expanding playgroups (examples: e.g., supplies and facilities expenses; shade sails; fencing; training; staffing), equipment

- Basic Organization Details:
 - Federal Tax ID/Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 - Organization primary contact name, title and email address
 - Organization signatory name, title and email address
(person authorized to sign a grant agreement)
 - Current fiscal year budget revenue amount
 - Current fiscal year budget expense amount
 - Is your organization a physical facility that houses animals available for adoption?
 - Organization Type:
 - Nonprofit
 - Animal shelter with a government contract
(defined as a private/nonprofit agency with a physical facility and a contract for animal control and/or housing services)
 - Animal shelter without a government contract
(defined as a private/nonprofit agency with a physical facility)
 - Government animal services

(defined as an entity operated by a city or county providing animal control or housing services)

- Other
 - If Other, what type of organization?
- For nonprofit organizations, you will be asked:
 - If your IRS 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 for their services as an officer, employee, or independent contractor for the organization
 - If your charitable registration is current/active in the state of the Grantee's primary location (for grants >=\$25,000)
- Required documents:
 - For requests < \$25K:
 - for non-profits: current fiscal year budget, most current 990, current Board List
 - for government animal services: signed Form W9
 - For requests ≥\$25K:
 - For non-profits: current fiscal year budget, most current 990, current Board List, prior year balance sheet or financial statement, board chair bio, board treasurer bio, director bio
 - For government animal services: signed Form W9
- Animal Shelter Data:
 - If you report data to Shelter Animals Count

(Shelters are strongly encouraged to consider reporting if they are not already. Find out more here: [Shelter Animals Count](#))
 - 2024 intake and adoption totals by Species
 - 2025 Jan-July intake and adoptions by Species
 - Approximate current length of stay (LOS) by species and how that is calculated

- Amount of grant funding requested
- [Budget for how the grant funding will be spent](#)
- Proposal Title
- Description of how the grant funding would address the needs/challenges of your organization and/or community, including the specific activities to be implemented to address those challenges/needs
 - If proposal includes a permanent staff position, how you will sustain it beyond the grant term
- The information and/or measures you will use to know if the activities outlined in your proposal achieve the results you expect
- Anything else you'd like to share

Psychological Health Specific Questions

- Assessment of your organization's current ability to effectively provide for animals' psychological health in your care
 - not at all able
 - slightly able
 - somewhat able
 - very able
- Biggest behavior challenge(s) your organization faces among animals you are, or could be, serving
 - High arousal, hyperactivity, "jumpy/mouthy"
 - Human-directed aggression/reactivity
 - Aggression/reactivity toward their own species
 - Aggression/reactivity toward another animal species
 - Unruly, lacking of manners or basic training
 - Inappropriate urination, defecation, marking or spraying
 - Destruction issues
 - Excessive vocalization
 - Separation anxiety behaviors
 - Anti-social but not aggressive
 - Fearful but not aggressive or reactive
 - Depressed, shut down
 - Other (please describe):
- Top 3 most important selections from above in order and why you selected the ones you did
- Most significant barriers that your organization faces to providing behavioral care for animals in your shelter/rescue
 - Insufficient staffing

- Lack of staff time
- Staff don't have the applicable expertise
- High turnover
- Insufficient funding
- Staff burnout
- Challenges balancing medical and behavioral needs
- Behavior challenges limiting adoption interest
- Lack of post adoption support
- Lack of behavior modification and training resources
- Lack of environmental enrichment
- Lack of suitable space to provide for behavioral needs
- Lack of equipment/tools/materials
- Lack of volunteer/foster support
- Long LOS exacerbating behavioral challenges
- Challenges making behavioral euthanasia decisions
- Challenges accessing or administering pharmacological support
- Other (please describe):
- Top 3 most important selections from above in order and why you selected the ones you did
- Proportion of your animal population that experiences behavioral challenges that negatively impacts their welfare (best estimate)
 - 0%
 - 1-25%
 - 26-50%
 - 51-75%
 - 76-100%
 - NA
- Types of behavior these animals displayed prior to humane euthanasia (Details about specific animals are welcome)
- Proportion of your animal population humanely euthanized due to behavior challenges (best estimate)
 - 0%
 - 1-25%
 - 26-50%
 - 51-75%
 - 76-100%
 - NA
- Types of behavior these animals displayed prior to humane euthanasia (Details about specific animals are welcome)

By submitting an application for an ASPCA grant, you agree to allow the ASPCA to utilize the information submitted on such application in any way it deems appropriate to support its mission to prevent cruelty to animals, including fundraising. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, reproducing such information in print or on the ASPCA website and/ or allowing third parties to access such information. In addition, by submitting this application, you hereby certify that the requesting organization is aware of and endorses this request and the information herein and you are authorized to submit this application on behalf of the requesting organization.

Acknowledgment of Submission of Application to ASPCA: ☐