

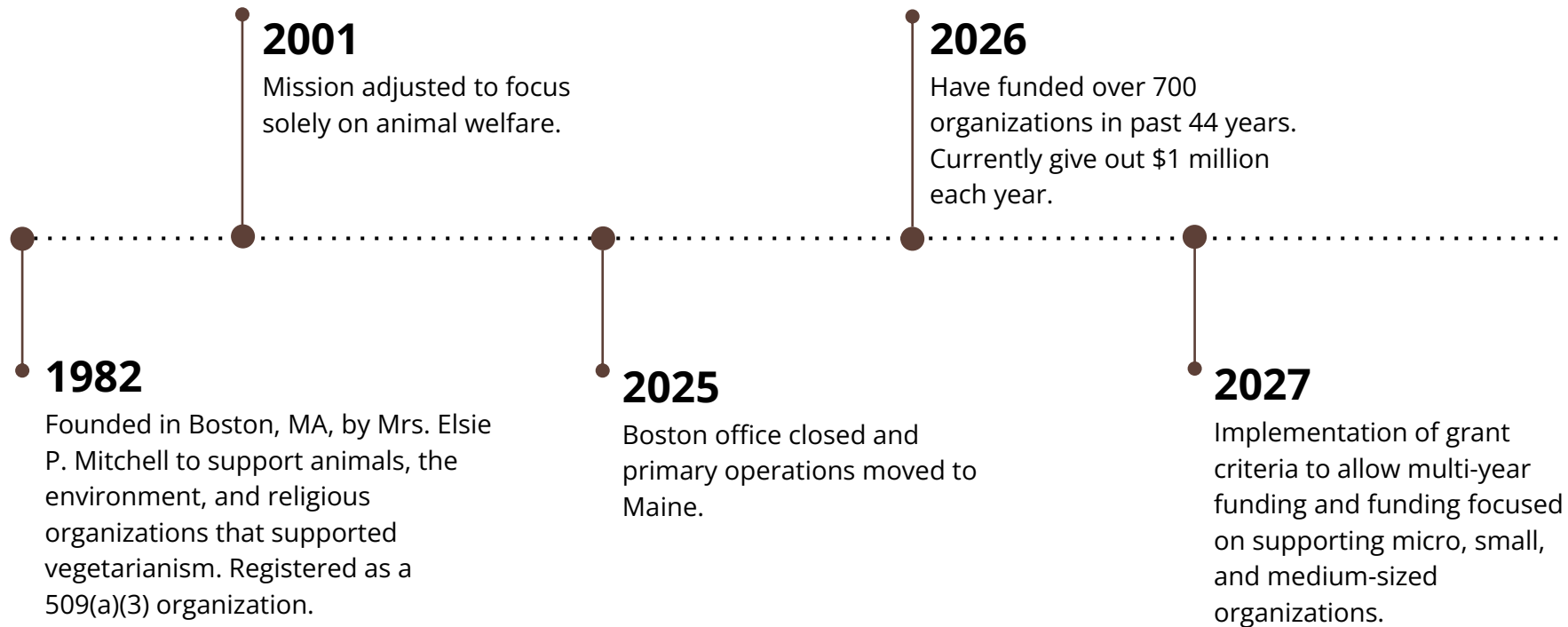
AHIMSA
FOUNDATION



Grant Cycle Updates

Effective in Spring 2027

Ahimsa Foundation History



Ahimsa Foundation Supports...



Diverse Wildlife/ Small Animals



Ahimsa Foundation Structure

Mitchell Trustees

Two volunteer trustees that are appointed because they are members of Mrs. Mitchell's family.

Representative Supported Organization Trustees

Three volunteer trustees that are appointed on behalf of organizations that receive funds from the Ahimsa Foundation.

Supported Organizations

You! Nearly 80 organizations apply for grant funding each year.

Executive Administrator

This paid position provides administrative support for the foundation and manages the grant funding process. Jen Bonnett is the current EA.

The five volunteer Trustees and the Executive Administrator conduct reviews on grant applications twice a year.

Why the Changes?

Impact

To keep the focus on micro, small, and medium-sized organizations where the foundation feels its grant funding can make the most impact on animals.

Sustainability

To ensure that the foundation provides investments into organizations that will continue impacting animals into the future.

Due Diligence

To support organizations that demonstrate responsible oversight in all areas of their organization.

Diverse Funding

To ensure organizations are not dependent on Ahimsa Foundation funding.

General Funding Guidelines

Funding Cap #1

Will not grant funds exceeding 10% of an organization's total prior-year revenue.

Intended to ensure the Ahimsa Foundation is not providing inordinately high support to any organization.

Funding Cap #2

Grant awards will generally not exceed \$25,000 per year.

Intended to ensure grant awards stay in line with funds available for distribution and number of supported organizations.

Org. Budget Cap

Will not accept funding applications from organizations with annual operating budgets consistently exceeding \$5.5 million.

Intended to keep the focus on organization's that can be most impacted by awards.

Annual Animal Care Funding

- Primarily awarded for direct animal care expenses, such as food, veterinary care, animal supplies, medications, etc.
- Grant cycles will still take place in Spring and Fall each year.
- Will remain invitation-only.
- Will complete an initial Letter of Intent form to ensure minimum criteria eligibility.
- Will complete a shortened grant application focusing on animal care information.



Annual Animal Care Funding

Organizational Governance & Leadership Criteria

1. Minimum of three members on the board of directors, with members holding a minimum of the following offices: President/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary/Clerk. The majority of members should be independent and unrelated. The board member identified as President/Chair should not also hold the Treasurer position.

- Intended to ensure some measure of checks and balances, particularly for organizations where the governing board is also running daily operations and is founder-led.

2. Must be registered in the United States of America as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The organization must operate as a public charity, not a private foundation.

- Intended to ensure the foundation only funds organizations recognized by the U.S. government as charitable institutions, as outlined in the Declaration of Trust for the Ahimsa Foundation.

Annual Animal Care Funding

Fiscal Management Criteria

1. Ability to submit basic, clear, accurate financial reports, including an annual budget with revenue/expenses and actual prior year revenue/expenses in U.S. dollars. We expect full transparency in financials, including grant/foundation, bequest, reserve/emergency, in-kind/non-cash contributions, and endowment information.

- Intended to ensure an organization is transparent about all types of support and is fiscally accountable to stakeholders.

2. Must maintain a minimum of one other grant/foundation funder other than the Ahimsa Foundation. These are foundations/grants that you make an application to in order to receive funding.

- Intended to ensure that the Ahimsa Foundation is not the only philanthropic organization providing funding.

3. Must submit, by the requested due date, a Grant Impact Report for prior Ahimsa Foundation funding. Failure to do so will render the organization ineligible for its next applicable grant round.

- Intended to ensure accountability for received funds.

Annual Animal Care Funding

Animal Impact Criteria

1. Demonstrate safe and appropriate animal care practices (nutrition, housing/exercise, medical care, sterilization/birth control, euthanasia, safety measures, adoption/sanctuary). See Animal Care Guiding Principles for more information.

- Intended to ensure that the organization's practices align with the Ahimsa Foundation's guiding principles for animal treatment. The foundation prioritizes funding for organizations that demonstrate these principles in their animal care practices.

Multi-Year Funding

- Awarded for animal care and/or general operating expenses (excluding fundraising and capital expenses).
- Aimed at organizations that have demonstrated nonprofit best practices, including diversified funding streams.
- Grant cycles will still take place in Spring and Fall each year.
- Will be pre-selected by the Ahimsa Foundation and invited to apply for this specific funding.
- Will complete an initial Letter of Intent form to ensure minimum criteria eligibility.
- Will complete one thorough application every three years, with short Grant Impact Reports submitted annually.
- Contact Jen to be added to the multi-year funding invitation list.

Multi-Year Funding

Organizational Governance & Leadership Criteria

1. Minimum of five non-staff members on the board of directors, with members holding a minimum of the following offices: President/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary/Clerk. The majority of members should be independent and unrelated. Staff members who serve on the board should be considered ex officio members without official voting status and should not hold a board office.

- Intended to ensure that an organization's daily operations and governance are not carried out by the same individuals, which can create conflicts of interest and undermine checks and balances. It also helps clarify the roles of the governing board vs. staff (paid or unpaid).

2. No direct conflict of interest between the President of the Board of Directors and the manager of daily operations (whether paid or unpaid). For example, the Board President cannot also serve as the Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, or lead the organization's daily operations.

- Intended to eliminate an inherent and significant conflict of interest that is not considered best practice.

Multi-Year Funding

Organizational Governance & Leadership Criteria Cont.

3. Demonstrate qualified leadership by sharing background information on organization directors/trustees and executive staff (whether paid or unpaid).

- Intended to ensure that suitable and qualified individuals govern the organization and lead daily operations.

4. Written and regularly reviewed succession and strategic plans.

- Intended to ensure the organization's sustainability and the continued care of the animals it supports.

5. Must be registered in the United States of America as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The organization must operate as a public charity, not a private foundation.

- Intended to ensure the foundation only funds organizations recognized by the U.S. government as charitable institutions, as outlined in the Declaration of Trust for the Ahimsa Foundation.

Multi-Year Funding

Fiscal Management Criteria

1. Ability to submit detailed, professional, clear, and accurate financial reports, including an annual budget with revenue/expenses and actual prior year revenue/expenses in U.S. dollars that demonstrate fiscal responsibility and diverse funding streams. We expect full transparency in financials, including grant/foundation, bequest, reserve/emergency, in-kind/non-cash contributions, and endowment information.

- Intended to ensure an organization is transparent about all types of support, is fiscally accountable to stakeholders, and demonstrates diverse funding streams.

2. Must maintain multiple other grant/foundation funders other than the Ahimsa Foundation. These are foundations/grants that you make an application to in order to receive funding.

- Intended to ensure diverse funding by other philanthropic organizations.

3. A minimum of five years of successful grant funding through the Ahimsa Foundation.

- Intended to ensure the Ahimsa Foundation has sufficient exposure to the organization to feel comfortable providing multi-year funding.

4. Must submit, by the requested due dates, annual Grant Impact Reports for prior Ahimsa Foundation funding. Failure to do so will render the organization ineligible for its next applicable grant round.

- Intended to ensure accountability for received funds.

Multi-Year Funding

Animal Impact Criteria

1. Demonstrate safe and appropriate animal care practices (nutrition, housing/exercise, medical care, sterilization/birth control, euthanasia, safety measures, adoption/sanctuary). See Animal Care Guiding Principles for more information.

- Intended to ensure that the organization's practices align with the Ahimsa Foundation's guiding principles for animal treatment. The foundation prioritizes funding for organizations that demonstrate these principles in their animal care practices.

2. Willingness to mentor smaller organizations funded by the Ahimsa Foundation that are looking to refine and expand their comparable services.

- Intended to support an increase in the capacity and impact of smaller Ahimsa Foundation-funded organizations.

Questions?

Place questions in the chat box. If questions are highly specific to your organization, please email me instead and we will find a time to connect separately.



Multi-Year Funding Question:

Org. Governance & Leadership Criteria #2

The criteria states that there should be no conflict of interest between the Board President and manager of daily operations (i.e. Board President should not also serve as Executive Director).

We do not have anyone currently employed in an Executive Director position. Certain functions that would be handled by an Executive Director, such as grant writing and donor cultivation, are handled by the Board of Directors.

We do have a Shelter Director, who is responsible for daily operations. Staff report to her and she reports to the Board President.

Does this structure meet the "no conflict" criteria.

Answer:

Yes, it meets the "no conflict" criteria. Your board is assisting with fundraising functions, which is part of a board's duty to a nonprofit organization, even if, ideally, an Executive Director would perform some of the functions you mention. Your shelter director is currently responsible for daily operations and reports to the board. For the intents of this criteria, that provides the separation of roles that is important for this criteria.

The board governs, and the staff manages.

The board sets the mission, ensures legal and financial compliance, and oversees the Executive Director.

Staff, led by the Executive Director or similar, execute day-to-day operations and implement the board's strategic vision.

Multi-Year Funding Question:

What funding amount should we ask for?

Answer:

Ask for what you need, keeping in mind the funding caps of no more than 10% of your annual revenue and no more than \$25,000 per year.

You will likely need to complete a simple grant budget along with your funding request, that tells us what you want money to spend and how much.

Example:

Veterinary Care: \$15,000

Heat & Electricity: \$10,000

Organization Size Question:

Please define micro, small, and medium-sized organizations.

Answer:

For Ahimsa Foundation funding purposes, we consider these annual budget sizes:

Micro: Under \$100,000

Small: Under \$1 million

Medium: Under \$5.5 million



Grant Management System Question:

Why the change to Foundant?

Answer:

It is a grant management system that not only allows the foundation to accept applications and manage follow-up forms, but is a storehouse for all information about organizations. It is intended to streamline the foundation's backend work, as well as the application process for organizations. It also allows organizations to see their grant history with the foundation in one easy place (look under "Requests" while logged into your account).



Grant Resource Question:

Where are the resources to find other grant funding opportunities?

Answer:

Scroll to the bottom of the below webpage under > Helpful Resources > Animal Welfare Resources and Grants.

ahimsafoundationboston.org/grant-funding



Organizational Governance Question:

A volunteer for the organization cannot serve as a board member?

Answer:

Yes, they can. However, for those applying for multi-year funding, the separation of roles between governance (board) and volunteer (daily operations) should be clear. As long as the volunteer is not in charge of daily operations (i.e. serving in a volunteer Executive Director role while also being the Board President), it will likely not be a problem.



Grant Reports Question:

Is there a difference between the old Grant Reports and the newer Grant Impact Reports?

Answer:

The only difference is the impact reports want to hear how foundation funding is impacting your organization and the animals you serve. The past reports focused more on what you spent the funding on. The trustees like to hear how the funds impact the animals!



Grant Funding Question:

If two organizations who have historically received Ahimsa Foundation funding want to collaborate on a project, should they both apply individually?

Answer:

I love this idea! Please share the idea with me via email or phone. I would need to talk with the trustees about how they want to proceed.

Jen@AhimsaFoundationBoston.org

(857) 248-5007



Multi-Year Funding Question:

Are multi-year grants capped at \$25,000 also?

Answer:

For now, yes, \$25,000 per year. The total 3-year award would be \$75,000, with a grant check received each year for \$25,000 (upon submittal of the annual Grant Impact Report).

