

## **Page: Grant Background Information**

Call for Proposals Opens: November 1, 2025

Call for Proposals Closes: December 15, 2025

Award announcement by: May 15, 2026

Awarded Grant Project Start date: June 1, 2026

Awarded Grant Project End date: December 1, 2027

A couple of important features of note about our AAZV Grant Management Platform

\*You can save your work and come back to it at any point prior to the Close of the Grant Application window

\*You can print off your in-progress or completed application as a pdf if you prefer to read it from paper to double check your work

\*Once you Save and Submit your Grant Proposal Application you will not be able to Edit the application

\*You can invite collaborators to help fill out the Grant Application by clicking on the Manage Collaborators button in the top right corner of the page. Collaborators can include co-authors in addition to any Institutional Financial Representatives that may have to approve of a PI's Grant Proposal prior to their application being submitted.

The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) established the Zoological Medicine and Wildlife Health Research Grant Program in 2012. Grant funding is provided by the AAZV Wild Animal Health Fund. The intent of the 18 month research grants is to support the AAZV mission to empower our members to advance our profession and enhance zoo and wild animal health, welfare, and conservation.

This grant will support multiple standard (maximum \$20,000 USD) and small (maximum \$7,500 USD) grants for a total of \$150,000 in grants funded in the 2026 grant cycle. The application process is identical for the two grant categories.

#### Grant Proposal Requirements:

At least one Principal Investigator must be a current AAZV member in good standing. Not having an AAZV member listed as a Principal Investigator will disqualify your application. A Co-Investigator or Collaborator will NOT count in this eligibility requirement. The member must maintain their AAZV membership during the duration of the grant if awarded funding. If you are not currently an AAZV member but would like to join, click [HERE](#).

Grant Proposals must be submitted to the on-line Grants Management Platform on or before the submission deadline of December 15, 2025. Paper or emailed applications will not be accepted. Late or incomplete submissions, late-arriving addenda, and proposals not conforming to the guidelines will not be reviewed.

#### Proposal Guidelines:

Describe the background, objectives, and methodology of the study in a succinct and organized fashion.

Document the investigators' expertise and institutional capabilities, and discuss the scientific merit, feasibility, and anticipated impact of the study.

Highlight the study's relevance to the AAZV mission to advance our profession and enhance zoo and wild animal health, welfare, and conservation.

Studies relying on pharmacology, imaging, pathology, diagnostic test development, or other specialized data will benefit greatly from inclusion of an expert in that field as a Co-Investigator or Collaborator.

Studies relying on an outside laboratory or facility for specialized work, particularly if assistance with data interpretation is expected, are encouraged to include a letter of support or a Collaborator from that facility.

If interested a copy of the 2025 Grant Proposal is listed here, [Proposal Template](#), so that you can view the typical information requested. Please note that the 2026 Grant Proposal must be filled out using the online Grant platform and that certain requested information may vary slightly from the previously used Proposal Template.

For managed species, and particularly for studies relying on recruitment from multiple holding institutions, a letter of support from the relevant managing group (e.g., SSP, EEP, TAG) is strongly recommended.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

Scientific merit (background; hypotheses and/or objectives; study design and methods; animal use)

Impact and relevance (AAZV mission; expected benefit to target species or ecosystem)

Feasibility (personnel; facilities; attainability of objectives; preliminary data if applicable)

Finances (appropriate expenses; adequate justification; proportion of funding from WAHF)

Technical writing (coherence and clarity; grammar and typography; literature review)

#### Evaluation Process:

The AAZV Research Grant Committee (RGC) evaluates and selects proposals for funding. The RGC is comprised of a minimum of 8 AAZV members spanning a wide range of expertise in zoo and wildlife medicine and pathology, as well as ad hoc subject matter experts as needed.

Proposal evaluation involves several phases:

1st Stage-Adherence to guidelines and eligibility; noncompliant proposals are disqualified without review

If you have any questions on your Grant Application please reach out to:  
Ginger Sturgeon, DVM  
AAZV Program Director  
ginger@aazv.org

## **Page: Eligibility Details**

### **Research Focus and Publication \***

A wide variety of research projects have been funded by the AAZV Zoological Medicine and Wildlife Health Research Grant program. Research proposals should highlight the study's relevance to the AAZV mission. Furthermore, Wild Animal Health Fund (WAHF) is committed to funding works being presented in the scientific literature. Investigators are expected to disseminate their findings via peer-reviewed publication and any other relevant outreach efforts.

### **Please check all that apply to your Research Grant Proposal**

Select one or more options

- This Grant Proposal is relevant to AAZV's mission
- If awarded Research Grant funding, I agree to disseminate findings from this Research Proposal via peer-reviewed publication
- None of these apply

### **Grantee Requirements**

During the 18 month research study period, grantees will be required to demonstrate forward progression of their research project. Grantees will be required to submit progress reports every 6 months and a final report summarizing the outcomes of the study, listing any submitted or planned publications, and providing a final budget, including actual costs in each category of the proposed budget. Final Reports are due 2 months after the end of the study period. Publication is not required prior to the final report, but the study must be complete with preliminary results and conclusions available. Reporting templates will be provided and this online platform will be used to submit that information.

Should the Grantee require consideration for methods change, budget reallocation, investigator/collaborator change or a no-cost extension, requests must be made through this online platform prior to the changes being enacted by the Grantee.

### **AAZV Membership \***

At least one Principal Investigator must be a current AAZV member in good standing. Not having an AAZV member listed as a Principal Investigator will disqualify your application. A Co-Investigator or Collaborator will NOT count in this eligibility requirement. The member must maintain their AAZV membership during the duration of the grant if awarded funding.

Do you have at least one Principal Investigator that is a current AAZV Member?

Select one option

- Yes
- No

### **Name of AAZV Member**

Please list the name of the Principle Investigator on this Grant Research Proposal that is currently an AAZV member in good standing.

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### **Page: Grant Application Information**

To help you fill out this form, we allow multiple people to work on a single application. If you would like to invite a colleague or multiple colleagues to assist you in completing your application, click the **Manage Collaborators** button at the top-right of this form. From there, you will be able to add collaborators - All you need is their name and valid e-mail address. Keep in mind that your application can only be submitted by the individual who started this application. You may also revoke a collaborator's access at any time using the same menu.

When filling out the following Investigator and Collaborator information please refer to the following descriptions:

The Principal Investigator(s) (PI) is the person/people primarily responsible for conducting the study and communicating with AAZV. Multiple PIs may be listed in the case of shared primary responsibility; this situation is particularly common when one PI is a trainee, and their advisor serves as an additional PI. The Primary PI should be the person formally associated with the institution that will be receiving grant funding if awarded.

Whenever the PIs will be relying on active participation of another expert, they should be included as a Co-Investigator or Collaborator. For example, pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic studies should include a pharmacologist; imaging studies should include a radiologist; etc. The PI(s) themselves may be those experts; if not, the person performing that role should be named as a Co-Investigator or Collaborator. While a board-certified specialist is not necessarily required, the person performing the work should have a demonstrable record of publication in the field.

The distinction between Co-Investigators and Collaborators is somewhat arbitrary, but typically depends on the expected level of responsibility for the study as a whole. Co-Investigators are usually extensively involved in study design and execution, whereas Collaborators may provide a specialized service or consultation but are not responsible for the direction or execution of the study. The expected contribution of a Co-Investigator or Collaborator should be stated in the Personnel section of the grant proposal or in a letter of support attached at the end of the proposal.

A maximum two-page CV MUST BE uploaded for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator. Failure to do so will disqualify the Grant Proposal Application.

### **Primary Principal Investigator's First Name \***

The Primary Principal Investigator should be the person associated with the Institution that will be receiving grant funding if the Grant Proposal is approved and funding is awarded. This person will be the primary contact for the grant and all grant related agreements. If a trainee is a PI it is recommended that the advisor that is supervising the work be listed as the Primary Principal Investigator.

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### **Primary Principal Investigator's Last Name \***

The Primary Principal Investigator should be the person associated with the Institution that will be receiving grant funding if the Grant Proposal is approved and funding is awarded. This person will be the primary contact for the grant and all grant related agreements. If a trainee is a PI it is recommended that the advisor that is supervising the work be listed as the Primary Principal Investigator.

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**Primary Principal Investigator's Degree(s) \***

Degree(s) held

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**Primary Principal Investigator's Email Address \***

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**Are you a member of AAZV? \***

Select one option

- Yes
- No

**Primary Principal Investigator's CV \***

Please upload the CV for the Primary Principal Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application.

[File Upload]

**Primary Principal Investigator's Institution \***

Institution name

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**Primary Principal Investigator's Institution Mailing Address \***

Institution mailing address will be used to send funding checks if the Grant is awarded.

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**Financial Remittance Contact Name \***

List the First and Last name for the Contact that will receive financial remittance correspondence. In large institutions/organizations this is often the Director of Grants/Finance Dept/etc. In small organizations this may be the same person listed as the Primary Principal Investigator.

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**Financial Remittance Contact's Email \***

Email Address for Financial Remittance Contact above

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**Secondary Principal Investigator**

If applicable, list the First and Last Name of the Secondary Principal Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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**Secondary Principal Investigator's Degree(s)**

Degree(s) held

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**Secondary Principal Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Secondary Principal Investigator

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**Secondary Principal Investigator's Institution****Secondary Principal Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Secondary Principal Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Primary Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

**Is the Secondary Principal Investigator an AAZV Member?**

Select one option

- Yes
- No

**Please enter your member number**

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**Tertiary Principal Investigator**

If applicable, list the First and Last Name of Tertiary Principal Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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**Tertiary Principal Investigator's Degree(s)**

Degree(s) held

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**Tertiary Principal Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Tertiary Principal Investigator

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**Tertiary Principal Investigator's Institution****Tertiary Principal Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Tertiary Principal Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Primary Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

**Is the Tertiary Principal Investigator an AAZV Member?**

Select one option

- Yes
- No

**Please enter your member number**

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**Primary Co-Investigator**

List the Name, Degrees, Institution and expected contribution for the Primary Co-Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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**Primary Co-Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Primary Co-Investigator

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**Primary Co-Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Primary Co-Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Co-Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

### **Secondary Co-Investigator**

List the Name, Degrees, Institution and expected contribution for the Secondary Co-Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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### **Secondary Co-Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Primary Co-Investigator

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### **Secondary Co-Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Secondary Co-Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Co-Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

### **Tertiary Co-Investigator**

List the Name, Degrees, Institution and expected contribution for the Tertiary Co-Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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### **Tertiary Co-Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Tertiary Co-Investigator

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### **Tertiary Co-Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Tertiary Co-Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Co-Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

### **Quaternary Co-Investigator**

List the Name, Degrees, Institution and expected contribution for the Quaternary Co-Investigator. If not applicable, leave blank.

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### **Quaternary Co-Investigator's Email Address**

Email Address for the Quaternary Co-Investigator

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### **Quaternary Co-Investigator's CV**

Please upload the CV for the Quaternary Co-Investigator. There is a MAXIMUM size of 2 pages. Going over this maximum will disqualify the Grant Proposal application. If a Co-Investigator is listed it is required to upload their CV.

[File Upload]

**Collaborator(s)**

List the Name(s), Degree(s), Institution(s), Email Address(s) and expected contribution for all Collaborators. If not applicable, leave blank.

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**Research Proposal Title \***

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**Research location \***

Location(s) where research will be conducted. Please list all locales and include a summary of the facilities and capabilities of the site if relevant.

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**Award Category \***

We offer 2 sizes of research grant funding. The Standard Grant is \$20,000 USD maximum. The Small Grant is \$7,500 maximum. All monies are dispensed as US dollars and exchange rates are institution specific.

Select one option

- Standard Grant \$20,000 USD maximum
- Small Grant \$7,500 USD maximum

**Research Funds Requested \***

List the amount of Research Funds requested in USD

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**Resubmission \***

Is this proposal a revision of a previously submitted AAZV Research Grant Proposal? If yes, list year applied and previous title.

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**Publication Funds**

Publication funding may be requested if no institutional or other support is available. Publication funding must be selected at the time of proposal submission but is not included in the research grant and will be disbursed via a separate request at the time of publication, which may be after the research study has finished. Publication funding is not restricted to a specific amount or percentage of the grant budget. However, the JZWM Manuscript Processing and Page Publication Fees, and all costs associated with non-JZWM publication, count toward the maximum small or standard grant (\$7,500 or \$20,000) and reduce the allowable amount for research costs. The JZWM Open Access Publication Fee may be requested in addition to the maximum grant amount. Funding does not guarantee publication.

Select ONE option.

Select one option

- No publication funding is requested
- JZWM Open Access (Manuscript Processing, Page Publication, and Open Access)
- JZWM Closed Access (Processing and Page Publication)
- Non-JZWM publication

**Total Publication Costs requested in USD \***

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**Total Publication Costs requested in USD**

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**Total Publication Costs requested in USD \***

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**Itemization of Publication Costs \***

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**Page: Executive Summary**

## **Executive Summary \***

This Executive Summary should concisely describe your Research Proposal. Include the following headers as applicable: Background, Objectives, Hypothesis, Animals, Procedures, and Expected Relevance. This Executive Summary will be reviewed by all members of the AAZV Research Grant Committee and results will determine if the Research Grant Proposal will move on to the 3rd and final review stage. Word count limited to 515.

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## **Page: Full Grant Proposal**

### **Title \***

List the Title of your Research Grant Proposal

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### **Species \***

List the Scientific and Common names. Please note that special formatting ie. italics are not available in this text box. Word Count limited to 250.

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## **Background, Justification, Hypotheses and/or Objectives \***

Detail your project's background, justification, hypothesis and/or objectives in this section. If you want to include any figures, tables or pictures please include those in the Appendix section where you can upload a document. Citations can be listed as Author's last name and year or by plain text numeral. Full citations will go in the Literature Cited Section. Special formatting such as superscript, italics and bold are not supported by this text box. Paragraph spacing will be maintained in formatting if you would like to include spacing in between sections. Word Count limited to 1200.

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## **Materials and Methods \***

Provide a succinct description of all study procedures including data analysis and disposition of experimental animal if applicable. If you want to include any figures, tables or pictures please include those in the Appendix section where you can upload a document. Citations can be listed as Author's last name and year or by plain text numeral as superscript formatting is available. Full citations will go in the Literature Cited Section.

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**Animal Use \***

Studies involving animals or samples from animals must include an assessment of welfare. If the home institution has an IACUC or other welfare committee, indicate the approval status of the proposed study.

Select one option

- Approved
- Pending Approval
- Denied
- Not Applicable
- My home institution does not have an IACUC or Welfare Committee

**Letter of Support from Director \***

Since your organization does not have a IACUC or Welfare Committee please upload a Letter of Support from your institutional Director. This letter should speak to the project ensuring that animal care and welfare for the proposed study have been reviewed and approved.

[File Upload]

**IACUC 1 Upload**

Upload IACUC 1 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**IACUC 2 Upload**

Upload IACUC 2 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**IACUC 3 Upload**

Upload IACUC 3 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**Terminal Study Design \***

Does this study involve live animals that includes death or euthanasia as an expected endpoint?

Select one option

- Yes
- No

**Yes, this is a terminal study \***

Please provide additional pertinent details related to the terminal portion of the study proposal

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**Permit Required? \***

Are any government or agency permits required for this study?

Select one or more options

- Yes, Received approval
- Yes, Approval pending
- Yes, but permit was denied
- No, no permit is required

**Permit Denied \***

For consideration of the Research Grant if a Permit is required an approved Permit must be obtained prior to the dissemination of final research funds. Please detail when you will apply for the permit again and why you feel the new permit will be approved.

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**Permit Information**

If any government or agency Permits for your Study are required please list the permits, their date applied for, and their date approved. If a permit is still pending, list Pending. Approved Permits are not required for proposal submission but pending permits and expected approval timeline are considered when accessing feasibility of the study in the proposal evaluation process. Documentation of approval must be submitted to the online Grant portal when received and must be received PRIOR to final disbursement of the grant research funds.

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**Permit 1 Upload**

Upload Permit 1 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**Permit 2 Upload**

Upload Permit 2 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**Permit 3 Upload**

Upload Permit 3 if applicable.

[File Upload]

**Research Timeline \***

Provide a timeline of your research project including significant milestones such as:

- 1) Prepare materials and hire personnel
- 2) Conduct fieldwork and/or collect samples and/or conduct labwork
- 3) Analyze data
- 4) Prepare manuscript.

Please note that your timeline must fit into the 2026 AAZV Research timeline with all awarded grants having a Project Start date of June 1, 2026 and a Project End Date of December 1, 2027 with final reports due February 1, 2027.

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## **Dissemination \***

Describe your plans to disseminate the results of this study, including presentations, peer-reviewed and/or non-peer reviewed publications, and any other outreach efforts. Indicated target journal(s) for publication. AAZV strongly encourages publication in the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine when appropriate. Word count limited to 250.

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Please pay particular attention to the budget guidelines that appeared in the General Information section of this Grant Program or you can refer to the Research Grants Program FAQ section here <https://www.aazv.org/page/GrantQuestions> Not following the guidelines can disqualify your proposal from consideration.

Important Exclusions and limitations:

Institutional overhead or indirect costs are not permitted.

Funds cannot be used for any percentage of capital equipment purchases.

Durable equipment must be essential to the study; total may not exceed 25% of the grant.

Funds cannot be used for any percentage of income or tuition for Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators, or Collaborators.

Stipends are allowed for short-term technical assistants or students hired for the study, or consultants with a limited fee-for-service role; total may not exceed 25% of the grant.

Travel costs (fare, food, lodging) are allowed only for short-term technical assistants or students hired for the study, or student/trainee investigators; total may not exceed 25% of the grant.

### Budget Table \*

Complete the Budget Table below with the costs required for the research work to be performed. All amounts must be converted to and listed as USD. Examples of 'Expenses' are Sample Collection, Laboratory Analysis, Travel, etc. AAZV Grant is the amount of AAZV Grant funds you would use to pay for this expense. Other sources include contributions by the investigators' home institution, competitive grants or other donations. Remaining balance is any amount still needed after funding by WAHF and other listed sources. Total cost is the Total Cost for that expense to include the proposed AAZV Grant, Other Funding Sources, and Remaining Balance. Publication costs are addressed below and should NOT be included in this table, but the maximum allowable research grant (\$7,500 or \$20,000) is reduced by the amount of JZWM Manuscript Processing and Page Publication Fees, or by the entire amount of non-JZWM costs, if publication funding is requested below. In this section you will enter the 'Item/Expense' and note how much of that expense is covered by a funding source. In the next section you will give the total amounts of each funding source/remaining balance and total costs to perform the Research Proposal. Please note that columns are maintained but the words may not line up directly underneath the header. This is expected and will not need additional formatting by the author.

Expenses
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### Total Budget USD\$ by Funding Source \*

In this section note the total amounts each funding source/remaining expense that is used to cover the entirety of your research proposal budget. Numbers are the totals from the above chart when the columns are added. All amounts should be listed in US Dollars. For example if \$6,000 of your research proposal will be covered by the AAZV grant, \$750 will be covered by your institution and \$250 of funding is remaining to be secured you would note:

AAZV Grant: \$6000  
Other Sources: \$750  
Remaining Balance: \$250  
Total Budget Cost: \$7000

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**Budget Justification \***

In addition to the above table, provide budget justification detailing:  
The source of any matching funds or funds from other sources  
The intended recipient(s) (by name or by role) of stipend or travel funding  
Explanatory information such as cost per sample, expected number of items, etc.  
Pending applications or plans to secure any remaining balance required, or contingency considerations if pending applications to other funding sources are not successful.

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**Literature Cited \***

List Literature Cited used within your Grant Proposal text using the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine (JZWM) guidelines. Literature Cited MUST adhere to JZWM guidelines. Visit the Author Instructions for JZWM (<https://www.aazv.org/page/448>) for current guidelines. Special formatting ex. italics is NOT available. Paragraph spacing will be maintained.

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### **Letter of Support**

If applicable, upload a Letter of Support. Letters of Support can come from Collaborators, Facilities or Species Management organizations. This section is not required.

[File Upload]

### **2nd Letter of Support**

If applicable, upload a 2nd Letter of Support. Letters of Support can come from Collaborators, Facilities or Species Management organizations. This section is not required.

[File Upload]

### **3rd Letter of Support**

If applicable, upload a 3rd Letter of Support. Letters of Support can come from Collaborators, Facilities or Species Management organizations. This section is not required.

[File Upload]

### **Appendix**

If you wish to upload any figures, tables or images that would supplement your proposal background or justification please upload your document here. Please place all figures, tables and images into 1 document prior to upload.

[File Upload]

If you are still editing your application only click on the save button below. This will save your work but ensure that you can continue to edit your application. If ALL editing is complete and your application is ready to submit then click on the SAVE and FINALIZE button. This will complete your application and notify admins that your proposal is ready for review. Once you click SAVE and FINALIZE you will no longer be able to edit your application.