



Wildlife Health and Disease Crowd-Funded Grants Challenge 2022

WDA is once again partnering with the crowdfunding site Experiment to run a challenge grant for Wildlife Health and Disease. During the 2020 challenge grants researchers raised more than \$27,000 in support of 7 projects.

To be eligible proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Involve a significant health or disease issue in free-ranging aquatic or terrestrial wildlife.
2. Have implications for wildlife populations and ecosystems in which wildlife live.
3. Emphasize species conservation or application of a One Health approach.

Examples of past successful crowdfunding grants:

[Is habitat quality a key factor in determining whether koalas develop chlamydial disease?](#)

[Can We utilize natural bat colony behavior as a vaccination strategy?](#)

[Building an active surveillance system for lead in Northeastern wildlife](#)

[Which marine mammal eats the most microplastics?](#)

[Is lead toxicity a contributing factor to large scale songbird population decline?](#)

[How do different strains of canine distemper virus alter disease outcomes for wildlife?](#)

[Probiotics for wild boreal toads facing a deadly fungal disease](#)

[Investigating the role of innate immune function in snakes battling fungal disease](#)

The crowdfunding process is different from traditional grant funding. Successfully crowdfunded grants are typically smaller grants for smaller projects, and they should be written to appeal to the public rather than to scientists. The median amount raised for successful proposals is \$4,000-5,000.

Application is quite straightforward. On average it takes only a few hours to create and submit a profile onto the Experiment.com platform. If you look at any previous project you will see the questions that are asked and the average length of responses.

Experiment puts out the initial call and coaches' researchers through the process of getting their grants ready for the crowdfunding campaign. WDA and Experiment will review each proposal for eligibility and clarity. Campaigns will launch on June 1st and it is the responsibility of the researcher to take advantage of the coaching provided by Experiment to ensure that their grant succeeds.

Although both Experiment and WDA publicize the campaign, grant submitters bear the primary responsibility to find supporters and advocates as well as to promote and publicize their grants. On-going coaching by Experiment will be provided.

In additional to the amount raised from the crowdfunding, WDA will provide 6 incentive prizes for those projects that have the greatest number of donors regardless of the actual amount raised.

Two awards on the 21st day of campaign (membership status by the 20th day of the campaign is for the primary investigator of the project):

1st place: \$1500 or projects where PI is a WDA member, \$1000 for non-member

2nd place: \$1000 for projects where PI is a WDA member, \$500 for non-member

Four awards on the 30th day of the campaign, an additional four prizes will be awarded to the top 4 proposals (excluding the 2 winning proposals from the 21st) with the greatest number of supporters and whose primary investigator is a WDA member:

3rd-6th place: \$300 for projects where PI is a WDA member

Key Dates are:

April 4th – May 9th – Grant preparation and submission

May 9th – submission deadline

May 17th – Campaign coaching and strategy development period with Experiment staff.

Launch June 1st – Crowdfunding campaign kick-off

June 22 – Day 21 of the crowdfunding campaign – bonus funds awarded by WDA

July 3 – Crowdfunding campaigns end and 30-day awards and bonus funds awarded by WDA

If you have questions concerning the process please contact support@experiment.com or Nicole Sharpe nicole@experiment.com. More info <https://experiment.com/grants/wda2020>