



**HABRI 2026 Special Request for Proposals:  
Pet-Inclusive Rental Housing Research  
Grant Application Due Date: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11:59pm Eastern**

*Note:* This Special Request for Proposals focused on addressing the complex issue of pet-inclusive rental housing is being issued in addition to HABRI's Annual Request for Proposals (RFP). Find more information about HABRI's Annual RFP focused on Addressing Evidence-Based Health Benefits of Human-Animal Interaction [here](#).

The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) is issuing a special call for research proposals seeking rigorously designed, impact-driven research focused on addressing the complex issue of pet-inclusive rental housing.

A lack of access to pet-inclusive rental housing (including affordable rental housing) in the United States poses a significant barrier to pet ownership for many, while also adversely impacting animal welfare systems and municipalities by limiting the ability of those with pets to continue to keep and care for their animals.

While the physical, mental and social benefits of owning and interacting with pets are well-documented, research and data are needed to further support policies and programs that increase the availability of pet-inclusive housing overall and keep people and pets together in their rental homes, helping to prevent pet relinquishment and supporting future pet acquisition.

HABRI is interested in funding studies that address this complex issue. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- **Quantifying the economic and social benefits** to renters/tenants, rental housing owners/operators, and/or municipalities of increasing the availability of pet-inclusive rental housing. Such as:
  - Rental housing providers/owner/operators: Analyzing the costs/benefits of removing pet-related restrictions (related to size, breed, type and number of pets) through identifying the costs of pet-related damages in relation to the economic/profitability benefits of pet inclusivity.
  - Municipalities: Identifying the current and/or projected budgetary value of reducing strains on the animal welfare system and/or on adjacent human and social services through pet inclusive housing policies and programs. Measuring or projecting increases in the livability of communities that support pet-inclusive housing.
  - Renters/tenants: Analyzing the costs/benefits of pet-inclusive housing to current or

potential pet-owning renters (i.e. increased housing security or ability to stay in housing longer, keep their pets, and/or acquire new pets).

- **Identifying and addressing barriers** to increasing the availability of pet-inclusive housing in communities. This includes, but is not limited to, affordable rental housing.
- **Producing actionable advice, guidelines, and recommendations for policymakers** as it relates to supporting pet-inclusive housing that:
  - Provides insights into how best to design pet-inclusive housing;
  - Provides resources for renters and owner/operators of rental housing;
  - Identifies ways in which government can support pet-inclusive communities;
  - Analyzes the impact of implemented/passed pet-friendly policies, including legislation, on communities from an economic and/or social lens.
- **Identifying the optimal program design** for community-based efforts focused on increasing access and affordability of pet-inclusive rental housing, including assisting low-income or underserved populations with pets, and helping pet owners access financial assistance for themselves and their pets.

### **Application Details**

Prior to submitting a proposal, please review the following documents:

- [2026 Special Request for Proposals Guidelines](#)
- [Scoring Rubric](#)

All applicants should closely follow the [Special Proposal Guidelines](#) to craft their proposal.

Desired applicants are U.S. based academic researchers, economists, policy experts, as well as community-led academic partnerships, advocacy or community groups that conduct research, academic researchers partnered with community-based groups, or rental housing authorities or providers.

Researchers from all disciplines employing quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods approaches are eligible, and early-career and non-traditional scholars are encouraged to apply. Specific research designs may include implementation or action research, applied research, surveys, case studies, cost-benefit analyses, and more.

To submit a proposal in response to this special RFP, please send an email to [submissions@habri.org](mailto:submissions@habri.org). Please ensure the subject line of the email and PDF submission are both titled “HABRI 2026 Housing Proposal – Principal Investigator Last Name.”.

### **Application Review Process**

Proposals will be evaluated by an independent review board comprised of experts from a variety of fields, including housing, public policy, economics, human-animal interaction, veterinary medicine, animal welfare, gerontology, psychology, neuroscience, child development and more

Evaluation will be based on potential for significant and impactful findings that are broadly

applicable to large populations of renters, housing owner/operators, and state and local governments across the United States, rigor of study design and methods, capabilities of investigators/research team, and cost-effective yet realistic budget. All funded studies must undergo Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approval.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Does this Special Request impact HABRI's annual call for proposals?
  - No. This targeted call is in addition to HABRI's annual call for proposals and will run concurrently.
2. Who is eligible to submit to this Special Request for Proposals?
  - Desired applicants are U.S. based community-led academic partnerships, advocacy or community groups that conduct research, academic researchers partnered with a community-based group or organization. Researchers from all policy disciplines employing quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods research designs are eligible, and early-career and nontraditional scholars are encouraged to apply.
3. Can I submit applications for both calls for proposals?
  - Yes. However, the same proposal cannot be submitted to both calls. All proposals focused on addressing the complex issue of pet-inclusive rental housing will be considered for the Special Request for Proposals.
4. I have an idea for this RFP but I'm not sure if it's eligible, what should I do?
  - Please contact Matt Cryer at [mcryer@habri.org](mailto:mcryer@habri.org) to for advisement about the eligibility of your proposal if you are unsure whether it fits the criteria defined in the Special Request for Proposals.
5. Does HABRI fund capital projects or programmatic research?
  - No, HABRI does not accept proposals seeking to fund capital projects.
  - Proposals that seek to evaluate the success of an existing program may be considered. However, proposals that seek funding solely for programmatic support will be rejected. If the Principal Investigator is the proprietor of the program, such proposals will face close scrutiny.
6. Is there a maximum budget for a HABRI grant proposal?
  - While there is no budget cap, HABRI awards an average of 5-6 projects each year with project costs averaging approximately \$50,000 per project and an average duration of about 20 months.

For a full list of FAQs, click [here](#).

### **More Information**

For questions related to any aspect of the application process, please contact Matt Cryer at [mcryer@habri.org](mailto:mcryer@habri.org).

For more information about HABRI, including currently funded research projects, please visit [www.habri.org](http://www.habri.org).