

**Innovations for Poverty Action  
Intimate Partner Violence Initiative**

Application Guidelines, RFP Round 3 (Spring 2019)

The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Initiative invites proposals from researchers working on randomized evaluations for the third round of the research fund. The purpose of this research fund is to leverage existing randomized trails to generate wide-ranging insights into the underlying cause and influencing factors of the pervasive problem of intimate partner violence. This approach enables research on a broader set of interventions than have been evaluated in the past. Expanding studies of programs that target household finances, educational attainment, or other standard development outcomes can contributing knowledge of possible pathways to reduce IPV.

With this call for proposals, IPA solicits proposals from researcher teams interested in expanding their existing studies to further investigate this important topic and refine measurement tools. Proposals are due by **May 17th, 2019**. We particularly encourage multidisciplinary teams that include researchers from gender/IPV fields and other backgrounds. Those interested in applying are asked to first read through our funding priorities below.

In this round, the IPV Initiative will consider proposals that:

* **Add IPV focused survey modules to existing studies***.* These are smaller grants that would fund the cost of adding IPV-focused survey modules to upcoming data collection rounds for existing studies. They are intended for research studies that are not already focused on IPV reduction, but nevertheless are likely to have notable impacts on IPV and related outcomes. Programs targeting depression, alcohol use, family planning, intra-household bargaining, and personal development could be examples of areas to explore. We anticipate funding between 4 to 6 additions to planned survey rounds totaling between $25,000 and $50,000.
* **Add IPV focused survey rounds to current or past studies**. These are moderately-sized grants to fund additional survey/data collection rounds focused on IPV. The types of proposals we intend to consider include, but certainly are not limited to: (1) supplemental household or spouse surveys with respondents that are not part of the original data collection plan, (2) a long-term follow-up survey of concluded study, and (3) cases where it is important to separate any IPV data collection from the primary study. Examples of this could include a supplemental household/spouse survey for a female entrepreneurship training program to see the effects on the intra-household dynamics, or a long-term follow-up survey of a life skills coaching program for adolescent girls to understand the effect on partner selection. We anticipate funding between 1 to 2 additions in this category, totaling between $50,000 and $125,000 each.
* **Add an IPV targeted treatment arm to an existing study***.* These are large grants that will support expanding a study by adding a treatment arm focused on reducing IPV to a randomized evaluation. Applicants can request funding for the costs of expanding the study sample and survey as well as the IPV focused intervention. Note that we have a slight preference for grants in the first two categories and only anticipate funding a large expansion to a study in the range of $250,000 or less if it is truly innovative or extraordinary.
* **Add an IPV measurement tool testing component to a current or past study.** These grants will support projects to improve the accuracy of IPV measurement tools. We expect most of these grants will focus on comparing methods/techniques for data collection, such as examining the different results between list experiments and self-administered tablet surveys. These grants could also support projects exploring the mechanisms behind the survey errors, including enumerator bias, respondent confusion, etc. Given the multitude of processes for calibrating and improving measurement tools, **we will consider non-randomized evaluations for this type of grant**. We anticipate funding 1 to 4 of these measurement-focused studies and funding will largely be based on the breadth of the primary project and scope of the measurement comparison, in the range of $25,000 to $50,000.

# **Application Instructions**

A completed proposal consists of: (1) a completed application form; (1) original proposal for the current project; (2) a detailed budget; and (3) letters of support. Please submit all materials through our online portal, [here](https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/ipv_initiative_competitive_fund_third_call_for_proposals), by **May 17th, 2019.**

**Application Form:** Please use [this template](https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/IPV_RFP_Round%203_Application_2019-Spring.docx).

**Budget:** Please use [this template](https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/IPV_RFP_Round%203_Budget%20Template.xlsx).

**Letters of Support**

Please provide the following letters of support:

1. Full projects are required to provide a letter of support from the implementing partners. Applicants for pilot funding are encouraged to submit letters of support, if available.
2. Full projects are required to provide a letter of support from the institution that will receive the grant (which may be an IPA country office, a J-PAL regional office, or another institution).
3. If available, applicants should also include letters of support from potential scale-up partners.

**Submission Instructions**

Submit the following materials by **May 17th, 2019** through our online portal at:

<https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/ipv_initiative_competitive_fund_third_call_for_proposals>

1. Application form saved as a single .docx or .pdf file titled [PI last name]\_[Proposal title].docx.
2. A copy of the study’s original/primary proposal titled [PI last name]\_[Proposal title]\_Primary Proposal.pdf
3. Separate budget saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name]\_[Proposal title]\_Budget.xlsx
4. CVs for all PIs on project titled CV\_[PI last name].pdf
5. *If Applicable:* Letter(s) of support from implementing partners saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name]\_[Partner name].

# **Eligibility**

**Applicants.**

Each application must be presented by a team consisting of (i) one or more researchers involved in the design of the intervention and responsible for carrying out a rigorous evaluation of the program and (ii) one or more practitioner institutions who will partner with the research team on the proposed intervention.

Researchers must be affiliated with a research institution or a university and either hold a PhD or be currently pursuing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline. They must demonstrate experience in field research and randomized evaluations.

**Geographic Focus.**

The fund encourages research projects in developing countries. Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, as well as applications from research teams with one or more researchers working full time in these regions, are particularly encouraged.

**Research.**

All submissions must present a rigorous study design for expanding a randomized evaluation to include a focus on IPV and a clear set of hypotheses of why this is important. **We will not provide pilot or start-up funds, so at minimum the study should have already received an award notification from a primary funder before applying.** All awardees are expected to coordinate with the IPV initiative on the selection of survey modules and reporting of IPV-related results. Studies must also be willing to accommodate all best practices for ethical research of IPV (Note: initiative staff will closely support awardees with this). We strongly encourage current and upcoming IPA projects and/or affiliated researchers to apply, though we will also consider proposals from outside sources.

Submissions proposing to conduct field-based data collection should specify the research implementing partner organization that will assist the research team with the management and implementation of the randomized evaluation. The organization must demonstrate experience implementing randomized evaluations and have a presence in the country.

Projects taking place in countries where IPA has a country program are expected to be run through the local IPA Country Office, as these offices have the experience and long-term presence to ensure that projects meet excellent research quality standards, maintain strong partner relationships, and that the study is are well-integrated with the work of the IPV Initiative and IPA as a whole. Please make sure that you reach out to the local IPA Country Office well in advance of the deadline to discuss your application, including the research design, implementation plan, and project feasibility. Pending review and approval of your proposed project(s) by the country office staff, they will work with you on the budget and application materials. If you need assistance in reaching out to IPA Country Offices, please email us at [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org). Research applicants are encouraged to provide a clear motivation in case they elect to work with another implementing organization in a country where IPA is present.

**Funding.**

Proposals shall indicate the overall cost of the project as well as the funding requested of the IPV Initiative. Funding is for research costs. Implementation costs for the program are expected to be covered from other sources, except when adequate justification is provided for their inclusion in the study budget. Funding under the study budget for the salaries and/or time of researchers in developing countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the selection committee.

**Project Timeline.**

Projects are expected to launch IPV-related component of their study before the middle of 2020 and provide a final report before November 15th 2020. If this poses a problem please discuss with IPV Initiative staff.

# **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to provide reliable insight into the theoretical underpinnings of IPV and the types of programs that can lead to sustainable reductions in IPV in LMIC settings. The potential scientific and policy insights will be directly weighed against costs of the amount requested. The selection committee will consider the following factors in evaluating proposals:

* Is the intervention being studied likely to shift IPV outcomes?
* Is the study relevant to policymakers (which could be either that the study is focused on a widespread development program—e.g. cash transfers, micro-finance, graduation approach, etc.—or of a program with a large potential to scale)?
* Is the study able to isolate casual mechanisms or contribute to program design for IPV reduction more broadly?
* What is the relative value of the study, i.e. the total budget request in comparison to the likely learning?
* Does the study employ any innovative measurement or design strategy to improve or better understand some of the methodological issues of researching IPV?
* Is composition of the research team well-suited to carry out research on this sensitive topic? Preference will be given to multi-disciplinary teams and/or teams that have viable plans to get results-out beyond one discipline.
* What is strategy to disseminate results and how likely are these results to inform conversations among policymakers, development professionals and academics?

# **Award Process**

If your proposal is accepted for award, the funds will be internally assigned to the IPA country office (if you will be working with an IPA country office) or provided under an award from IPA to the research implementing institution.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all studies. This approval may come from your host institution’s IRB or from IPA’s own IRB. If you are planning on using IPA’s IRB, please make sure to budget $2,000 for this process per IPA IRB’s protocols.

# **ABOUT INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION**

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world’s poor. Since its founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 400 leading academics to conduct over 500 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

IPA is present in 20 countries through 18 permanent offices. If you are working outside one of the countries mentioned below, please contact Ellen Bates-Jefferys at [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org) for further information.

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To connect with one of our country offices or questions about working with IPA, you may also contact [ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org](mailto:ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org) or [pd@poverty-action.org](mailto:pd@poverty-action.org).

# **General Terms and Conditions**

1. This Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is not and shall not be construed to be a contract, offer, or request for an offer. Those responding to this RFP receive no rights whatsoever as a result of their submissions. Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) will not have any express or implied obligations or responsibilities to those who respond and will not otherwise be bound by any terms or conditions, except to the extent set forth in a definitive, final, written agreement duly executed by the recipient(s) and IPA. There is no commitment by IPA that such a final agreement will be executed, even if IPA enters into negotiations with a person submitting a proposal(s), proposed recipient(s), or his or her institution.
2. Innovations for Poverty Action in its sole and exclusive discretion may reject any or all proposals with or without notice or reasons, withdraw this RFP at any time before or after delivery of proposals, or if no proposal is accepted, abandon the RFP.
3. Innovations for Poverty Action further reserves the right in its sole and exclusive discretion to waive irregularities or defects in any proposal, but in no event will IPA have any obligation to do so. Moreover, IPA will not be responsible for errors or omissions by anyone submitting a proposal, and IPA shall be the sole judge of the responsiveness, appropriateness and completeness of any and all proposals.
4. Innovations for Poverty Action reserves the sole and exclusive right in its discretion to modify the timeline for decision-making or otherwise modify or amend this RFP as it deems appropriate.
5. All responses to this RFP become the property of IPA. Regardless of any markings identifying the proposal or its content as proprietary or confidential, IPA reserves the right to disclose or use any information contained in the proposals and other presentations responsive to this RFP.
6. Innovations for Poverty Action is not responsible for and will not reimburse any costs incurred in submitting materials or information pursuant to this RFP or in otherwise responding to this RFP, including but not limited to evaluating, responding, providing follow-up, negotiating, and otherwise complying with it.
7. Those submitting a proposal(s) agree to be bound by the terms of their proposal for at least sixty days from the date such proposals are due, and they otherwise agree to negotiate in good faith any other terms for a definitive arrangement if selected by IPA to do so.
8. Those submitting a proposal(s) certify that the work product they propose to create or use if they are a grant recipient will not infringe on or violate the intellectual property rights (including but not limited to trademarks, copyrights, patents, trade secrets, moral rights) or privacy rights of any person or entity. Those submitting proposals, materials, or information further certify that they have or will have such ownership or use rights in such work product sufficient to allow IPA to achieve its purposes as generally provided for in this RFP.
9. Grant recipients agree that, if requested by IPA, they will provide additional information about any subcontractors, graduate students, research assistants, and other third parties engaged by the grant recipient to provide services. IPA reserves the right in good faith to approve any such persons in order to ensure consistency with IPA’s expectations of quality and character.
10. Innovations for Poverty Action reserves the right to request additional information from any or all persons submitting proposals. Such persons agree to make themselves available for follow-up as reasonably requested by IPA.