



Innovations for Poverty Action

Intimate Partner Violence Initiative

Application Guidelines, RFP Round 4 (Fall 2021)

The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Initiative invites proposals from researchers working on randomized trials for the fourth round of the research fund. The purpose of this research fund is to leverage existing research studies to advance our understanding of the underlying causes and influencing factors of intimate partner violence.

Globally, violence against women is a leading cause of premature death and morbidity for women. Almost one-third of women report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their life, and nearly 40 percent of all homicides of women are committed by an intimate partner. Given the pervasive and complex nature of the problem, a wide range of factors can drive changes in IPV including increased empowerment, economic well-being, and household stress among others. **The IPV initiative seeks to inform global development policy and practice through expanding and improving the scientific evidence on pathways to mitigate IPV.** By building on existing studies, the IPV Initiative aims to generate insights on the types of development programs that shift IPV outcomes and what factors drive these changes, including, studies of programs that impact household finances, increase women's empowerment, improve socio-emotional skills.

With this call for proposals, IPA solicits proposals from research teams interested in expanding their existing studies to further investigate this important topic. In most cases, we expect to fund studies in which the intervention was not originally intended to target IPV, and the assessment of IPV outcomes were not part of the original study design. However, we will consider funding for the expansion of studies already focused on IPV where there is a unique opportunity to add novel insights. Thematically, there is particular interest in women's economic productivity and labor market engagement; the most effective "plus" programs for "cash plus" activities; couples counseling and mental health support from paraprofessionals; partner selection and "dating violence"; and adolescent mentorship and soft skills training programs. However, we will be happy to consider a broader range of interventions so long as the research studies are ethically designed and there is a plausible theoretical basis for why we would expect to see changes in IPV. Examples of projects that received funding in previous rounds can be found [here](#).

Proposals are due by **11:59pm EST December 17, 2021**. We particularly encourage multidisciplinary teams that include researchers that are from the countries where the field research occurs, and includes researchers with previous gender/IPV experience. Those interested in applying are asked to first read through our funding priorities below.

In this round, the IPV Initiative will consider proposals that fulfill **one or more** of the following criteria:

- **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 are likely to have notable impacts on IPV and related outcomes. Programs targeting mental health, alcohol use, women's financial agency, family planning, soft skills, 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, each award is expected to be between USD \$25,000 and \$50,000.
- **Add IPV-focused survey rounds to current or past IPV studies.** These are moderately sized grants, funding additional survey/data collection rounds focused on IPV. The types of proposals we could 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 a concluded study, and (3) cases where it is important to separate any IPV data collection from the primary study. For example, 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 and IPV. We anticipate funding between 1 to 2 additions in this category, each award is expected to be between USD \$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. In cases where there is a truly innovative or extraordinary research opportunity, applicants can request funding for the costs of expanding the study sample and survey as well as the IPV focused intervention. In exceptional cases we will fund proposals to add a treatment arm to a study. Awards in this category can be up to USD \$200,000.
- **Improve IPV measurement and methods.** These grants will support projects to develop and test IPV measurement tools and methods. We expect most of these grants will focus on comparing techniques for data collection, such as examining the different results between face-to-face surveying and self-administered tablet surveys. These grants are intended to provide insights that could improve how IPV research is conducted. For example, projects under this category could include studies that test ways to reduce surveyor bias or reduce respondent distress in field research. We anticipate funding 1 to 4 of these measurement-focused studies. The funding will be based on the breadth of the primary project and scope of the measurement comparison. Each award is expected to be between USD \$15,000 to \$35,000.

Application Instructions

A completed proposal consists of: (1) a completed application form; (2) original proposal for the current project; (3) a detailed budget; (4) CVs for all researchers on the project; and (5) letters of support. Please submit all materials through our online portal, [here](#), by **11:59pm EST December 17, 2021**.

Application Form: Please use [this template](#).

Budget: Please use [this template](#).

Letters of Support

Please provide the following letters of support:

1. If working with an implementing partner, projects are required to provide a letter of support from the implementing partners.
2. 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 **11:59pm EST December 17, 2021** through our [online Formstack portal](#).

Application form saved as a single .docx or .pdf file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title].

1. A copy of the study's original/primary proposal titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]_Primary Proposal.
2. Separate budget saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]_Budget.xlsx
3. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) for all researchers on the project titled CV_[PI last name].
4. *If Applicable:* Letter(s) of support from implementing partners saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name]_[Partner name].

Eligibility

Applicants.

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. IPA encourages proposals from diverse research teams. We welcome applications from researchers from multiple disciplines and historically underrepresented groups and we strongly encourage research teams to include researchers from the countries where the project will take place, with clearly defined contributions from all members of the research team. To learn more about IPA's commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion,

please see our [website](#). Additionally, researchers applying from institutions in lower- and middle-income countries may submit for reasonable salary expenses. The selection committee will be blind to the salary request when considering the cost of the study.

We strongly encourage current and upcoming IPA projects and/or affiliated researchers to apply, though we will also consider proposals from outside sources. For a list of previous awards, see [here](#).

Geographic Focus.

The fund exclusively supports research in lower- and middle-income countries. [IPA operates in 22 eligible countries around the world](#). If you are interested in working with IPA to implement research, please see country office contact information in the “About Innovations for Poverty Action” section below.

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. Awardees will be mandated to use all or a portion of the [World Health Organization’s Violence Against Women survey module](#), unless there is a reason the module is unsuitable to the research. Studies must also be willing to accommodate all best practices for ethical research of IPV (see [here](#) and [here](#)). 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.

If you are planning to work with IPA, 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. 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.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all studies. IRB approvals should be secured from internationally recognized IRBs and from boards with a deep understanding of the proposed research’s locality. This may require two separate IRB approvals. 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 budget \$2,000 for this process per IPA IRB’s protocols.

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 August 31st, 2022 and provide **a final report before July 30th, 2023**. If this poses a problem please discuss with IPV Initiative staff.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to provide meaningful and reliable insights into drivers of IPV and the types of programs that can lead to sustainable reductions in IPV in lower- and middle-income country 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:

- *Academic contribution:* Does the study make a significant contribution toward advancing knowledge of IPV prevention? Is the intervention being studied likely to shift IPV outcomes? Does it answer new questions or introduce novel methods, measures, or interventions? How does the study compare with the existing body of research? Does the research strategy provide a bridge between a practical experiment and underlying economic theories?
- *Policy relevance:* Is there demand from policymakers for more/better information to influence their decisions in this area? Will this research be used by decision makers? Are there viable plans to get results-out beyond one discipline?
- *Technical design:* Does the research design appropriately answer the questions outlined in the proposal? Is the study able to isolate causal mechanisms or contribute to program design for IPV reduction more broadly? Are there sufficiently detailed power calculations? Does the study employ any innovative measurement or design strategy to improve or better understand some of the methodological issues of researching IPV?
- *Project viability:* Is the relationship with the implementing partner strong and likely to endure through the entire study? Are there any other logistical or political obstacles that might threaten the completion of the study, for example, government authorization or Human Subjects review? Is the composition of the research team well-suited to carry out research on this sensitive topic? Is the composition of the research team multi-disciplinary? Does it have knowledge researchers able to speak to respondent considerations and needs?
- *Sound ethical foundation:* Does the research team have a viable plan to ensure the study is ethically administered? Are any ethical concerns adequately addressed? Is there appropriate oversight for any unexpected events?

- *Value of research:* Is the cost of the study commensurate with the value of expected contributions to science and policy? Does the study leverage funding from other sources?

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.

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 850 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

IPA is present in 22 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 for further information.

Country Program Primary Contacts:

Bangladesh: Sneha Subramanian, ssubramanian@poverty-action.org

Burkina Faso/Mali/Ivory Coast: Andreas Holzinger, aholzinger@poverty-action.org

Colombia/Dominican Republic: Kyle Holloway, kholloway@poverty-action.org

Ghana: Salifu Amadu, samadu@poverty-action.org

Kenya: Ginger Golub, ggolub@poverty-action.org

Malawi: Andrew Chikopa, achikopa@poverty-action.org

Mexico: Odette Gonzalez Carrillo, ogcarrillo@poverty-action.org

Myanmar: Afke Jager, ajager@poverty-action.org

Nigeria: Emeka Eluemunor, celuemunor@poverty-action.org

Peru: Sergio De Marco, sdemarco@poverty-action.org

Philippines: Nassreena Sampaco-Baddiri, nbaddiri@poverty-action.org

Rwanda: Carin Mirowitz, cmirowitz@poverty-action.org

Sierra Leone/Liberia: Walker Higgins, whiggins@poverty-action.org

Tanzania: Zachary Isdahl, zisdahl@poverty-action.org

Uganda: Carin Mirowitz, cmirowitz@poverty-action.org

Zambia: Andrew Chikopa, achikopa@poverty-action.org

Latin American Countries without Country Office: Juan Hernandez-Agramonte, jmhernandez@poverty-action.org

Multi-country projects: Rachel Steinacher, rsteinacher@poverty-action.org

To connect with one of our country offices or questions about working with IPA, you may also contact ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org or 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.