# INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION
# PEACE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM
Proposal Instructions, Round IV (Spring 2019)

IPA's Peace and Recovery (P&R) program has launched its fourth Call for Proposals. **Exploratory proposals are due April 30, 2019, and all other proposals are due June 14, 2019.** Those interested in applying are asked to first read the P&R Program's [Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities](#).

Please keep in mind that while applicants were encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in March 2019 for this round of funding, it is not necessary to have submitted an EOI in order to submit a proposal. Those who submitted an EOI were given a sense of whether their project would be a good candidate for funding or not. That said, even those who were marked as unlikely to be funded are able to respond to this Call for Proposals. If you believe your project is closely aligned with the P&R Guiding Principles, we welcome your proposal. If you would like to check in with the P&R team before investing time in preparing a proposal, please write to [peace@poverty-action.org](mailto:peace@poverty-action.org).

The P&R Program will consider the following types of proposals:

- **Exploratory grants:** These grants are to develop preliminary research ideas. The expectation is that these grants help researchers develop subsequent proposals for pilots or full randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Activities may include travel, relationship development, descriptive analysis, observational analysis, and data development or collection. These grants are earmarked for junior faculty, PhD students, and other researchers who do not have other sources of funding for travel and exploratory work. Tenured professors from major research universities are strongly discouraged from applying for these start-up funds. Awards are between $1,000 and $10,000.

- **Pilot studies:** These grants are for studies with a clear research question, but for which the design and implementation requires substantial upfront investments. The expectation is that this work helps researchers develop subsequent proposals for full RCTs. Activities could include further trial-and-error piloting; partner development; developing new measurement strategies or instruments; analysis of existing data; or new data development or collection. Awards are between $10,000 and $50,000. Projects should apply for the funds needed to yield the best research but (all other things equal) lower budgets have a higher probability of being funded.

- **Full studies:** These grants are for research projects with a clear research question, committed implementing partner(s), well-defined research designs, and statistical power estimates. While most of the impact evaluations funded will be RCTs, studies that use high-quality natural experiments will be considered in exceptional cases when a randomized experiment is not possible. Grants can also fund the continuation or completion of RCTs that have already started without P&R funding (including those for which data collection is complete). This includes long-run follow-ups from previously published evaluations, as well as "downstream studies" that use an already-completed randomized trial to answer a P&R-relevant question. The expectation is that this work will result in a paper publishable in a top economic, political science, or science journal. Awards are between $50,000 and $450,000. Projects should apply for the funds needed to yield the best research but (all other things equal) lower budgets have a higher probability of being funded.

- **"Infrastructure" and "public goods" creation:** This includes the creation of administrative datasets, panel datasets, other new data, software, measurement strategies, and so forth. Awards are between $10,000 and $150,000.

- **Reviews and meta-analysis of relevant literatures:** This includes but is not necessarily limited to the program evaluation evidence. Awards are between $5,000 and $20,000.

# Pilot study, full study, and "infrastructure and public good" creation proposals

**Instructions**

Pilot study, full study, and "infrastructure" and "public good" creation proposals consist of a (i) cover sheet and narrative; (ii) budget form; and (iii) letters of support. Please submit all materials through our online portal, here, by **June 14, 2019.**

**Cover sheet and narrative:** Please use this template.

**Budget:** Please use this template.

Please keep the following in mind when developing your budget:

1. Awards are normally paid on a cost-reimbursable basis.
2. Universities in high-income countries (generally defined as the U.S., Canada, Western Europe, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, Israel, and wealthy Middle Eastern countries) can charge up to 10% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.
3. Non-university non-profits from any location and universities from mid- or low-income countries may charge up to 15% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.
4. Proposals must include a brief budget narrative document detailing the major costs within the budget. For example, travel costs should include a breakdown of how many trips are planned, the estimated cost per trip, etc. If field costs are detailed in the budget template (number of field staff, roles, rates, etc.), they do not need further explanation in the budget narrative.
5. Any computer/equipment purchases should include a breakdown of what is being purchased (e.g. how many laptops), as well as the project staff that will be assigned to the equipment.
6. Unallowable costs include those labeled as "incidental," "miscellaneous," or "contingency." Any costs for rent should be explained in the budget narrative.
7. For full studies, we will be requesting the collection of implementation cost data. Researchers are encouraged to budget for this.
8. The Program strongly discourages requesting funding for the salary or time of researchers from institutions in developed countries. Funding under the study budget for the salaries and/or time of researchers from institutions in developing countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the selection committee.
9. While we ask for the project's total budget, we do not require this to include researchers' salaries.
10. It is your responsibility that your budget follows your host institution's policies for costs. As part of your proposal, you must submit a letter from the institution to receive the award that states that they have reviewed your proposal and accepted your budget. If the organization allows you to submit your proposal without such a letter (due to time constraints or some other reason), please note this on the proposal cover sheet (under the "Institution to receive grant funds" field). Please note that this applies to all projects, including those going through J-PAL and IPA offices. You should contact them in advance to make sure you are aware of their policies for proposal review and give them enough time to meet the proposal deadline.
11. Please note that the research implementing organization must be able to comply with DFID's contracting and spending guidelines.

**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.

## 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 **June 14, 2019** through our online portal at:
https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/peace

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single .docx file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title].docx.
2. Separate budget form saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name]_budget.xlsx
3. Letter(s) of support from implementing partners saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name]_[Partner name].

## Evaluation Criteria

Please note that these evaluation criteria are equally weighted.

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| **Academic contribution** | Does the study make a significant contribution toward advancing knowledge in the field? Does it answer new questions or introduce novel methods, measures, or interventions? Is there academic relevance? 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** | Does the study address the priority questions outlined in the P&R Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities document? Will results from the intervention have generalizable implications? How, if at all, will the "lessons learned" have relevance beyond this test case? Is there demand from policymakers for more/better information to influence their decisions in this area? Is there potential for the implementing partner to scale up this intervention? |
| **Technical design** | Does the research design appropriately answer the questions outlined in the proposal? Are there threats that could compromise the validity of results? If so, does the proposal sufficiently address those threats? What changes could the researchers make to improve the design? For full study proposals, are there sufficiently detailed power calculations? |
| **Project viability** | Is the relationship with the implementing partner strong and likely to endure through the entire study? What is the credibility and policy influence of the implementing partner? Are there any other logistical or political obstacles that might threaten the completion of the study, for example, government authorization or Human Subjects review? For pilots, do researchers describe how piloting activities would inform a full-scale randomized evaluation? Does the research team have a track record of implementing successful projects similar to the one being proposed? |
| **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? |

# Exploratory, literature reviews, and meta-analysis proposals

**Instructions**

Exploratory, literature reviews, and meta-analysis proposals consist of (i) a cover sheet and narrative, (ii) a budget form, and (iii) a letter of support from PhD advisor(s), if applicable.

- Exploratory proposals should be submitted by **April 30, 2019** via our online portal, here.
- Proposals for literature reviews and meta-analysis of relevant literatures should be submitted by **June 15, 2019** via our online portal, here.

**Cover sheet and narrative:** Please use this template.

**Budget:** Please use this template.

Please keep the following in mind when developing your budget:

1. Exploratory grants are for a maximum of $10,000. Reviews and meta-analysis of relevant literatures grants are for a maximum of $20,000.
2. Please include detailed budget notes in the column provided in the template.
3. If a grantee plans to work with an IPA country office, a J-PAL regional office, or another implementing organization, they should notify the organization prior to submitting a travel/proposal development grant proposal, as these organizations may require applicants to budget for overhead or other expenses incurred.

**Letters of Support**

If you are a PhD student, please submit a letter of support from your advisor(s).

Letters of support from implementing partners are not required for these grant proposals. If the applicant will be working with a research management institution which will receive a part of all of the grant, then they 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).

**Submission Instructions**

Exploratory proposals should submit the following materials by **April 30, 2019** via our online portal at: https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/peace_exploratory

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single .docx file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title].docx.
2. Separate budget form saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name]_budget.xlsx
3. Letter(s) of support from PhD advisor and/ or research management institution, if applicable saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name]_[Partner name/ advisor name].

Proposals for literature reviews and meta-analysis of relevant literatures should submit the following materials by **June 15, 2019** via our online portal at: https://innovationsforpovertyaction.formstack.com/forms/peace_literature

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single .docx file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title].docx.
2. Separate budget form saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name]_budget.xlsx
3. Letter of support, if applicable saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name]_[Partner name/ advisor name].

# General Terms and Conditions

1. This Call for Expressions of Interest ("EOI") is not and shall not be construed to be a contract, offer, or request for an offer. Those responding to this EOI 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 EOI at any time before or after delivery of proposals, or if no proposal is accepted, abandon the EOI.

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 EOI as it deems appropriate.

5. All responses to this EOI 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 EOI.

6. Innovations for Poverty Action is not responsible for and will not reimburse any costs incurred in submitting materials or information pursuant to this EOI or in otherwise responding to this EOI, 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 EOI.

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.