



Research Management Support (RMS) FAQs

What is the cost of RMS?

The cost of RMS depends on the level of support needed from J-PAL North America staff. Typical “packages” of support are described in the application instructions. PIs can select the level of engagement they need within the activities shown in the RMS questionnaire application (described in the full description of RMS). Estimates will be refined in conversation with J-PAL North America staff after the application is sent and before award decisions are made.

How long will RMS last?

RMS includes the efforts of a remote Research Manager (RM) and Research Associate (RA) who will dedicate 20-50% of their time to the project. We anticipate that the typical length of RMS involvement will last up to six months, with flexibility for extending the timeline depending on project needs.

What kind of support does RMS entail?

Examples of research management support include support related to experimental design and initial stakeholder messaging, evaluation piloting, and early study implementation. These are further detailed in [the full RMS description](#). Please reach out to us at NA_RMS@povertyactionlab.org with questions about your project needs.

Who will provide support?

J-PAL North America has full-time research staff who are part of the RMS team and will be matched to work on projects based on availability and interest. RMS staff have prior experience developing and running randomized evaluations and will have resources and oversight from J-PAL North America staff leadership. RMS staff may train permanent research staff with best practices identified by J-PAL North America. For more information on potential training and staff background, see the description for [J-PAL Global Staff Training](#).

What is the review process?

Applicants will be asked to complete a questionnaire to indicate their interest in receiving RMS, concurrently with a J-PAL NA request for proposals (RFP) deadline. After receiving the application, RMS staff will schedule a phone call to assess the project’s needs and refine the budget estimations. Staff will work with researchers to clarify the type of research management support needed, and all requests will be reviewed by J-PAL NA leadership and staff.

Once RFP funding decisions are made and released by the review board, J-PAL NA staff will reach out again and let the researchers know whether support was approved alongside funding. Researchers will be introduced to the RMS staff they will be working with, and then kick-off the project support. RMS decisions will be made within the timeline of RFP decisions. A full description of the review process and timeline can be found [here](#).

What if I need someone for RMS sooner than the review process ends?

Please reach out to us directly at NA_RMS@povertyactionlab.org to discuss specific needs for your study, and we will determine if any of these processes can be expedited. This will not expedite the funding review.

Will RMS staff be involved in the long run of the project?

RMS staff will work with researchers to determine the scope of the engagement. Through these discussions, we will define the end-point of the project, which will include a plan to transition research management responsibilities to permanent staff. RMS staff will not engage in research management activities after the conclusion of the project scope, but J-PAL NA staff may still be available to support short term tasks. Feel free to email us at NA_RMS@povertyactionlab.org with questions about further short-term research management support.

Can you help me with a particular task that does not fall within the RMS scope?

You are welcome to reach out to us directly at NA_RMS@povertyactionlab.org if you have questions about whether we can support your project on a particular task. J-PAL NA is also happy to answer one-off questions about your RCT.

Can RMS staff work at the project site or at the PI's home institution?

RMS staff will primarily work remotely from our office in Cambridge, MA. Depending on project needs, staff may visit the project site to support training or implementation.