Governance Initiative

J-PAL's Governance Initiative (GI) funds randomized evaluations of interventions designed to improve participation in the political and policy process, reduce corruption and leakages, and strengthen state capacity. GI's Spring 2019 call for proposals is now closed. Funding decisions will be announced in mid-May.

By providing targeted funding for rigorous evaluations of the most promising programs to improve governance, GI aims to offer guidance for implementing organizations, governments, and donors, so that policies can be guided by scientific evidence to improve development outcomes.

GI has two regular funding cycles per year for full research projects, pilot studies, and travel/proposal development grants that address open questions outlined in the Governance Initiative Review Paper. RFPs are released in June

and December, and funding decisions are announced in November and May. Each proposal is reviewed by three referees: an academic reviewer, a policy expert, and a member of the GI Review Board. The Review Board makes final funding decisions. J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL post-docs, and invited researchers are eligible to apply. PhD students, with support from an adviser who is a J-PAL affiliate or GI-invited researcher, are also eligible to apply for travel/proposal development grants and up to $50,000 for a pilot or full-scale study.

GI also offers funding outside of the regular RFPs. These grants are intended for research projects that face a significant time constraint and need to receive funding before the end of a regular funding round to make use of an unanticipated opportunity (e.g. a newly announced policy change that will go into effect soon, creating an opportunity for a randomized evaluation). Proposals must clearly justify the need to receive a decision on an expedited schedule. The maximum amount awarded to off-cycle proposals is $50,000.

Please email GI@povertyactionlab.org with any questions.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

GI RFP Overview - Spring 2019

Full and Pilot Studies

Full and Pilot Proposal Application Form and Instructions | Full and Pilot Study Budget Template

Travel/Proposal Development Grants

Travel/Proposal Development Grant Application Form and Instructions | Travel/Proposal Development Grant Budget Template

Policy Outreach Support Grants

[Policy Outreach Support Grant Application Form and Instructions](#) | [Policy Outreach Support Grant Budget Template](#)

CO-CHAIRS

J-PAL affiliates [Ben Olken](#) (MIT) and [Rohini Pande](#) (Harvard Kennedy School)

REVIEW BOARD

J-PAL affiliates [Oriana Bandiera](#) (LSE), [Frederico Finan](#) (UC Berkeley), and [Asim Khwaja](#) (Harvard Kennedy School)

FUNDING

Support is provided by [The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and the [UK Department for International Development (DFID)](#) since 2011. In addition, DFID has approved a further £12m of UK Aid to increase its support for the Governance Initiative and also to fund new research in crime and violence ([J-PAL's Crime and Violence Initiative](#)) and conflict ([IPA's Peace and Recovery Program](#)). DFID and J-PAL are in the final stages of negotiating an agreement for this.

REVIEW PAPER

The Review Paper summarizes rigorous empirical evidence on governance issues in low-income countries and identifies new directions for research. The Review Paper is currently being revised to include a new section on improving state capacity, based on the chapter "The Personnel Economics of the Developing State" in the *Handbook of Field Experiments* Volume II (North Holland, 2017) by Frederico Finan, Ben Olken, and Rohini Pande.

[Governance Review Paper (October 2013 Version)](#) | [Executive Summary](#) | [The Personnel Economics of the Developing State](#)

FUNDED PROJECTS

GI has funded over eighty projects to date.

CONFERENCES

Learn more about GI events held in Ghana, India, Indonesia, and London.

CONTACT

If you have any questions related to J-PAL's Governance Initiative, please email Initiative Manager Yuen Ho.

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https://www.povertyactionlab.org/GI