

LAI Letter of Interest (LOI) Preview

Last updated April 2024

*****Do NOT submit this form*****

Applications can only be submitted through the online portal.

See the [LAI RFP page](#) for more information.

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LAI RFP Overview

Please view the full RFP Overview (Research Agenda) for Instructions and Eligibility [here](#).

Code of Conduct and Child Safeguarding

J-PAL takes safeguarding against workplace abuses and the appropriate use of funds, including any adverse effects of aid expenditure that have an undesired or unexpected result upon recipients, seriously. All Learning for All Initiative (LAI) grantees and partners must comply with the guidelines of [J-PAL's Code of Conduct](#). If your project requires your team to interact directly with children, you will be required to adhere to the [LEGO Child Safeguarding Policies](#) (regardless of funding source). If you receive funding from the LEGO Foundation, you will also be asked to follow the [LEGO Code of Conduct](#) and take these steps:

1. Share information about child safeguarding guidelines with staff working directly with children related to your work with J-PAL. Share the LEGO and J-PAL Code of Conduct with project staff.
2. If your research falls within the scope of [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) requirements, comply with GDPR and let the Learning for All Initiative team know right away (lai@povertyactionlab.org).
3. Confirm with lai@povertyactionlab.org that your organization has recruitment processes in place for screening relevant candidates to prevent unsuitable individuals from working with children within activities related to your work with J-PAL.
4. Complete child safeguarding training annually for any staff with direct contact with children. If you already have robust training in place, then this will suffice. However, if you do not have one in place, we suggest this [UNICEF Online Child Safeguarding Training](#) (approx. 90 minutes long). For multi-year subawards, keep accurate records of who is working on the project and the dates they completed their annual training. You will submit this information each year in your report.
5. Ensure all staff are aware of how to report incidents of abuse. Participants in this project or others can raise concerns with:
 - LEGO Foundation Whistleblower: <https://legohouse.com/en-gb/info/whistleblower-line/>
 - J-PAL: Cindy Smith, Director of Finance and Operations at J-PAL Global: cinsmith@mit.edu; LAI Manager or the LAI Policy Associates (as listed on the [webpage](#))

PLEASE NOTE: Please be mindful that MIT requires that the IRB approval must be held by the institution that enters into the subaward agreement with MIT. If the institution does not have its own IRB, it must engage the services of a commercial IRB to review and provide oversight for its research activities. J-PAL recommends third-party IRBs Brany and Heartland. Further information about this MIT policy can be found [here](#). Consult with J-PAL regarding including the cost of this commercial entity in the project budget. If the project is exempt from IRB approval, we will need the exemption status but no other action is required.

J-PAL requires that the reviewing IRB have IRB Organization (IORG) status with the US Office of Human Protections. [You can look up the IORG status of an IRB here](#).

Title of Proposal

NOTE: This field has a 120-character limit. If the title of your proposal is longer please include the full proposal name in the next field.

Full Proposal Name

If the title of your proposal is more than 120 characters, please use the field below to type the full name. If your proposal title is under 120 characters, bypass this field and use the save and next button to move to the next tab.

Basic Information

LAI Eligible Researcher

Please identify the researcher who is eligible for LAI funding. This may be the principal PI, or any eligible PI if there are multiple eligible researchers associated with the proposal.

Please note eligible PhD students are those that have a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher as an advisor. Alternatively, PhD students may also be co-PIs on grant applications submitted by a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher, in which case the expectation is for co-PIs to be full and equal collaborators.

Eligible African Scholars are those who have completed a PhD in Economics or another empirical social science discipline and are based at an academic institution in sub-Saharan Africa. Such resident African Scholars must have completed PhD-level training in quantitative methods including statistics/econometrics. If you are an African Scholar and your name does not appear when searching with the magnifying glass, please write your full name into the box.

Any researcher can submit a maximum of three proposals, inclusive of all proposal types, within a 12-month period to LAI, either as a main PI or co-PI in the proposal.

Select LAI Eligibility Category

Indicate how the researcher identified above is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding. If you are applying through the African Scholars program, please select “Regional Scholars.”

PI Certification

I agree that all J-PAL affiliates and invited researchers who are co-PIs on this project certify that they will be active, engaged, and responsive PIs on this project dedicated to guaranteeing quality control on all aspects of this research; and that their participation in this project is not merely to provide access to J-PAL resources and funding to anyone else working on this project who is neither a J-PAL affiliate, nor an invited researcher.

Advisor of PhD Student Applicant

If you are a PhD student, please indicate the J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher who serves as an advisor on your dissertation committee.

Identify Team Members

[In the online application portal] Click the link to add PIs, team members, or project collaborators. Include all PIs and other team members in the application. Complete and accurate assignment of collaborator roles will help LAI management to communicate with members of the research team more efficiently.

To view your project's current list of collaborators, see the *Manage Team Members* tab. The person who started the application will be assigned the role of applicant which will be visible on this tab. Please do **not** edit that assignment.

If a contact has multiple roles, add the team member and indicate the first role, then add them again to assign another role. If you are assigned the applicant role because you are completing or starting the application and you are also a PI you will need to add yourself again and identify yourself as such. When the pop-up asks if you would like to give access to this team member, select no, and move on to assigning the additional role.

Demographic Information Step

LAI is hoping to collect information about all project teams, including demographic information to support our efforts to promote diversity in our research network and funding opportunities. As the applicant, we kindly ask that you send the language and [link](#) included below to all PIs/Co-PIs on your proposal research team. Provide your proposal name and each member's role (as you listed them on the application) when you send out the blurb. Please complete the *Manage Team Members* section first before sending out the email(s) so that your team members are already in the system. Completion of this step is required for all primary investigators on your research team. If you have any problems with completing this step please email fc_help@povertyactionlab.org.

Feel free to cut and paste this suggested language in an email to send to the PIs and Co-PIs on your team:

LAI is hoping to collect information about all project teams, including demographic information to support J-PAL's efforts to promote diversity in the J-PAL research network and funding opportunities. J-PAL is requiring all PIs and Co-PIs on our research team to complete [this short form](#). This data will only be accessible in disaggregated, identifiable form to select J-PAL staff. Aggregate, anonymized data will be used to report to key partners such as donors and may be included on our website.

Please confirm that every team member has completed the questions in the above-linked survey. Your submission will not be considered until this has been completed. Check here to indicate that all team members have completed this survey.

Which type of funding are you applying for?

Amount of Requested Funding

Please ensure that the amount requested is in USD.

In what country or countries will your study take place?

In which cities, states, territories, or provinces will the project take place?

Please do not abbreviate the names of the cities, states, territories, or provinces when listing them.

Proposed Project Start Date

This should be the approximate start date for all project activities, including any work conducted before requesting LAI funding, and any work that will be supported by co-funding.

Proposed Project End Date

This should be the approximate end date for all project activities, including any work planned after any potential LAI funding has been exhausted, supported by co-funding.

Have you submitted this or a related proposal to any J-PAL Initiative RFP?

If you answered yes above, please include which initiative(s), Year of RFP, and name of proposal submitted. Please include the Initiative (or Initiative abbreviation), RFP, and year applied. Example: SLII Spring 2019 (Max: 3,000 character limits).

If you have previously submitted this or a similar proposal to this Initiative: Are the PI team, context, and research question the same as in the previously submitted proposal?

Project Details

Instructions

If you are applying for a full randomized evaluation or a pilot, please complete each of the following questions. If you are applying for a proposal development or travel grant project, please indicate your proposed activities in the "Intervention Details" box. The remaining questions are optional. Please write Not Applicable or NA, if you decide not to answer a question at this time.

If you are applying for a Path-to-Scale project (Adaptation, Policy Pilot, or Scale), please indicate the activities that LAI will fund in the "Intervention Details" box and use the "Additional Information" section to describe the existing evidence from randomized evaluations on which your Path-to-Scale project is based. If your proposed activities include a randomization component, then please complete the remaining questions on the page. The remaining questions are optional. Please write Not Applicable or NA if you decide not to answer a question at this time.

Intervention Details

A brief description of the intervention or treatment to be evaluated. Has the intervention's design and implementation been piloted, tested, and stabilized? If so, please provide details. [200 words max.]

Research Question

Please write out the question(s) this research sets out to answer. [50 words max.]

Research Design

A brief description of the research design. Please include the randomization method, and treatment groups, and describe any combinations of the interventions. If there are more than two treatment groups, please list them using numerals. [150 words max.]

Target Population

What is the study population(s) and sample? If your intervention works with children, please specify the age range and/or grade level. [140 characters max.]

Outcomes of Interest

What specific outcomes do the evaluation aim to assess to determine the impact of an intervention? How will each of them be measured? [100 words max.]

Learning for All Initiative Theme(s)

Please indicate which LAI research theme or themes your proposal deliberately and directly relates to; these are described in detail in the RFP materials (found on the [LAI RFP page](#)). Please be selective in your choices.

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (Broadly)
- Large-scale Instructional Improvement for Literacy and Numeracy
- Socio-emotional Learning (SEL) and Measurement of Holistic Skills/Breadth of Skills
- Girls' Education
- Intersections of Climate and Education
- Long-term Economic and Health Impacts of Education Interventions
- Interdisciplinary Engagement
- Locally-led Research
- Gender and Social Inclusion

Additional information:

You're welcome to provide any brief additional comments about your form responses, or questions for us, here. Only a few sentences, maximum, please. If you have more detailed questions for us or information to share, you're welcome to email our staff team at lai@povertyactionlab.org.

Partner Organization(s)

We do not require you to identify partner organizations at this time. Not adding them at this stage will not impact the decision to invite a proposal submission. Before filling out the proposal, this is an opportunity to identify any organizations that need to be created and request that we do so, enabling you to complete and submit the proposal without experiencing any delays.

Please add any implementation partners (including partners in charge of delivering the intervention and partners in charge of evaluating/conducting research on the intervention), scale-up partners, or co-funders. If you are adding co-funders, be sure to indicate the amount of received or committed funding.

We strongly recommend including a point of contact based at each partner organization. If the organization you are searching for is not available, please send an email to fc_help@povertyactionlab.org that includes the organization's name, the type of organization (NGO, non-profit, government, private sector, etc.), mailing address, and website. We will respond within two business days, informing you when the requested partner has been created and is available to add to your application.

Partner Organization Name

[In online application portal] Please select the organization with which you will be partnering by clicking on the magnifying glass to the right of this field. Type in at least the first three letters of the organization, and click go to find it. The specificity of the results is directly related to the text input to the search box.

If you are unable to find the organization you are looking for, please [complete this short form](#). We will create this record within two business days of your message and will notify you when the requested organization is available.

Role of Partner Organization

Indicate the role of the organization identified related to this project. If you are adding co-funders, you will not be able to submit until you (a) indicate the amount of received or committed funding (b) add the funded proposal or project title (b) add the name of the primary PI for the co-funded proposal or project.

Point of Contact Based at the Partner Organization

List a primary contact who is based at the identified partner organization.

[In the online application portal] Click on the MAGNIFYING GLASS to the right of this field, type in at least the first three letters of the contact's name, and select GO to find them.

You should ONLY select someone who is based at the organization chosen above in J-PAL's Salesforce. If you cannot locate your point of contact at this organization, please enter their contact details in the fields below.

First Name of Primary Contact

If the partner contacts you want to add do not currently exist in J-PAL's system, please provide their first name here.

Last Name of Primary Contact

If the partner contacts you want to add do not currently exist in J-PAL's system, please provide their last name here.

Job Title of Primary Contact

If the primary contact at the partner organization you want to add does not currently exist in J-PAL's system, please provide their job title here.

Email Address of Primary Contact

If the primary contact at the partner organization you want to add does not currently exist in J-PAL's system, please provide their email address here.

Co-funder Details:

Please complete the fields below if the identified organization has provided co-funding for this project.

Indicate the total amount of funding from this organization:

Please disclose the total amount of funding provided by this organization, for this project or proposal, in USD. This should include any committed funds that have not yet been released and any awards that have been exhausted.

Please identify the lead PI on the proposal or project that received funding from this organization:

[In the online application portal] Click on the magnifying glass to the right of the field. Type at least the first three characters of the name you are searching for and click GO.

Please provide the name of the proposal or project that this organization funded

There are often variances in the name used to reference projects during their lifecycle. Please input the project or proposal title used to secure funding to ensure clarity.

Manage Team Members

[In online application portal] You can manage any project team member you added from the LOI Background tab and granted access to the proposal below. Please do not edit or change the automatically assigned "applicant" role. If you added a team member who does not have a J-PAL portal account and did not invite them to collaborate through the portal on this application, they will not be listed but will be visible to J-PAL staff reviewing your proposal. If you need to request changes to team members not listed, please send an email to fc_help@povertyactionlab.org with the title of your proposal, the team member's name, and indicate the necessary change(s).

If the person who is the applicant has another function related to the proposal, such as PI, navigate back to the LOI Background tab. Scroll down to the Identify Team Members section, use the "Click here to Add Collaborators" link, type their name in the search box, click the magnifying glass, select the contact to add them, and indicate their additional role.

African Scholars (ONLY)

Additional questions for African Scholars submitting Letters of Interest to J-PAL's Learning for All Initiative

If you are eligible to apply as an African Scholar under LAI, please note that all of the questions on this page are required. You will not be considered if these are not completed.

Has the eligible PI completed their PhD?

Please provide more information in the Additional Information field at the end of this tab if you selected planned, or in progress. Be sure to indicate the question(s) to which you are responding.

In which country is the eligible PI's current university?

Does the proposed project clearly have a pathway to a possible randomized evaluation in the future?

Please provide more information in the Additional Information field at the end of this tab if you select other. Be sure to indicate the question or questions to which you are responding.

Do you plan to publish the findings from this study in an academic journal in the future?

Please answer this question for the specific project level (i.e. travel/proposal development, pilot, or full RCT). Generally, researchers publish full randomized evaluation or pilot results but do not publish results from travel/proposal development grants. The expectation is that travel/proposal development grants will be used to support costs related to PI travel to develop a proposal for a pilot or full randomized evaluation during a subsequent call for proposals. The expectation is that pilots will ultimately develop into full randomized evaluations. For pilots that do not result in a full randomized evaluation, the expectation is that pilots will produce a publicly available paper documenting insights from the pilot.

African Scholar LOI Additional Information

Please use this space to:

- Specify the PhD discipline of the primary PI and the co-PIs.
- Specify the experience of primary/co-PIs with quantitative research, including randomized evaluations
- Elaborate on your responses to the above questions or provide any additional information you would like considered with your application. Example:
 - i. First Last, PhD Economics, published RCT “ABCDE” in Journal of Econ 2012
 - ii. First Last, PhD Psychology, working paper Diff and Diff “XYZ” in Journal of Econ 2008

Please attach the primary PI's CV