

J-PAL NORTH AMERICA GRANT REQUIREMENTS

If funded, researchers agree to the following requirements.

AEA Trial registration and Pre-Analysis Plans

1. Researchers must register their trial with the [AEA RCT Registry](#) as soon as IRB approval or exemption is granted. For questions and support with the registry, please contact J-PAL staff member Keesler Welch (support@socialscienceregistry.org). Please send the assigned registration number to Keesler as soon as it is available, and copy Sarah Margolis (smargolis@povertyactionlab.org).
 - a. Registration in AEA is required before the subaward can be established.
 - b. Upon study completion, the AEA Registry page must be updated with the results of the study and information on paper publication (as available).
 - c. Medical journals that are members of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)—e.g., JAMA, NEJM—require registration on [clinicaltrials.gov](#) as a condition of publication. Registration on the AEA RCT Registry does **NOT** meet this requirement. We strongly urge researchers to register their trial on [clinicaltrials.gov](#) at least a week in advance of random assignment in order to meet this requirement, if there is any chance they will submit a paper to a medical journal.

Pilot project exceptions:

- a. Pilots that do not involve randomization are not required to register.
 - b. Pilot projects that will not include outcomes from the pilot in the full study are encouraged to consider registration, but it is not required.
2. All J-PAL North America funded studies must include a pre-analysis plan uploaded to either the AEA RCT Registry. The pre-analysis plan must be uploaded **prior to launch of the experiment** (i.e. randomization activities). If randomization occurred prior to J-PAL funding, please upload a pre-analysis plan prior to beginning any data analysis. It may be made public or kept private if preferred. The pre-analysis plan must include the hypothesis or hypotheses to be examined in the empirical research study, the primary and secondary outcomes, and the statistical model(s) and methodologies to be used. In many cases, a complete AEA registration will cover these points and can be copied and used as a pre-analysis plan.
 - Pilot projects without a randomized element, or pilots where data will not be analyzed in the full study, do not need to upload a pre-analysis plan.
 - You will be asked to explain the status of your pre-analysis plan as part of the three-month start-up and annual report templates.
 - Failure to upload a pre-analysis plan prior to the experiment launching may jeopardize your eligibility for future funding.

Data & Code Publication

- Except to the extent limited by law, IRB requirement, and/or any applicable binding agreement, J-PAL requires researchers to publish some or all of the data materials associated with the study (e.g. primary data, program code, etc.) when one of the following conditions is met: within 60 days of an academic papers' acceptance (or by the deadline set by the journal in which the paper is accepted), or within three years of the completion of data collection. If some or all study data cannot be shared for legal, ethical, or proprietary reasons, researchers must inform J-PAL in the final narrative report. Please review [J-PAL's Data and Code Availability Policy](#) for a detailed explanation of this requirement.

Administrative notes

- Before the subaward agreement can be established with your institute, you will need to submit a formal letter of transmission from the administering institute, documentation of IRB approval or exemption, and confirmation of trial registration.
- Once all materials have been received, it can take up to 60 days to establish the subaward. The subaward is paid on a cost reimbursable basis, and spending can usually be backdated to cover costs up to the date of IRB approval if there are administrative delays.
- Funds are to be used for the purposes described in the proposal narrative and proposal budget. Significant changes to the project scope, design, or budget must be pre-approved by Initiative Manager.
- The terms of the award will be further specified in the award letter and in any subaward established with MIT. Acceptance of funding from J-PAL North America signals your consent to these requirements. Non-compliance with these requirements could affect your eligibility for future funding from any J-PAL initiative.

Reporting

- Grantees will typically be required to submit several reports, including a start-up report, a brief annual progress report, a final financial report, a final narrative report, and costing data (full projects only).

Code of conduct

- Since J-PAL is part of MIT, everyone who is associated with J-PAL, including researchers worldwide receiving grants from J-PAL initiatives, are considered part of the broader MIT community. Therefore, it is our hope and expectation that they will adhere to MIT's community-wide policies that are available [here](#). Because almost all researchers we work with are also part of other university communities, they may also be subject to their host universities' policies and procedures. Many of these policies may be very similar to the MIT policies above. Finally, many researchers are separately affiliated with other academic associations and organizations, including the American Economic Association, and they should continue to abide by the codes of conduct established by the associations and organizations to which they belong. The AEA's code of conduct is available [here](#).