PROPOSAL GUIDELINES: TRAVEL/PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

This document contains an Overview, Budget Guidelines, an Application Checklist, and a Narrative Template for Travel/Proposal development grants. Please read this document carefully before submitting your proposal.

OVERVIEW

Submission instructions: To apply, please submit an application via our online portal, WizeHive. Instructions and links to the applications can be found below, under "Application Checklist". Complete proposals will be due **Tuesday, June 3, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time via WizeHive.** Please review the RFP Overview and Proposal Guidelines on the CVI RFP website for details on each proposal type and a complete list of application questions.

In addition, **regional scholars** are also required to submit letters of interest (LOIs) by **Tuesday, April 22, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time** via our LOI forms here (Pilot LOI and Travel/Proposal Development). Eligible applicants will receive an invitation to proceed with full proposal development in WizeHive. LOIs are only required for regional scholar applicants.

Grant description: Travel/proposal development grants are intended to facilitate very preliminary, exploratory research, and funding typically supports costs related to researcher travel and/or facilitating access to administrative data for designing or conducting a future RCT. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to, negotiating data use agreements, conducting exploratory data analysis and cleaning, or setting up technical access mechanisms[1].

Funding per Travel/Proposal development grant award: a maximum of $10,000. Travel grants are provided as travel reimbursements in accordance with MIT travel policies and should use the specific budget template (see details in the Budget Guidelines section, below). If you cannot bear the costs out of pocket, we recommend that you apply for a pilot grant.

Timeline: Funding requests should not extend beyond December 2027. We encourage applicants to be realistic when setting the projected period of performance/end date for their project. Grantees must complete their project development work and submit final reports within one year of receiving the award.

Proposal Narrative: **The Narrative Template, below, includes details on what to include in your proposal narrative.**

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[1] As a general rule, CVI does not fund pure lab experiments. In very rare cases, a proposal may be considered if a lab-in-field experiment supplements an underlying randomized evaluation, or if the lab-in-field experiment has direct policy implications. For example, Edward Miguel and coauthors' lab-in-field evaluation of ethnic bias in Kenya was implemented during Kenya's national elections to understand how proximity to election dates might affect participants' ethnic biases.

- When preparing your proposal narrative, please note that the CVI Review Board reviews proposals based on the following evaluation criteria:

CVI strategic priority	Does this research embody CVI's guiding principles? Does this study fall within the scope of CVI's research priorities? Is the study based in the initiative focus countries? Refer to the CVI RFP Overview, attached to [the RFP landing page](#), for additional details on CVI's thematic and geographic priorities.
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? The CVI Review Board rewards innovation, generalizability, and theoretical grounding in proposals.
Policy relevance	Does the study address questions crucial to understanding pressing issues on crime and violence in developing countries? Will results from the intervention have broader implications? How, if at all, will the "lessons learned" have relevance beyond this test case? Is there demand from policy makers 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?
Research ethics	Are the risks of unintended negative consequences for program participants, staff and/or community members minimal? Has the team taken proactive measures to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks? Please refer to the "Designing responsible research projects" section of the CVI RFP Overview, attached to [the RFP landing page](#), for a more in-depth discussion on research ethics.
Value of research	Is the cost of the study commensurate with the value of expected lessons learned? Does the study leverage funding from other sources?

BUDGET GUIDELINES

Survey and other in-country expenses: While designed for travel reimbursements, travel grants can in some cases be used to cover expenses for in-country costs such as hiring enumerators, procuring translation or transcription services, developing instruments, and others. If these expenses are in the budget, J-PAL will provide the forms necessary to document them with your award notice, and you can claim these expenses as a reimbursement once the travel is completed. **J-PAL is not able to directly reimburse survey firms or local organizations for these costs. If you need a fieldwork organization to be reimbursed for such work, we encourage you to reach out to cvi_grant_admin@povertyactionlab.org before finalizing your proposal materials** to confirm whether we will need you to submit pilot proposal materials instead (to avoid requiring you to rework your proposal materials, thus slowing down award set up).

Please note: If your scope of work requires reimbursing your host organization (e.g. for fieldwork conducted with a partner such as focus groups or limited surveys) it is your responsibility that your budget follows your host institution's policies for costs, and **you must submit a letter from the institution to receive the award that states that they have reviewed your proposal and accept your budget.** MIT now requires that at least one project PI be employed by the organization receiving the subaward and funds.

Guidelines for completing a Travel/Proposal development grant proposal budget:

Be sure to use the Travel/Proposal Development Budget Template on CVI's RFP webpage, providing detailed notes in the column provided in the template):

1. Travel grants are paid as reimbursements. Travel/Proposal Development grants are for a maximum of $10,000.

2. International travel: J-PAL will put you in touch with an MIT travel agent who can book international travel and charge J-PAL directly. If you choose to buy your own ticket, we will not be able to reimburse you until your flights have been completed.

3. Grantees must complete their work and submit final reports within one year of receiving the grant award letter. Expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of an expense report. All expenses must be claimed within 30 days of your return. Expenses should be supported by receipts whenever possible, and all expenses over $50 must be supported by receipts.

4. **If your project includes human subject research:**
   1. **IRB Requirements:** MIT requires that the IRB determination must be held by the institution that enters into the subaward agreement with MIT. The PI at the ITRA must be listed as the main PI on the IRB. If the institution does not have its own IRB, the institution must engage the services of a commercial IRB to review and provide oversight for the research activities. Heartland and Solutions provide review of international research and satisfy J-PAL's IRB requirements; fees can be found on their respective websites. Further information about this MIT policy can be found here and here. Consult with J-PAL regarding including the cost of this commercial entity in the project budget.

1. 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](#).
2. **Institute to Receive Award (ITRA) Requirements**: If you are using an implementing organization as part of your travel/proposal development project, please indicate the institution that will receive the grant funds.

5. J-PAL is not able to cover travel or trip protection insurance, lost luggage insurance, incidental expenses, or grantees' time. **In most cases, J-PAL is not able to directly reimburse any individuals or organizations other than the grantees awarded the travel grant.**
6. **Please note that J-PAL Initiatives do not cover PI salaries with the exception of PIs who completed a PhD and are based at an academic institution in a middle- or low- income country.** There are no individual PI limits, but the total budgeted amount for LMIC researcher PI time in aggregate across all co-PIs should not exceed $3,750 per award.
7. Funding awarded by CVI is conditional on continued support from our own core donors. If CVI's scheduled funding is reduced, CVI may need to reduce or cancel your award.

8. *Allowable Direct and Indirect Costs*
    1. Unallowable costs include those labeled as "incidental," "miscellaneous," or "contingency." Any costs for rent should be explained in the budget narrative.
    2. *Medical insurance:* All grantees are required to provide proof of emergency medical insurance coverage before travel. As many universities provide this to their students, faculty, and staff at no cost, this is not a reimbursable cost under this award. J-PAL can provide information on affordable coverage if needed.
    3. *Per diem:* A per diem stipend of $25/day-in-country can be claimed to cover food and miscellaneous expenses.
    4. Universities in high-income countries (according to the World Bank classification) can charge up to 10% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.
    5. 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.
    6. We understand that the cap on overhead or indirect costs under this initiative is low and that grantees may have reasonable project support costs included in budgets as direct costs. Such costs should be reasonable and explained in the budget narrative.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

To apply to this RFP, please submit an application via our online portal, WizeHive, using the following links:
- [Travel and Proposal Development Grant](#)
- [Pilot](#)

- [Full RCT](#)

Complete proposals will be due **Tuesday, June 3, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time via WizeHive.** Please review the RFP Overview and Proposal Guidelines on the [CVI RFP website](#) for details on each proposal type and the complete list of application questions.

In addition, **regional scholars** are also required to submit letters of interest (LOIs) by **Tuesday, April 22, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time** via our LOI form here ([Pilot LOI](#) and [Travel/Proposal Development](#)). Eligible applicants will receive an invitation to proceed with full proposal development in WizeHive. LOIs are only required for regional scholar applicants.

For more details about how to navigate WizeHive, please see [these instructions](#).

Please review the template application materials below, including the list of questions you will be asked to answer. **All templates for these documents are provided at the [RFP release webpage](#) and listed below.**

1. **Travel Narrative:** Guidance pertaining to the narrative prompts is included in the [Narrative Template](#) below.
2. **Proposal Budget**: Carefully review the Budget Guidelines in this document, and then use the matching [Travel/Proposal Development Budget Excel Template](#) provided at [CVI's RFP webpage](#), which must be completed in its entirety and saved as a single Excel file with the title: [PI Last Name, First Name][Budget].xls(x).
3. **Budget Narrative:** Detail the costs within the budget, referring to the Budget Guidelines above, in a Word document with the title [PI Last Name, First Name][Budget Narrative].doc(x). This document is required in addition to the Proposal Budget -- i.e. notes included in the Excel sheet do not suffice.
4. **Letter(s) of Support**: Please obtain a letter of support from the following, each saved as a single PDF file with the title [PI Last Name, First Name] [Name of Organization Letter of Support].pdf:
   a. (*optional*) a letter from any implementing partner(s) indicating the details of their commitment or willingness to engage in discussions to partner on the research
   b. (*required*) a letter/document stating the proposed grant host institution's approval of the proposal materials (if anything beyond PI travel is included in the scope of work).
   c. **Graduate students applying as the primary PI are required to include a letter of support from a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher adviser on their thesis committee.** The letter should indicate the adviser's willingness to remain involved in a supervisory role throughout the lifetime of the project. Letters can be sent separately by advisers via the forthcoming online portal or included in the applicant's submission packet.

5. **AI: Validation and Test Accuracy data:** Proposals that include **Artificial Intelligence (AI) or any new specialized technology should include validation and test accuracy data in the proposal**, showing that the technology successfully does what it intends.

NARRATIVE TEMPLATE

This template is intended to give researchers a sense of the questions they will be asked to address in the online WizeHive portal. Regional scholars must first complete the LOI form, as described in the instructions above.

Exact wording and sequencing of questions is subject to change.

Important Information
1. **Primary Eligible Researcher** - Please identify one researcher who is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding. This may be the principal PI or any eligible co-PI. Only details for one primary eligible researcher are required in cases where there's more than one eligible researcher. Other PIs who are eligible can be added as co-PIs.
2. **PI Eligibility Category** - Indicate how the researcher is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding.
3. **PhD Student Applicants** - If you are a PhD student, please indicate the J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher who serves or will serve as an advisor on your dissertation committee.
4. **Organization Type -** As a reminder, researchers must be based at a university to be eligible. If you have questions, please contact the initiative team at cvi@povertyactionlab.org.
5. **Organization Website of Eligible Researcher**
6. **Country Where Organization is Based or Headquartered**
7. **Team Members & Roles** - Please add all your project team members and indicate their role(s) on the project/application below. If you do not have any other team members please add yourself below as applicant and Primary PI.
   Role options are: Applicant; Primary PI; Co-PI; Research Lead at Implementing Organization; Reporting Contact; Secondary Reporting Contact; IRB Contact; Finance Contact; Collaborator; Contact for Contracting (e.g., grant manager or research administrator); Other (please specify role or title).
   If you are the applicant and a PI (or another role), indicate so by adding yourself as an applicant and then again as a PI. As the applicant, you will be receiving all notifications related to this application. For each team member please provide: First Name, Last Name, Role or Title, Email Address
8. **PI Certification** [accept certification to proceed]
   a. I certify that any listed eligible researchers have agreed to be active, engaged, and responsive PIs or advisors on this project. Eligible researchers who are involved have confirmed they will be dedicated to guaranteeing quality control on all aspects of this research and that their participation is not merely to provide access

to resources and funding to other project team members who would otherwise be ineligible.
   b. I certify that all eligible researchers are up to date on reporting for all existing grants, across all J-PAL initiatives.
   c. I certify that, if I receive award funding, I will submit all necessary materials for award setup within six months from the date of award notice, barring any extenuating circumstances.
9. **Demographic Information** - J-PAL is collecting 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, please 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. Completion of this step is required for all primary investigators on your research team. If you have any technical problems with completing this step please email help@povertyactionlab.org or the initiative team directly.

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

   J-PAL is collecting 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.

Project Details
10. **Full Title of Proposal** [30 word max]
11. **Proposed Period of Performance Project Start Date -** What is the proposed start date for this J-PAL grant's subaward activities?
12. **Proposed Period of Performance Project End Date -** What is the proposed end date for this J-PAL grant's subaward activities?
13. **Past and Future Submissions** - Have you submitted or do you plan to submit this proposal to any other J-PAL Initiative RFP, including in any previous CVI round of funding?
14. **Details about Past and Future Submissions** - If you answered yes above, please state which initiative(s), year/season of RFP, and the name of the LOI/proposal you submitted or plan to submit. Example: GI Spring 2019 Using Mobile Phones to Improve Service Delivery. Are the PI team, context, and research question the same as in the previously submitted proposal? Please explain whether the project received funding and what type of funding it received (Travel/Proposal Development, Pilot, RCT, Scale).

Additionally, please explain how the project has progressed since it was last submitted to CVI, and explain how you addressed the feedback that was provided with your last submission. [350 words max]

15. **Funding Amount** - Amount of requested funding in USD.
16. **National Location** - In which country or countries will your research or travel take place?
17. **Timeline** - Please write out a timeline with key project activities. [250 words max]
18. **Name & Role of Partner Organization** - Indicate the role, in relation to this project, of the organization identified. [250 words max]

Narrative

19. **Abstract -** Write a study abstract, including the project description, research question, and intervention or treatment to be evaluated. Discuss the project's technical design, what is going to happen during the project, the practical value of your project, the conceptual value of your research, and the distributional implications of your work. Provide context about proposed partners. Please note that this abstract will be added to the Initiative's webpage if the project receives funding. [250 words max]
20. **Research Focus Areas/Initiative Themes** - Please indicate which CVI focus areas or themes your proposal relates to; these are described in detail in the CVI RFP Overview on the RFP landing page. [choose from a dropdown list]
21. **Topic Statement** - These grants are intended to facilitate very preliminary, exploratory research, so proposals need only address the general topic of interest and current ideas on how the question might be explored through a pilot and a randomized evaluation in the future. They do not need to include a detailed program or evaluation design, but should clearly indicate how this grant will help the research team develop a strong proposal in a future RCT. If there is any survey component, please explicitly include the number of individuals surveyed. Please list activities, which could include preliminary data collection such as focus groups or small sample surveys to understand the barriers that program participants may face, working to set up data sharing agreements and/or MOUs. [500 words max]
22. **Policy Motivation** - Provide a summary of the policy problem that motivates this preliminary research and how it fits with the topics outlined in the RFP materials. [250 words max]
23. **Potential Policy Impact -** Please briefly describe the potential policy impacts of this potential intervention (policies, programs, processes, or delivery mechanisms), including whether and how the project could inform policy or program design in this context or more broadly. [250 words max]
24. **Target Population and Context** - What population(s), if known at this time, will the intervention attempt to impact? What characteristics do they have? If applicable, do you

have any comments on the target population and context's alignment with the initiative's priorities? [350 words max]

25. **Unique Contribution to the Field** - What knowledge gap are you addressing, and how will it advance the field? Explain the project's potential to provide a unique scientific contribution. Provide a brief literature review to demonstrate the uniqueness of your project. Note that a full reference list can be attached in the "Additional Attachments" section. [500 words max]

26. **Pathway to an RCT and Impact** - How would results from this travel/proposal development grant inform a future RCT? Describe, specifically, what researchers and practitioners can expect to learn from this travel/proposal development grant. Will it provide qualitative data to inform intervention design? How could the findings meet the needs of policymakers or development practitioners? In what specific ways will the travel/proposal development grant prepare researchers for a full RCT project? Outline the hypothesized pathway and scope for impact. Clearly establish a plausible and promising link between the proposed approach to be tested and the hypothesized channel for impact. Indicate the reliability of existing evidence from relevant expert opinion in your research context. [500 words max]

27. **Implications on Equity and Social Inclusion** – Please provide a comment on whether the research proposal addresses equity or social inclusion, in any way. Topics of social inclusion include, but are not limited to, gender, income level, location, ethnicity, race, language, citizenship status, disability, and at the intersection of those factors. Explain whether and how the project design allows us to learn about baseline differences between and differential impacts on groups mentioned above. Explain what reasons (if any) there are to expect that the intervention(s) studied may have disproportionate benefits for disadvantaged groups. [500 words max]

28. **Local Researcher Involvement -** Please describe whether/how the project involves researchers local to the project context. [300 words max]

29. **Validation and Test Accuracy Data -** Proposals that include Artificial Intelligence (AI) or any new specialized technology should include validation and test accuracy data in the proposal, showing that the technology successfully does what it intends. If applicable, please provide that validation and test accuracy data here, or attach it in the "Additional Attachments" section. [300 words max]

Potential Risks - Please answer the following questions below in detail: [1000 word limit]
  a. **Completion** - Are there any technical, logistical, ethical, or political obstacles and risks that might threaten the completion of the project (e.g., implementation capacity, government authorization, or other funding)? How do you plan to monitor and prevent/address these types of risks throughout the project?
  b. **Implementing Partners** - Please discuss any information about the implementing partner(s) that could pose ethical, reputational, or legal risks (e.g.,

child safeguarding, corruption or misuse of funds, etc). If applicable, what proactive measures have you taken or will you take to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks?

    c. **Child Safeguarding** - Particularly for projects working with children, what child safeguarding risks exist?

    d. **Participants, Staff, Community Members** - For each of the groups below, please describe any potential unintended consequences or risks of this project to them. What proactive measures have you taken or will you take to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks?

        i. Program and research participants

        ii. Staff (e.g., implementing partners, research assistants, enumerators)

        iii. Community members (e.g., untreated members of a household, untreated neighbors, or broader communities if the treatment might have spillover or downstream effects beyond the study sample)

    e. **Contractual Limitations** - Are there any contractual limitations on the ability of the researchers to report the results of the study? If so, what are those restrictions, and who are they from?

Institutional Review Board and Institute to Receive Award

Human Subject Research - According to US federal regulations, a human subject is a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains 1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual (e.g., through an interview, focus group, or survey), or 2) identifiable private information (e.g., individual-level health or education data).

30. **Do you plan to conduct human subjects research during your travel/proposal development?** - If your project scope of work includes collecting the types of data above, please select Yes. [Y/N]

If yes, answer questions 33-34

IRB Organization (IORG) Information - Please be mindful that MIT requires that the IRB determination must be held by the institution that enters into the subaward agreement with MIT. The PI at the ITRA must be listed as the main PI on the IRB. If the institution does not have its own IRB, the institution must engage the services of a commercial IRB to review and provide oversight for the research activities. Heartland and Solutions provide review of international research and satisfy J-PAL's IRB requirements; fees can be found on their respective websites. Further information about this MIT policy can be found here and here. Consult with J-PAL regarding including the cost of this commercial entity in the project budget. J-PAL also 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.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Record - If the project has not received an IRB exemption and IRB review is required (i.e., you plan to conduct human subject research), please look up the current or expected IRB of record. IRB Requirements - If this proposal receives initiative funding, we will ask that you submit:

- All IRB approval(s) or exemption(s)
- All IRB-approved protocols
- Any IRB-approved consent forms *[Instructions]*

31. **IRB of Record -** Provide the name of the IRB of Record below.
32. **Is this IRB of Record IORG certified?** [Y/N]

33. **Local Legal Requirements Certification** - All PIs and Co-PIs certify that they understand they must adhere to all local legal requirements, including obtaining local IRB approval and government research permits, where applicable. Do you agree? Y/N.

Institute to Receive Award (ITRA) Information
PLEASE NOTE: MIT now requires that at least one project PI be employed by the organization receiving the subaward and funds. Please see this [memo](#) and [FAQs document](#) for more information.

34. **Institute to Receive Award (ITRA)** - If applicable: Please indicate the institution that will receive the grant funds.

Budget
Note: Purchase of Assets - Should your proposal be successful, you may be required to remove any assets (i.e., laptops, tablets, etc.) from your budget. This is because of a donor's assets policy. Please create your budget with this in mind. Rentals of such items are allowed and the preferred way to address needs for assets like laptops.

35. **Budget Upload** - From the [RFP website](#), download and complete the Travel/Proposal Development Budget Template. There are two tabs: one for the initiative-specific budget and one for the project budget (i.e., the initiative-specific budget plus any other sources of funding you may have). When done, please upload your completed budget in the field below. Please note that the budget template is formatted specifically for this application. Do not remove the formatting, change any of the formatting, or create new columns.

36. **Budget Narrative** - Please justify the expenses outlined in your budget in a Word document with the title [PI Last Name, First Name][Budget Narrative].doc(x), and upload it here. This document is required in addition to the Proposal Budget. Notes included in the Excel sheet do not suffice. [Upload]

Letters of Support & Additional Attachments

37. **Letter of Transmission** - For travel/proposal development projects that will be setup as subawards, a letter or document stating approval of the proposal materials and budget from each proposed institute to receive award (ITRA) is required. Please note that MIT policy states that the project PI needs to be employed at the ITRA and that the ITRA should provide the IRB (either using the Institute's IRB or a third party IRB). The Project PI must be the PI on the IRB.
38. *For PhD students only* - **J-PAL Affiliate or Invited Researcher Letter of Support** - PhD student applicants are required to submit a letter of support from a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher who serves as an adviser on the applicant's dissertation committee. This letter should indicate the adviser's willingness to advise the student throughout the project's lifetime. Please note that in some cases, the adviser may be asked to add their name to the financial award and IRB documents.
39. **Additional attachments** - Please attach any relevant materials discussed in your answers to the previous questions, as well as letters of support from partners. [Upload]
40. **Additional Information -** Please review CVI's proposal evaluation criteria below, and provide additional discussion relevant to the evaluation criteria if not already addressed in the fields above.

Evaluation criteria

CVI strategic priority	Does this research embody CVI's guiding principles? Does this study fall within the scope of CVI's research priorities? Is the study based in the initiative focus countries? Refer to the [CVI RFP overview](#) for additional details on CVI's thematic and geographic priorities.
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 questions crucial to understanding pressing issues on crime and violence in developing countries? Will results from the intervention have broader implications? How, if at all, will the "lessons learned" have relevance beyond this test case? Is there demand from policy makers 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?
Research ethics	Are the risks of unintended negative consequences for program participants, staff and/or community members minimal? Has the team taken proactive measures to assess, monitor, and mitigate/prevent any such potential risks? Please refer to the "Designing responsible research projects" section of the CVI RFP overview for a more in-depth discussion on research ethics.
Value of research	Is the cost of the study commensurate with the value of expected lessons learned? Does the study leverage funding from other sources?