

Education Research and Scale for COVID-19 Recovery RFP Application Form

J-PAL is hosting a one-time Education Research and Scale for COVID-19 Recovery request for proposals (RFP) to fund randomized evaluations and scale-ups of strategies to improve access, quality, equity, and relevance of pre-primary, primary, and post-primary education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic across low- and middle-income countries. The round is jointly hosted by J-PAL's Post-Primary Education (PPE) Initiative and Innovation in Government (IGI) Initiative and generously supported by the Douglas B. Marshall, Jr. Family Foundation and Echidna Giving.

Please note that while the research portion of the RFP is hosted by the PPE Initiative, we encourage proposals across all grade levels from pre-primary to tertiary education.

This request for proposals will consider full research projects, pilot research projects, proposal development projects, and scale-up projects that address key questions on how best to mitigate learning loss as a result of school closures and how to continue and motivate student learning during the ongoing COVID crisis.

During this one-time round, J-PAL expects to award funding across four types of proposals:

- Full research projects (awards up to \$200,000);
- Pilot research projects (awards up to \$75,000), including descriptive work (awards up to \$25,000);
- Exploratory work for proposal development (awards up to \$10,000); and
- Scale-up projects with government partners (awards up to \$200,000).

For research projects: J-PAL affiliates, postdoctoral fellows, and invited researchers are eligible to apply for full, pilot, and proposal development funding. PhD students who have a J-PAL affiliate on their thesis committee at their host university are eligible to apply for up to \$50,000 in pilot or proposal development funding. All research applications will be considered by the PPE Initiative.

For scale-up projects: J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL regional offices, and IGI invited researchers are eligible to apply in collaboration with their government partners. All scale-up applications will be considered by IGI.

Application materials should be submitted online by Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 11:59pm ET.

If you have any questions, please email Priyanka Varma, PPE Initiative Manager, at PPE@povertyactionlab.org and/or Gaëlle Conille, IGI Manager, at IGI@povertyactionlab.org.

Are you seeking research funding (full, pilot, or proposal development projects) or scale-up funding? Please note the funding limitations of each initiative in the introductory text to this form. *

Title of proposal *

answer text.....

Country*

answer text.....

Names of J-PAL Affiliate(s) or Invited Researcher(s) Submitting the Proposal*

answer text.....

Names and Institutional Affiliations of Non-J-PAL Co-PI(s)

answer text.....

J-PAL or IPA office (if applicable):

answer text.....

Implementing partner(s). Please include contact information (name, email, phone). *

answer text.....

Co-funders(s) and total co-funded. Please include contact information (name, email, phone). *

answer text.....

Institution to receive award:*

answer text.....

Administrative contact at institute to receive award:

(Please include the name and email for the appropriate administrative contact at the institute to receive award.)

answer text.....

IGI Scale-Up Application Form

For education related scale-up projects: J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL regional offices, and IGI invited researchers are eligible to apply in collaboration with their government partners. All scale-up applications will be considered by IGI. Proposals for IGI funding consist of (i) an application form; (ii) a budget; and (iii) letters of support. Please direct any questions to IGI@povertyactionlab.org.

Abstract: Please provide a 100-150 word abstract of the partnership to adapt, pilot, and/or scale an evidence-informed innovation with a specific government partner(s). This will be added to IGI's webpage if the project receives funding.*

answer text.....

Amount requested: *

answer text.....

Grant Period: Start Date*

Month, day year

Grant Period: End Date*

Month, day year

Government partner(s). Please include contact information (name, email, phone)*

answer text.....

Did the government partner initiate the request for support? Please describe what they requested and a brief summary of your past and current partnership/collaboration.*

answer text.....

Narrative

The problem and opportunity: Please describe the policy problem and opportunity that the government partner has identified that motivates the partnership and explain how this proposal will address the problem.*

answer text.....

The innovation: What is the intervention the government will explore adapting, piloting, and/or scaling, and how could it potentially benefit people and/or reduce the negative impacts of COVID-19? Innovations can be new programs or changes to existing

programs, processes, or delivery systems. Please include a brief summary of the experimental evidence on this innovation to date.

answer text.....

Please briefly describe the intervention design, detailing how the government plans to avoid increasing in-person interaction that could contribute to COVID-19 spread. *

answer text.....

Please include a clear rationale for why the innovation may be relevant or appropriate for the proposed context and/or institution. When possible, please include descriptive statistics about the nature and extent of the problem and aspects of local systems and institutions that make it amenable to the innovation. Specify which aspects of the existing evidence are or are not likely to generalize given the proposed implementer, context, and delivery model(s).*

answer text.....

Scale-up potential: Please provide a summary of how the government plans to use the IGI-funded technical assistance in specific decisions about expanding or scaling an evidenced-informed innovation. *

answer text.....

Reach: If the government decides to scale the innovation, how many people could it potentially reach and when? What is the average income level of the target population? IGI is particularly interested in innovations that improve the lives of people living in poverty. *

answer text.....

Likelihood of success: Please include your subjective assessment of how likely this scale-up is to happen (i.e. X% likely to happen) if the pilot phase goes well. What are the main factors that could prevent this innovation from scaling and how do you plan to address them? *

answer text.....

IGI supported activities

Please describe the proposed activities that IGI will fund and how they could contribute to the government reducing the spread or negative impacts of COVID-19. Please include a note on the steps you will take to avoid increasing in-person interaction during the project, both through the intervention itself and data collection. *

answer text.....

The partnership: Please provide a brief history of the partnership with the government, their involvement in project activities, any in-kind or financial support they have committed or provided to the project, and the names and titles of the main government contact(s) and the roles they will play over the course of the project. Please note whether they are likely to be transferred during the project and whether there are other stakeholders who are equally invested. Include the dates of upcoming elections and/or administration changes and discuss whether these are likely to affect the project. *

answer text.....

Cross-cutting Themes: Select all the cross-cutting themes linked to your proposal. *

- ☐ Technology- and data-enabled program delivery
- ☐ Implementation science
- ☐ Cost analysis
- ☐ None

How does the project incorporate these crosscutting themes?

answer text.....

Will you leverage the use of existing administrative data systems or technology to collect data (i.e. through phone or online surveys)? If yes, please describe your plans. *

answer text.....

Implementation and cost documentation: A comment on what efforts you will make to collect implementation costs and document implementation and scale-up processes so these can benefit other policymakers and researchers and staff at J-PAL. *

answer text.....

Timeline: Please provide a clear project timeline (Gantt chart preferred) including short-term markers of success. *

File submission up to 100 GB of files max of 5 files

IGI Project funding

Budget: Please attach a brief project budget using the IGI budget template. (https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/files/2020/03/IGI_budget-template_2020_0.xls).

File submission up to 100 GB of files max of 1 files

Letters of Support

Please note that at least 4 letters of support are required (from the government partner, the institution to receive award, the corresponding J-PAL regional office, and the J-PAL affiliate(s)). An additional letter of support from the implementing partner is required if different from the above. Please see the following templates on the IGI webpage for the Affiliate Letter of Support (https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/IGI_affiliate-letter-of-support-template_2020.doc) and the J-PAL Regional Office Letter of Support (https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/IGI_regional-office-letter-of-support-template_2020.doc)

Upload letter(s) of support from the government partner (required), implementing partner(s) (if relevant), institute to receive award (required), J-PAL regional office (required), and J-PAL affiliate(s) (required).

File submission up to 100 GB of files max of 10 files

Potential risks from project implementation

Are there potential unintended consequences of this project? Are there ways this project could negatively affect participants and/or non-participants, and if so, what are they? Does this project present any unintended opportunities for corruption or misuse of funds? How do you plan to monitor and prevent/address these risks throughout the project?*

answer text.....

IRB Approval

If your project requires IRB review, what IRB will you be using? *

answer text.....

Is this IRB accepting applications? If yes, please provide a link to their website that shows they are accepting applications during COVID-19.

answer text.....

Thank you!

Please direct any research application questions to Priyanka Varma, PPE Initiative Manager, at PPE@povertyactionlab.org. Please direct any scale-up application questions to Gaëlle Conille, IGI Manager, at IGI@povertyactionlab.org.