PROJECT “STRENGTHENING LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZILIAN PRESCHOOLS”: Letter of Interest (LOI)

Second Semester, 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP)

J-PAL´s project [Strengthening Learning and Child Development in Brazilian Preschools](https://www.povertyactionlab.org/page/strengthening-learning-and-child-development-brazilian-preschools) calls for proposals from J-PAL affiliated researchers, invited researchers, post-docs, and PhD students who have a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher on their thesis committee to conduct a randomized research project to evaluate the impact of programs focused on improving the quality of preschool education on learnings and development of children in Brazil. Additionally, applicants of this RFP can also request funds for implementing partners of “promising preschool programs” (see the “award types” section for more information).

***Letters of interest are due by Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 7:00 PM UTC-3. Proposals are due by Monday, November, 04, 2024 at 7:00 PM UTC-3.*** Please submit your application via the project's email preschool.rfp@povertyactionlab.org.

The project “Strengthening Learning and Child Development in Brazilian Preschools” is funded by donations in Brazilian Real (BRL) and will make all awards in BRL. Please be sure to submit your budget in BRL. If you expect to use your award, if successful, for expenses outside of Brazil, we will work to send grant funds to you in the currency needed, but you will be responsible for any currency risks.

The RFP Overview and Instructions can be found [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MoSQoM73fhhBhePmSbkwjeqDSgZVGem1/view?usp=sharing).

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## LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS

This Request for Proposal will provide targeted funding to test promising preschool programs in municipalities in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul, Bahia, or São Paulo (Brazil). A promising program was defined in this project as a scientific-based program, in accordance with the Brazilian National Common Curricular Base for Early Childhood Education ([BNCC](http://basenacionalcomum.mec.gov.br/abase/)) and the National Curricular Guidelines for early childhood education ([DCNEI](http://portal.mec.gov.br/dmdocuments/diretrizescurriculares_2012.pdf)), with previous experience of implementation at public preschools in Brazil, including training of early childhood professionals, being open to share the materials for replications, feasible to be implemented in 2 years or less, with previous evaluation of the implementing process that enabled to learn what worked or not in terms of program content, delivery strategy, duration, instruments, and other components. **We invite J-PAL’s research network to learn more about** [**preschool programs**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VwZ1s7VA5F4F8-QlGocJgl4algjaCJom/view?usp=sharing) **that want to evaluate their impact.**

To best fill out this application, please adhere to each question’s character counts (if applicable) and answer each question under the provided instructions. Please include a short response (single-spaced) to each of the following sub-sections. Questions with asterisks (\*) are required. If you have any questions, please email us, through preschool.rfp@povertyactionlab.org.

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## BASIC INFORMATION

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### 1. Proposed Period of Performance Project Start Date\*

What is the proposed start date for this J-PAL grant’s subaward activities?

Please, consider that this RFP will fund proposals feasible to be implemented in the period of January, 2025 until December, 2026. Please provide conservative rather than optimistic estimates for start and end dates to reduce the likelihood of needing to submit no-cost extension requests. Please note that it can take around 90 days from the results’ announcement date for the signature of the contract and the disbursement of the funds. This span also depends on IRB approval time. Also, hiring a Senior Research Associate or Research Manager can take up to one month.

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### 2. Proposed Period of Performance Project End Date\*

What is the proposed period of performance end date for this J-PAL grant’s subaward activities?

Please provide conservative rather than optimistic estimates for start and end dates to reduce the likelihood of needing to submit no-cost extension requests. Please note that it can take around 90 days from the results’ announcement date for the signature of the contract and the disbursement of the funds. This span also depends on IRB approval time. Also, hiring a Senior Research Associate or Research Manager can take up to one month.

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### 3. Full Title of Proposal (up to 30 words) \*

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### 4. Eligible Researcher \*

Please identify the researcher who is eligible for this RFP funding. This may be the principal Pl, or any eligible co-Pl.

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### 5. Select PI Eligibility Category \*

Indicate how the PI identified above is eligible for this RFP funding.

( ) J-PAL Affiliate

( ) Invited Researcher

( ) J-PAL Postdoc

( ) PhD Student

### 6. PhD Student Applicants

If you are a PhD student, please indicate the J-PAL affiliated researcher who serves as an adviser on your dissertation committee at your host university.

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### 7. PI Certification \*

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.  
I certify that all eligible researchers are up to date on reporting for all existing grants, across all J-PAL initiatives.

( ) Yes

( ) No

**8. Team Members \***

Please list the research team members and implementing partners who will work on the project in the table below. Include each member's name, institutional affiliation, email address, and their role in the project.

| **First name** | **Last name** | **E-mail** | **Institutional affiliation** | **Role (main PI, co-PI or implementing partner)** |
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**9. Team Composition/Local Knowledge \***

Is at least one of the Principal Investigators in your team based in or from Brazil? If yes, what is the scope of their involvement? Otherwise, what other efforts have been made to engage local decision-makers or stakeholders in the proposal? In addition, have any of the Principle Investigators completed high school or undergrad in a low- or middle-income country, as defined by the World Bank? If yes, what is the scope of their involvement? (up to 200 words)

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**10. Interdisciplinary Partnership\***

As part of J-PAL's efforts to address the lack of diversity in the field of economics, J-PAL aims to support the development of interdisciplinary research teams. Please indicate if you already have an interdisciplinary researcher in your team (e.g. Education, Psychology, or other) or if you’re interested in partnering with interdisciplinary researchers. J-PAL staff may follow up with more information.

( ) I already have an interdisciplinary researcher in my team

( ) I’m interested in partnering with interdisciplinary researchers

( ) No, I’m not interested in partnering with interdisciplinary researchers

## PROJECT DETAILS

**11. Funding Type \***

Which type of funding is the project team applying for? Check as many boxes apply to your project. Please, be aware that we will not fund proposals that request only implementing funds.

( ) Randomized Research Projects (RCT)

( ) Implementing Partner

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### 12. Funding Amount

### 12.a Funding for Research (up to BRL 400,000[[1]](#footnote-0))

### Please ensure that the amount requested is in Brazilian Real (BRL)

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### 12.b Funding for Implementing Partner (up to BRL 300,000[[2]](#footnote-1))

### Please ensure that the amount requested is in Brazilian Real (BRL)

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### 13. 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 and a timeline. Please note that this abstract will be added to the project's webpage if the project receives funding (up to 250 words).

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### 14. Project Alignment\*

Please briefly describe how the project aligns with the RFP’s research agenda, as described in the RFP overview (250 words max).

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**15. Project Description\***

Please briefly describe the research methodology to be employed (250 words max).

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**16. Previous Evaluations\***

This RFP will fund projects that include interventions with previous evaluation of the implementing process that enabled to understand what worked or not in terms of program content, delivery strategy, duration, instruments, and other components. Please briefly describe the results of previous evaluations of the intervention and main lessons learned that allowed to refine the intervention design, mechanisms and/or materials (250 words max).

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**17. Subnational Location\***

This Request for Proposal offers targeted funding to test promising preschool programs in municipalities within Mato Grosso do Sul, Bahia, or São Paulo (Brazil). In which state(s) would your research be conducted? Please indicate if you have a preferred state in Brazil or if you are open to any of the states mentioned.

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### 18. 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 [preschool.rfp@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:preschool.rfp@povertyactionlab.org)

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1. Under exceptional circumstances, J-PAL Board may choose to award a higher amount of funding for Randomized Research Projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Under exceptional circumstances, J-PAL Board may choose to award a higher amount of funding for Implementing Partners. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)