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…………………………………………………………………………………………...

PPE Research Application Form

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.

Please select the proposal type that best fits your project.*

       ☐Full Research Project

       ☐Pilot Research Project

       ☐Proposal Development

       ☐Add-on Funding

If this is add-on funding, to which project are you adding funds?
(Please include the project title, PI names, and original funding initiative).

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………...

Abstract*
Include a 100-150 word abstract of the study in third person.

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………...

COVID Priority Areas: Select all the COVID priority areas linked to your proposal.
(For a full description of the COVID priority areas, please see the joint round's RFP Overview here: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/post-primary-education-request-proposals.)

       ☐Remote and Distance Learning

       ☐Girls' Education

       ☐Remedial Education

COVID Priority Areas: Explain how the main research question(s) link to the COVID priority areas.

COVID Cross-Cutting Themes: Select all the COVID cross-cutting themes linked to your proposal.
(For a full description of the COVID cross-cutting themes, please see the joint round's RFP Overview here: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/post-primary-education-request-proposals.)

       ☐Gender

       ☐Equity

       ☐Public/Private Schools

COVID Cross-Cutting Themes: Explain how the main research question(s) links to the COVID cross-cutting themes.

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Grant Period: Start Date*

Month, day, year
Grant Period: End Date*

Month, day, year

Intervention Details and Testing:*
(Include a thorough description of the intervention. Explain the extent to which implementation and testing have been validated. In doing so, please also explain how the proposed evaluation adds to the existing literature on the proposal topic.)

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Research Design*
(Include a description of the study design, assumptions on take-up, main outcomes (and how they will be measured), and power calculations with rationale of key assumptions when relevant. Proposals that measure learning outcomes should include details on the tests they will use and should justify why those are appropriate for the specific study.)

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Initiative Funding Request:*
(List amount requested and total amount co-funded (if applicable), both in USD.)

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Sources of Readily Available Funding:
(Please note that due to COVID-19 slowdowns at universities, it may take 30 days for J-PAL to deploy funding for your project. Given that we are prioritizing projects that can deliver quick results, do you have readily available staff or funds that you can deploy right away? J-PAL can then reimburse the funds used for this project in these cases.)

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Budget:*

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

Budget Narrative:*

answer text…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Relevant Letter(s) of Support:*

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

Are there any other details you would like us to consider?

answer text……………………………………………………………………………………………

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.