SARWA RFP OVERVIEW
Spring 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Air and Water Labs (AWL) in collaboration with Community Jameel, is calling for proposals to innovate, test, and scale evidence-informed solutions for the most pressing air and water challenges.[1] The AWL in South Asia, Solutions and Advancements through Research in Water and Air (SARWA) focuses on generating research and scaling effective solutions that are **based on deep collaborations with government partners in India.**

SARWA is now calling for proposals from J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, invited researchers (from any J-PAL initiative), and PhD students (with support from a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher) for travel/proposal development grants, pilots grants, full RCT grants and scaling grants. SARWA is interested in research or path-to-scale projects that are aimed at improving clean air and water access for millions of people by informing the decisions of local and national governments. Applications can also include NGO, private sector, or other collaborators working on the study. but the primary partner must be a state or national government entity in India.

Instructions and links to the applications can be found below, under "How to Apply". **Letters of interest (LOIs) are due by Thursday, January 30th 2025 at 11:59 PM US Eastern Time** via our LOI form (here). Eligible applicants will receive an invitation via email to proceed with the complete application.

Complete proposals will be due on Thursday, March 20th, 2025, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time. Please review the RFP Overview and Proposal Guidelines on the SARWA RFP website for details on each proposal type and a complete list of application questions.

For questions on RFP priorities, application and review processes, eligibility, and general inquiries, please reach out to the SARWA team, or visit the SARWA website.

---

[1] In addition to clean air and water, SARWA can also accept proposals for projects on other priority issues related to climate, environmental, or energy policy as long as they are demand-driven by the government and have the potential to benefit people and/or the planet.

SARWA LEADERSHIP AND TEAM	
Scientific Advisors	Michael Greenstone, Professor, University of Chicago Namrata Kala, Associate Professor, MIT Sloan School of Management
SARWA Team	Urvashi Wattal, Associate Director- Policy Sanjana Gorti, Lead-Air and Water Lab Shyam Sundar Sridhar, Policy Manager-Environment, Energy and Climate change Juhi Chacko, Senior Policy and Research Associate

CONTENT

TIMELINE FOR SARWA SPRING RFP 2025

SARWA has one funding cycle per year. The timeline for the upcoming cycle is as follows:

RFP Activity	Timeline
Launch EoIs	December 19, 2024
Close EoIs	January 30, 2025
Open Application	February 12, 2025
Close Application*	March 20, 2025
Internal Application Review and Peer Review	April 21, 2025
Board Call	May 16, 2025
Announcement of Funding decision	May 26, 2025

MOTIVATION

There is no substitute for clean air and water. Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia are on the front lines of the global air and water crises, facing high levels of water scarcity and worsening air and water quality that leads people to live shorter and sicker lives. In India, about 75 percent of households did not have drinking water on premises in 2018. Nearly 90 percent of children in MENA live in areas facing high or extreme water stress as of 2021. In 2019, nearly 400 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lacked access to safe drinking water. Simultaneously, air pollution is one of the greatest threats to human health globally. **In India, extraordinary levels of air pollution are shortening the average life expectancy by five years.** In Africa, rising indoor and ambient air pollution contributed to 1.1 million premature deaths in 2019. These air and water crises are fundamentally connected to the broader global climate and energy challenge.

Solutions to these problems are often scarce because data and evidence on potential solutions are limited. Without high-quality data and evidence, it is impossible to know where the problems are the most severe and what solutions would be the most effective to address them. Even when objective data are available, few high-quality impact evaluations of potential policies are available to guide decisions on air and water policy. The resulting uncertainty around the most effective course of action makes it difficult for governments to enforce policies, allows polluters to fall through the cracks, and ultimately harms vulnerable communities.

The Solutions and Advancements through Research for Water and Air (SARWA) was launched to accelerate the adoption of scientific evidence and data for designing impactful policies on air and water. **Under SARWA, J-PAL South Asia will be collaborating with governments** — both at the national and local levels — to answer some of the most pressing and critical questions that will lead to robust air and water policies. Through this initiative J-PAL is working with government partners to co-diagnose the most pressing air and water challenges within the regions, expand policymakers' access to and use of high-quality data, co-generate evidence on promising solutions through pilot projects and randomized evaluations, co-design potential solutions based on existing evidence, and scale policies and programs found to be effective.

Given the interconnected nature of clean air and water policies, the Air and Water labs may also fund studies on priority government policies related to climate adaptation and mitigation.

SCOPE OF INITIATIVE

SARWA will prioritize funding research and scaling projects in partnership with the government partner(s), as well as projects with high potential to influence policy and/or to improve access to clean air and water at scale. With a focus on approaches that respond to partners' top priorities regarding air and water or other environmental issues (demand driven) and have the potential to benefit people in poverty at scale, SARWA will consider projected effect size and cost-effectiveness of Research and Path-to-Scale proposals of promising innovations measuring one or more of the following outcomes:

> **Outcome 1:** Improving air quality and/or reducing air pollution
> **Outcome 2:** Improving water quality and/or reducing water pollution
> **Outcome 3:** Increasing access to clean, usable water for people facing water stress
> **Outcome 4:** Measure the impact of research on policy changes at local, state or national levels (this could be by introducing new guidelines, standards or regulations)
> **Outcome 5:** Level of community engagement in air and water quality improvement efforts
> **Outcome 6:** Increasing access to affordable, reliable energy for people experiencing poverty
> **Outcome 7:** Promoting climate -resilient agriculture.
> **Outcome 8:** Improvements to health, economic and social aspects in villages/cities.
> **Outcome 9:** Maintenance and use of water supply systems, toilets, and hygiene facilities.

Research teams considering expanded topics are encouraged to reach out to the SARWA team to discuss whether other topics may be within the scope of the lab. Outcomes of interest may also be determined through these conversations.

SARWA will fund proposals for studies implemented in India only. Pilots and full evaluations will be considered under this funding window, only if they are planned in collaboration with state and central government partners (substantiated via Letters of Support or MoUs) that include J-PAL South Asia as a partner. Proposal Development grants can be utilized to build such government relations and collaborations. Path-to-scale projects are encouraged and will also only be considered if they are in collaboration with state and central government partners.

GENERAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

SARWA aims to promote research collaborations with governments in order to identify and advance scalable policy solutions at the heart of the air and water crisis. Through research and scaling funds, we look for projects across multi-sectoral aspects of clean air and water access, including but not limited to the list given below.

- Air and water pollution
- Groundwater preservation
- Mobilizing Self-help groups for water infrastructure management.
- Regulations (including market regulations) to reduce air and water pollution
- Social and behavioral interventions to improve water usage, sanitation and hygiene.
- Technology adoption for self-protection from poor air and water quality
- Tools and information to hold policymakers accountable for pollution policies
- Interventions to address vehicular, industrial, construction, and agricultural pollution
- Water conservation at the households, firms, and industry level.
- Water conservation and resource maintenance focusing on community-based initiatives
- Water pricing and revenue collection systems
- Education and awareness-building among households on WASH
- Energy Efficiency

SARWA COLLABORATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS PARTNERS

PARTNERSHIP WITH GUJARAT POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

J-PAL affiliated researchers have been working with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board over the past 15 years in improving and introducing environmental regulation to regulate industries in Gujarat. Building on this long standing partnership, SARWA launched its first lab with GPCB in 2023, and aims to deepen the partnership to expand the use of evidence to other areas related to air and water.

PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, or DDWS, falls under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and comprises the flagship program of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)[2] and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)[3]. In October 2024, DDWS engagement with J-PAL South Asia through SARWA was formally established by way of a Memorandum of Understanding to identify research and policy priorities that can strengthen the use of scientific evidence to improve programmatic outcomes.

Some of the specific areas of research interest for the department are as follows:

- Improving water access and operations and maintenance (O&M) of Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Intergenerational and social dynamics of improving water access.
- Community-based initiatives for water infrastructure ownership.
- Fecal Sludge Management
- Maintenance of open defecation free status of Indian villages
- Operation of waste-to-energy plants

J-PAL affiliated researchers and invited researchers who have specific ideas or would like opportunities to engage in either of these 'labs' should write to the SARWA initiative team.

GRANT TYPES AND PURPOSE

SARWA will support research and scaling projects only with government partners, and will prioritize projects with high potential for policy influence and/or to improve access to clean air and water at scale. The funds will support the following project types:

Research Awards
Travel / Proposal development grants (up to US$10,000)

These funds are to support exploratory work and travel to develop a pilot or full project proposal with a government partner. These grants cover exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas, such as conducting background research, developing partnerships, visiting field sites, and collecting

---

[2] Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched by the Government of India in August 2019, aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all rural households by 2024. As of November 15, 2024, approximately 78.98% of rural households have been equipped with tap water connections under this initiative.

[3] Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 with a focus on making India Open Defecation Free (ODF). This endeavor resulted in a large-scale movement and behavioral change programme that led to the construction of over 100 million individual household toilets in the first 5 years. In its second phase, SBM is focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of ODF status of villages as well as improving the level of cleanliness in rural areas through solid and liquid waste management.

preliminary data. These grants may also be used for activities intended to facilitate access to administrative data for designing or conducting an 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. The expectation is that these funds will be used to support costs related to PI travel to develop a proposal for a pilot or full-scale randomized evaluation during a subsequent call for proposals. Please note these grants are provided on a cost-reimbursable basis.

Pilot grants (up to US$75,000)

These grants are meant for studies with a clear research question, but for which the design and implementation requires further testing and pilot data. However, pilot grants can also fund more foundational work that intends to inform a future full-scale randomization, including the refinement of measurement strategies, operationalizing logistics of implementing a research design, and collecting pilot data to inform the design of future research or sharpen research questions. Grants may also be used for activities intended to facilitate access to administrative data for designing or conducting an RCT, including but not limited to, negotiating data use agreements, conducting exploratory data analysis and cleaning, or setting up technical access mechanisms. For all pilots, the expectation is that these projects will ultimately develop into or inform a full-scale randomized evaluation(s) with the potential to inform climate and environmental policy at-scale.

Full randomized evaluation grants (up to US$250,000)

These grants are for research projects at a mature level of development. Not only must the research question be clear, but applicants must also demonstrate a commitment from implementing partners, a method of randomization, well-defined instruments, and sample size estimates. It is expected that these projects will lead to evidence being used in a policy decision and a paper publishable in a top economics or political science journal.

Off-Cycle Research Proposals: SARWA will accept off-cycle proposals for 1) proposal development grants up to $10,000 and 2) pilots and RCTS for up to $75,000. Proposals should clearly articulate the timeliness of the opportunity and explain why submitting during a scheduled SARWA RFP would undermine the research team's ability to conduct timely research or leverage a policy window. These grants are intended only for projects that face a significant time constraint and need to receive funding before the end of the process for the current RFP round to make use of an unanticipated window for policy-relevant research. Interested applicants are encouraged to first email sarwa@povertyactionlab.org to determine whether their project could qualify for off-cycle support. The procedure and requirements for submitting an off-cycle application are the same as that for applications submitted during an RFP round. Based on the off-cycle proposal, the SARWA Co-Chairs will decide whether to

review it off-cycle or instead recommend including the proposal in the regular review process for the next round

Path-to-Scale Awards
Scaling Award (up to $300,000)

These grants are designed to provide technical support in rolling out or expanding evidence-informed solutions at-scale, based on the outcomes of a previous RCT or policy pilot evaluating the intervention in the same or new context. Based on previous results, the government partner would like to move forward with a scale-up and would like technical support in expanding the program more widely. This grant can support a range of activities that can include but are not limited to: conducting analysis to help them secure key approvals for the scale-up, ensuring implementation and rollout protocols maintain fidelity to the evidence in terms of the key program features that drove positive impacts, and/or setting up low-cost partner-owned monitoring systems for scaled-up programs to report periodic progress to key decision-makers.

Ideally these existing RCTs would have a published paper, but if not, they must at least have a clickable working paper. In exceptional and rare cases, SARWA may also consider Path-to-Scale proposals to fund RCTs at-scale of interventions for which there is not previous evidence from one or more J-PAL RCTs, as long as there is a demonstrated and explicit high level of commitment from the government partner to take a future, well-defined scaling decision based on the evidence generated in the RCT. If the potential for large-scale policy impact is low, such proposals will be considered for RCTs at-scale for a Research Award rather than a Path-to-Scale Award. For these grants, SARWA expects the government partner to commit to scaling the program and ultimately reach a significant number of people.

ELIGIBILITY

J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, and J-PAL South Asia invited researchers are eligible to apply for any type of SARWA research funding. In addition, PhD students that have a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher on their thesis committee at their host university are eligible to apply for travel/proposal development grants or up to $75,000 in pilot funding.[4]

---

[4] Please note that the adviser must provide a letter of support and indicate willingness to remain involved in a supervisory role throughout the lifetime of the project with PhD students' proposal submissions. In addition, in order to apply for up to $50,000 for pilot, graduate students must provide documented evidence of successful pilot activities, funded either through a SARWA travel/proposal development grant or other sources.

Note:

- To prevent concentration of awards to any specific researchers, and to reduce the burden on initiative review boards, applicants are limited to submitting three proposals, inclusive of all proposal types, per 12-month period per initiative (either as PI or co-PI). For example, if a researcher submitted two pilot or full-scale proposals in our Spring 2024 round, they can then only submit a maximum of 1 pilot or full-scale proposal in our Fall 2024 round.

- If a proposal is being resubmitted for an award category as 'top-up' funding, the researcher must provide a compelling justification for the additional funding request. For researchers reapplying to a pilot award, they should explicitly outline how the additional funding will support the development of a full evaluation. If there are specific reasons, such as expanding the scope of the pilot project, these should be detailed clearly in the proposal.

- In order to be considered for new initiative grants, applicants must be current on reporting for all their other grants, across all J-PAL initiatives. Researchers whose projects are more than 2 months late on any reports to any J-PAL Initiative despite reminders from J-PAL and who have not received an approved extension will not be eligible to have new projects funded by J-PAL. You may submit applications to the Initiative, but your application will not be considered for funding until your deliverables become current.

REVIEW PROCESS

Broadly, proposals are reviewed along the following criteria: alignment with SARWA's strategic priorities, policy relevance, strength of government partnership, technical design, project viability, and value of research. The final decisions regarding funding are taken by the SARWA board after careful consideration.

Travel and proposal development grants:
- Proposals are reviewed by the SARWA scientific advisors and J-PAL South Asia Senior leadership to make final funding decisions.

Pilots, full RCTs and scaling grants:
- Firstly, Proposals are reviewed and scored by academics selected from a roster of experts on environment, energy, and climate change issues. Each proposal is reviewed and scored by at least two reviewers: one member of the SARWA Review Board and one academic not on the Review Board. Path-to-Scale projects are reviewed by one policy expert in addition to the academic reviewers.

- Secondly, Proposals are scrutinized by the SARWA Review Board, consisting of the SARWA Co-Chairs and one member of J-PAL's Executive Committee, based on the peer reviews and scores. Any board member submitting a proposal in the current round of funding is required

to recuse themselves from the evaluation of their own proposal. A temporary board member replaces the board member to facilitate the discussion.

- Funding decisions are finalized by the SARWA Review Board Call. Based on the scores and the comments of the peer reviewers, the review board votes on the status of the application. The final status of an application can fall into four categories:

  (1) Approved,

  (2) Conditional approval (with minor revisions or clarifications),

  (3) Revise and resubmit during this or a subsequent round, and

  (4) Not approved.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please submit complete full applications as one PDF to the SARWA team via email : SARWA@povertyactionlab.org.

- Travel and Proposal Development Grant Guidelines
- Pilot Grant Guidelines
- Full RCT Guidelines
- Scaling Guidelines

Letters of interest (LOIs) are due by Thursday, January 30th 2025 at 11:59 PM US Eastern Time via our LOI form (here). Eligible applicants will receive an invitation via email to proceed with the complete application.

Complete proposals will be due on Thursday, March 20th, 2025, 11:59 PM US Eastern Time. Please review the RFP Overview and Proposal Guidelines on the SARWA RFP website for details on each proposal type and a complete list of application questions.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

- All budgets submitted to SARWA must comply with J-PAL SA @ IFMR's admin and finance rules. The workflow for budget development will be as follows:
  - For support on developing the budget please reach out to the SARWA team at least 2 weeks in advance of the proposal submission deadline with the final/near final proposal to allow for enough time to iterate on the budget. The draft proposal and interest to develop the budget should be sent to the SARWA initiative who will coordinate to assign a research manager to support with budget assumptions and development.

- J-PAL South Asia research and A&F staff will review the proposal and iterate on the budget with the researchers to ensure that all proposed activities are accurately represented in the budget assumptions and that all budgets are in compliance with J-PAL SA @ IFMR rules. For instructions for developing the budget , please refer to the budget guidelines section below.
- The researchers will need to approve the final budget, based on which a letter of support will be provided by J-PAL South Asia Grants Manager. The researchers can then submit the budget along with the LoS to the SARWA team.

BUDGET GUIDELINES

General guidelines for all awards:

- 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. However for pilots, up to USD 8000 can be budgeted for Indian researcher PI time of the total budget.

- International travel: J-PAL works with IFMR travel agents, who can book international travel and charge SARWA directly. If you choose to buy your own ticket, we will not be able to reimburse you until your grant period is complete.

- Per Diem: A per diem stipend can be claimed monthly by email based on days in-country. The per diem as per J-PAL South Asia travel policy will apply. The current per diem rate are as follows:
    - State capital - Rs. 1,200/- per day
    - Other location - Rs. 800/- per day.

- 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.

- Only projects with co-funding should complete both Excel sheets in the template, i.e. both "Total Project Budget" AND "Initiative Budget" (i.e. what you're requesting from the Initiative) in the budget template. If the project has other funders, the proposal should clearly explain the marginal contribution of the requested funds from the Initiative.

- Applications must include a brief budget narrative document detailing the major costs within the budget in addition to the Excel template.

- We also strongly encourage applicants to include budget notes in the column provided in the budget template, specifying input costs for line items within the budget. Travel costs should include a breakdown of how many trips are planned, the estimated cost per trip, number of people on a given trip, etc. Any computer/equipment purchases should include a breakdown of what is being purchased (e.g., how many laptops), as well as the project staff that will be assigned to the equipment.

- SARWA funding will **not cover any** costs to international universities and researcher costs located outside India

- Applicants should review J-PAL best practices on questionnaire design and data collection/management in the [J-PAL Research Protocol Checklist](#), to ensure they have budgeted for expenses associated with piloting and surveyor training, survey translation, field spot checks, and back checking.

- **Allowable Direct and Indirect Costs**
  - Unallowable costs include those labeled as "incidental," "miscellaneous," or "contingency." Any costs for rent should be explained in the budget narrative.

  - *Per diem:* A per diem stipend as per J-PAL South Asia travel policy can be claimed to cover food and miscellaneous expenses.

  - Project Implementation Costs: For full research projects, implementation costs are expected to be borne by the project partners. J-PAL funds the costs of the evaluation, not the intervention. However, under some circumstances, initiatives can fund implementation costs where it is a marginal addition to an existing program to offset costs from an experiment (e.g., adding an additional treatment arm or the costs of an encouragement design). These types of costs might include travel, small participant incentives, and/or texting fees.
    - Proposals requesting funds for implementation are required to explain why the implementer cannot bear the costs in the budget narrative and must also justify the input costs (e.g., if texting fees are requested as an implementation cost, the budget narrative should include a breakdown of how many texts are planned, the estimated cost per texts, number of people on a given campaign, etc.).

Specific guidelines for Travel Grants

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

- Grantees must complete their work and submit final reports within one year of receiving the grant award letter. Other expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of an expense report.

Expenses should be supported by receipts whenever possible, and all expenses must be supported by receipts. All expenses should be claimed within 30 days of your return.

> IMPORTANT NOTE: It is expected that all costs will be reimbursed to you directly by J-PAL South Asia at IFMR. If you will need support from J-PAL South Asia for the project, please note the specific support you will need on your budget. Upon award, we will confer with the local office to see if such support is feasible.

- *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 SARWA@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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

- **Payments and Subawards:**
    - The majority of AWL grants will be hosted at the J-PAL SA at IFMR. For any deviations from this process, prior discussions need to be held with the SARWA initiative team.
- **IRB Protocol:** The recipient of this award accepts responsibility for following appropriate IRB protocol and providing documentation as necessary. For projects that involve work with human subjects at the J-PAL South Asia regional office, as per IFMR guidelines, your project will need approvals or waivers, as applicable, from IRBs of all PI institutions as well as the IFMR IRB. Once you have the necessary IRB approval, please share these documents with J-PAL South Asia at IFMR Admin and Finance team and the SARWA Initiative team. Projects cannot begin field work without seeking all necessary IRB

approvals, and/or any exemptions that may have been granted, with J-PAL South Asia at IFMR Admin and Finance team.
- **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. A part of MIT's broader policies, this section, titled "Relations and Responsibilities Within the MIT Community," contains specific provisions regarding personal conduct, harassment, discrimination and retaliation, violence against community members, and substance use. Please take some time to review these. Additionally, all PIs must adhere to their local university Code of Conduct as well as that of the local host university.

Grant Conditions to Access SARWA Funding

If your proposal is selected for funding, the terms of the awards will be as follows:

Pilots, RCTs and Path-to-Scale Awards

A. **Collecting and reporting SARWA outcome metrics**: Projects will be required to track and report on one or more of the AWL key outcome metrics for the intervention that they are evaluating and/or scaling, in addition to the number of people reached and their average income level, where available. The AWL requires grantees to track one or more of the following:
   a. Improvement in air quality or access to clean air: Reductions in local air pollutants, such as particulate matter as quantified by improvements in health
   b. Improvement in water quality or access to clean water: Reductions in water pollution as quantified by water quality measures or by reductions in the incidence of water-bourne diseases
   c. Increase in water security: Access to clean, usable water for drinking, bathing, agriculture, or similar uses
   d. If the project is focusing on another environment, energy, or climate change priority for the government outside air and water, please propose the outcome metrics that are most appropriate for the project.

B. *Required Data Collection*: **We intend to require that all RCTs collect data on a subset of indicators.** The initiative team will be in touch at the launch of funded projects to support research teams in the specific survey questions or modules to be used and will be mindful of the additional survey time required as well as open to budget modifications to incorporate the time it takes to collect these required indicators.

- **Participate in peer-review for future rounds**: Grantees may be requested to peer-review proposals in future SARWA RFP rounds.

- **Trial registration with the AEA RCT Registry**: Within three months of the start date indicated on the proposal, grantees must register their trial with the AEA RCT Registry. Registration includes 18 required fields, such as your name and a small subset of your IRB requirements. There is also the option to include more information, including power calculations and an optional pre-analysis plan.

- **Participation in AWL activities**: Grantees may be requested to participate in one of AWL activities at a mutually agreed time and place. Activities may include evidence workshops, a matchmaking or policy conference, or presentations to donors or their partners. The donor will cover any associated costs.

- **Crediting SARWA in future presentations and publications**: Any presentations and publications, including academic papers, policy briefs, press releases, blogs, and organizational newsletters that emerge from this project should credit SARWA as a part of the Air and Water Labs initiative at J-PAL with the following text: "This research is funded by SARWA as a part of the Air and Water Labs at J-PAL." Please also include acknowledgements to partnering government departments and ministries as appropriate.

- **Collecting and reporting gender-disaggregated data**: J-PAL, through its Gender sector, is making an effort to study heterogeneity in program impacts by beneficiary/participant gender more systematically. Manystudies funded by J-PAL initiatives already collect study participants' gender. Where possible such metrics or data analysis frames should also report gender-disaggregated finding, In such cases, and when outcome data are individual-specific, we request that grantees conduct heterogeneity analyses by beneficiary gender for the study's main results for internal reporting to J-PAL (to be shared in the final grant report). A single study might be underpowered to detect heterogeneous treatment effects, or null results might not seem interesting in one study, but these findings may be meaningful when included in an analysis across studies. Please note that the following request only applies to J-PAL internal reports and does not extend to the academic paper or online J-PAL summary.

  J-PAL will use the reported results for:
  (a) determining potential pooled statistical analyses to conduct across studies and
   (b) generating gender-related policy lessons in climate change and energy access.

  Our reporting template will include a question on this, which researchers are encouraged to fill in when applicable. If PI's feel this reporting is not applicable, for various reasons, they can provide a brief initial statement to be shared with the Gender sector team and continue monitoring for unanticipated dynamics affecting their study.

- **Deliverables**: We are required to provide SARWA funders with regular updates on project progress and therefore require the following reporting as part of the SARWA award.:

Milestone	Deliverable Type	Due Date

First	Start up report	90 days (3 months) after the start date of the Period of Performance
First	Policy Memo	60 days (2 months) after completion of baseline survey activities
Annual	Financial Report	Yearly from the start of the Period of Performance
Annual	Narrative Report	Yearly from the start of the Period of Performance
Final	Financial Report	60 days (2 months) after end of PoP
Final	Technical report with preliminary Results (For Pilots)	60 days (2 months) after end of PoP
Additional Deliverables for RCTs and Scaling Grants only		
Final	Narrative Report with Costing Data and Gender Report	120 days (4 months) after end of PoP
Final	Preliminary Results Report	Due within one year of final data collection
Final	Research data publication availability	Published within 3 years of final data collection

For projects that are delayed on their original timelines for planned activities, the deliverables should reflect the revised timelines along with justification for the delays. If projects require any extension of timelines for the deliverable, we recommend writing to the Initiative team.

- **Collecting and reporting program cost data:** (RCTs and Path-to-Scale awards only): Policymakers are interested in program costs, as it is one of the key factors in their decision to support a program. Cost data also allows for cost effectiveness analysis (CEA), which J-PAL may conduct (with permission from the researchers), even if such analysis is not part of an academic paper. In order to facilitate cost collection, SARWA awards include US$1,000 to defray expenses associated with collecting cost data. SARWA will provide a costing worksheet for grantees to update annually. If grantees are unable to collect detailed cost data, grantees are still required to provide estimates of total program cost, average cost per beneficiary, and marginal cost to add another beneficiary.

- **Collecting and reporting implementation processes (Path-to-Scale awards only)**: Grantees must document and share implementation and scale-up processes that demonstrate application of a solution in a new context, an increased area of influence, or policy-makers' application of research findings for policy design or decision-making. This can involve sharing an existing program manual or other program documentation

- **Data publication (RCTs only):** Grantees may be requested to share data collection instruments and methodologies with other grantees. Researchers funded through this grant will be required to publish de-identified data in accordance with J-PAL's Data and Code Availability Policy. J-PAL's research team can work with you to clean, label, de-identify, document and replicate datasets collected as part of a randomized trial before publishing them in the J-PAL Dataverse or another data repository of your choice. Requests for data

publication services can be made by sending an email to data@povertyactionlab.org. See J-PAL's Guidelines for Data Publication and J-PAL's Research Transparency and Reproducibility page for more details. J-PAL Dataverse: https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/jpal

Travel / Proposal Development Grants
- **Deliverables :**
    a. Grantees are required to submit a progress report due within 30 days of completion of the award period specified in your proposal.
    b. Grantees are required to submit a financial and expenses report due within 30 days of completion of the award period specified in your proposal. If projects are behind in spending and timelines, they should make a formal request to revise timelines.

- **Participation in AWL activities**: Grantees may be requested to participate in one of AWL activities at a mutually agreed time and place. Activities may include evidence workshops, a matchmaking or policy conference, or presentations to donors or their partners. The donor will cover any associated costs.
- **Collecting and reporting SARWA outcome metrics**: Additionally, projects will be required to track and report on one or more of the AWL key outcome metrics for the intervention that they are evaluating and/or scaling, in addition to the number of people reached and their average income level, where available. The key outcomes are described under the scope of the initiative section of this document. The AWL requires grantees to track one or more of the following:
    a. **Improvement in air quality or access to clean air**: Reductions in local air pollutants, such as particulate matter as quantified by improvements in health
    b. **Improvement in water quality or access to clean water**: Reductions in water pollution as quantified by water quality measures or by reductions in the incidence of water-bourne diseases
    c. **Increase in water security**: Access to clean, usable water for drinking, bathing, agriculture, or similar uses
    d. If the project is focusing on another environment, energy, or climate change priority for the government outside air and water, please propose the outcome metrics that are most appropriate for the project.

OTHER FAQs

For questions on RFP priorities, application and review processes, eligibility, and general inquiries, please reach out to: SARWA@povertyactionlab.org, or visit the SARWA RFP website.

Annexure I: J-PAL's requirements on evidence base for considering proposals for path-to-scale projects

Path-to-Scale proposals applying to SARWA must be based on direct evidence from one or more randomized evaluations, at least one of which should have been conducted by a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher and/or funded by a J-PAL initiative.

1. Details on the one or more randomized evaluations on which the project is based must be provided in writing o the Review Board in one of the following formats, rank-ordered with most preferred format noted first:
   a. Peer-reviewed published paper
   b. Working paper that was released publicly at least six months prior to the date on which a project proposal is submitted to a J-PAL initiative for funding and/or the date on which a J-PAL office initiates a request to relevant decision-makers for approval to provide substantive scale support.
   c. Working paper that is meaningfully publicly available
   d. Working paper not yet meaningfully publicly available.

2. Regardless of format, the written document should provide sufficient detail on the design and results of the one or more randomized evaluations on which the project is based to enable the relevant decision-makers to understand and assess the quality and strength of the evidence base underpinning the proposed scale project, including both internal and external validity. Contents that would be useful for the relevant decision makers to make their decisions include:
   a. Description of context, intervention, RCT design, and data sources
   b. Balance tables
   c. First stage regression results (if design requires strong first stage)
   d. ITT regression results for at least one primary outcome, robust to different specifications, including standard errors for construction of confidence intervals
   e. Checks for and responses to any threats to randomization: differential attrition, spillovers, etc
   f. Interpretation of results
   g. An assessment of and considerations relevant to the generalizability of the evidence to the context in which the proposed project is to take place
   h. Policy implications/recommendations