J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB
NORTH AMERICA

J-PAL North America Grant Requirements

If funded, researchers agree to the following requirements.

AEA Trial registration and Pre-Analysis Plans

1. Researchers must register their trial with the AEA RCT Registry as soon as IRB approval or exemption is granted. For questions and support with the registry, please contact J-PAL staff member Stuti Goyal (support@socialscienceregistry.org). Please send the assigned registration number to Stuti as soon as it is available, and copy Sarah Margolis (smargolis@povertyactionlab.org).
    a. Registration in AEA is required before the subaward can be established.
    b. Upon study completion, the AEA Registry page must be updated with the results of the study and information on paper publication (as available).
    c. Medical journals that are members of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)--e.g., JAMA, NEJM--require prospective registration on clinicaltrials.gov before the first study participant is enrolled as a condition of publication. Registration on the AEA RCT Registry does **NOT** meet this requirement. We strongly urge researchers to register their trial on clinicaltrials.gov if there is any chance they will submit a paper to a medical journal.

   Pilot project exceptions:
    a. Pilots that do not involve randomization are not required to register.

2. **All funded projects must complete and upload a pre-analysis plan to the AEA RCT Registry**:
    - Prior to the launch of the experiment (i.e. randomization activities) in the case of prospective RCTs.
    - Prior to the commencement of data analysis in the case of retrospective analyses in contexts where randomization activities have already commenced.
    - Pilot projects that do not include any randomization (e.g. those that do NOT include an actual experiment) do **NOT** need to register.

- This version of the pre-analysis plan will need to be used for the purposes of producing a populated pre-analysis plan at the conclusion of the project. In cases where the pre-analysis plan is updated, researchers will be asked to provide an explanation of why changes were made to the version of the pre-analysis plan used for the populated pre-analysis plan.
- The pre-analysis plan must include the hypothesis or hypotheses to be examined in the empirical research study, the primary outcomes, and the primary statistical model and methodology to be used in analyzing those outcomes. Please note: We suggest that research teams make pre-analysis plans public. If the nature of your intervention or your

research plan means that the pre-analysis plan needs to initially be kept private, the AEA Registry includes that functionality. In cases where pre-analysis plans are initially kept private, researchers will be asked to submit an explanation of why the pre-analysis plan is being kept private along with a copy of the pre-analysis plan, to the State and Local Innovation Initiative Review Board so that it can be kept on file.

Data & Code Publication

- Except to the extent limited by law, IRB requirement, and/or any applicable binding agreement, J-PAL requires researchers to publish some or all of the data materials associated with the study (e.g. primary data, program code, etc.) when one of the following conditions is met: within 60 days of an academic papers' acceptance (or by the deadline set by the journal in which the paper is accepted), or within three years of the completion of data collection. If some or all study data cannot be shared for legal, ethical, or proprietary reasons, researchers must inform J-PAL in the final narrative report. Please review J-PAL's Data and Code Availability Policy for a detailed explanation of this requirement.

Administrative notes

- Before the subaward agreement can be established with your institute, you will need to submit a formal letter of transmission from the administering institute, documentation of IRB approval or exemption, and confirmation of trial registration.
- Once all materials have been received, it can take up to 60 days to establish the subaward. The subaward is paid on a cost reimbursable basis, and spending can usually be backdated to cover costs up to the date of IRB approval if there are administrative delays.
- Funds are to be used for the purposes described in the proposal narrative and proposal budget. Significant changes to the project scope, design, or budget must be pre-approved by Initiative Manager.
- The terms of the award will be further specified in the award letter and in any subaward established with MIT. Acceptance of funding from J-PAL North America signals your consent to these requirements. Non-compliance with these requirements could affect your eligibility for future funding from any J-PAL initiative.

Reporting

- Grantees will typically be required to submit several reports, including a start-up report, a brief annual progress report, a final financial report, a final narrative report, and costing data (full projects only).

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. Because almost all researchers we work with are also part of other university communities, they may also be subject to their host universities' policies and procedures. Many of these policies may be very similar to the MIT policies above. Finally, many researchers are separately affiliated with other academic associations and organizations, including the American Economic Association, and they should continue to abide by the codes of conduct established by the associations and organizations to which they belong. The AEA's code of conduct is available here.