J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB
NORTH AMERICA

The J-PAL U.S. Health Care Delivery Initiative is led by J-PAL North America, a research center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The J-PAL U.S. Health Care Delivery Innovation Competition supports health care organizations and agencies in the United States that wish to test the impact of innovative programs. The competition supports the design and implementation of <u>randomized</u> evaluations of health care programs.

Selected applicants will receive:

- Pro bono technical support from J-PAL North America staff of policy and research experts
- Training about evaluation methods, including online and in-person opportunities; and
- Connections with J-PAL's network of leading academic researchers to explore potential research partnerships.

Applicants that successfully partner with a researcher from J-PAL's network to design a high-quality randomized evaluation can jointly apply for funding through the U.S. Health Care Delivery Initiative Request for Proposals, typically in the range of $150,000 to $300,000, to carry out the evaluation.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

J-PAL North America invites health care organizations such as health systems, health plans, government agencies, and not-for-profits to submit a 3-5 page letter of interest describing an innovative health program that would benefit from rigorous evaluation.

Applicants to this competition must be open to working with J-PAL North America to look for ways to include random assignment in the implementation of the program or policy they are interested in testing. For example, an oversubscribed program's slots might be allocated by a lottery; eligible beneficiaries of an undersubscribed program might be randomly encouraged to sign up; and pilot programs or programs being expanded to new locations could provide opportunities to randomly select who receives the program first.

Letters of interest should include a brief description of the following:

1. _The problem_. The health care challenge that motivates the application. Please provide some evidence of the challenge, including any relevant statistics.

2. _The intervention_. A brief description of the program the applicant would like to examine. Please include a description of any preliminary evidence that suggests the program works or will work. Please also describe the primary outcome(s) the applicant is interested in measuring.

3. _Sample size_. An estimate of how many people or other units (e.g., clinics) are currently reached and over what timeframe. If different, please also provide an estimate of how many people or other units you estimate could potentially be reached by the program or policy, if resources were not a constraint.

4. *Proposed randomization*. Preliminary thoughts on how the program might be allocated by fair lottery or other form of random assignment, any practical or ethical concerns about randomization, and prior experience with randomized evaluations, if any.

5. *Access to data*. A description of existing data collection efforts related to the program, including data collected by the applicant and others on outcomes the program is thought to affect and whether any of these data would also be available for individuals assigned not to receive the program. A successful applicant will have a way to access data to measure the outcomes of interest.

6. *Contact information*. The names and titles of the main contact(s) for this application.

NEXT STEPS

Letters of interest should be submitted to hcdi@povertyactionlab.org by **March 2, 2018**. Letters must be submitted by an authorized representative of a U.S. government agency or other health care organization.

A letter of support from the applicant's executive leadership is encouraged.

TIMELINE

December 6, 2017	Request for letters of interest announced
March 2, 2018	Deadline to submit letters of interest
Week of April 23, 2018	Applicants notified

WHAT IS J-PAL NORTH AMERICA LOOKING FOR?

J-PAL North America will consider the following general criteria in reviewing letters of interest:

1. **Clear description of an important health care question or challenge**

Does the proposal address questions crucial to understanding pressing health policy issues in the United States? Do these questions deal with strategies for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of health care delivery? Does the proposal align with J-PAL North America's objective of supporting studies of health care delivery interventions that address issues with implications for low-income, marginalized, or vulnerable populations in the United States?

2. **Promising approach to addressing the health care challenge**

Is there an opportunity to test a promising program?

3**. Feasible opportunity for a randomized evaluation**

Are there any practical or political concerns about implementing a randomized evaluation? Are the organization's executive leadership and staff supportive of conducting an evaluation?