IPA | Innovations for Poverty Action

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Human Trafficking Research Initiative
Application Guidelines for RFP Seed Funding Round 2
(Winter/Spring 2022)

The Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI) invites proposals from researchers and organizations that intend to design and carry out studies on how to reduce human trafficking or respond to the needs of human trafficking victims but need some additional time and support to push the research project to the next stage. We expect to fund a total of six to nine proposals from research teams interested in expanding the evidence to further investigate this important topic.

HTRI Research Focus

The primary focus of HTRI funding is to strengthen the evidence around potentially impactful programs using rigorous research methods. HTRI will consider human trafficking research projects that fall into any or all of the four P's (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships). **Research that is primarily qualitative or descriptive will NOT be considered for funding under HTRI.** All research proposed under these seed grants should be in service of examining data or research plans or piloting studies that lead towards impact evaluations (randomized controlled trials) or other rigorous experimental research methods. Quasi-experimental and natural experiment designs will be considered, but preference will be given to seed grant applicants that focus on randomized evaluations.

Funding priorities for the partnership, piloting, and seed grants are guided by HTRI's Research and Learning Agenda, which outlines key research gaps under the 4 P's. Applicants are instructed to read HTRI's Research and Learning Agenda, and refer to specific research questions in the Research and Learning Agenda that their research project intends to address.

In this round, the HTRI will consider proposals that include:

- **Small research pilots of promising interventions**: These are grants that would fund the cost of a small pilot to assess the feasibility and value of a larger research project. These grants are intended to be the first step of formal research for promising interventions and anti-trafficking activities. Programs with monitoring and evaluation data, administrative data, and/or sound theories of change that indicate promising impact would be a good fit for this grant (for example, a reintegration program with promising signs of reduced rates of re-trafficking). We anticipate funding between $10,000 to $50,000 per pilot.

- **Seed money for a travel grant or staff time to build on nascent research ideas**: In normal times, IPA has issued small travel grants for researchers to develop partnerships and explore the logistics of promising research ideas. While this grant can be used for travel, we recognize it may not be safe due to COVID-19. Therefore, we encourage proposals that outline how project ideas and contextual factors can be appropriately explored given COVID-19 constraints. For instance, site visits by nationally based academics are highly encouraged

Proposal Guidelines | Human Trafficking Research Initiative: Partnership, Piloting, and Seed Grants (Round 2)

Overview

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Application Instructions

Please click the orange "Download" button on the right-hand side of this page to review the entire Application Guidelines.

A completed proposal consists of: (1) a completed application form; (2) a detailed budget; (3) CVs of researchers; and (4) if applicable, letters of support from implementing partners. Please submit all materials through our online portal, here, **before midnight, US Eastern Standard Time, on March 11, 2022.**

Please contact the HTRI team with any questions.

January 10, 2022