



INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | Financial Inclusion Program
Consumer Protection Research Initiative: 2022 Application Instructions

The Consumer Protection Research Fund is open to all academic researchers and accepts proposals for randomized evaluations of consumer protection in digital financial services in lower and lower-middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Applicants are invited to consult the accompanying **Request for Proposals Overview** document to better understand the policy motivation and research questions acceptable for consideration under this scheme.

i. Preparing your proposal:

Each application should consist of a narrative proposal and a budget. The proposal covers the following sections. Please refer to the attached budgeting guidelines to prepare your budget.

Cover page: Provide a brief abstract of the proposal being submitted.

Section 1: Research Team

List all researchers engaged in the project. Primary researchers must be affiliated with a research institution or a university. They must either hold a PhD or be a current PhD candidate in a relevant social science or engineering discipline such as economics, statistics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, public health, education, or computer science. They must demonstrate experience in field research. The primary researcher should not be affiliated with the practitioner organization implementing the program. Note that only the primary researcher field is mandatory; all co-researcher fields should be filled out only if applicable.

Provide contact information for the practitioner organization that is implementing the intervention or program that you propose to evaluate. A practitioner organization is typically a financial service provider, a regulator, or a provider of related training or services. Please note that the practitioner organization cannot be the same as the research implementation organization (Section 5). In Section 6, you will be asked to attach a signed letter of support from this organization confirming its role as your practitioner partner. Please make sure that the partner organization has read and understood the research proposal in detail and is copied in the email submission.

For projects being implemented through an institution that is not an IPA country office, at least one Primary Researcher should be from an institution that is able and willing to accept the administration of this award.

Section 2: Research Narrative | The research narrative is the core of your proposal. Please submit a detailed exposition on the proposed research project. The recommended length of the narrative is 5-6 pages for the ten sections listed below:

- 2.1 **Context and target problem:** Please describe the market and policy context that motivates this research. What is the target problem? What is the current state of knowledge in addressing the target problem? Please provide adequate references to prior academic work on this topic.
- 2.2 **Research questions and academic contribution:** Describe your research question(s) and study hypotheses. How will this study provide original insights on the target problem? How will this

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This call for proposals has closed as of Friday, August 19, 2022. Thank you to all who submitted applications. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

July 11, 2022