

## Request for Proposals

### Overview

IPA's [Social Protection Program \(SPP\)](#) has partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to co-create a learning agenda, develop and support research projects and share evidence strategically towards increasing women's economic empowerment, agency and health outcomes through Graduation programming. Through this new initiative and competitive fund, we endeavor to dive deeper into how to design and adapt Graduation programs to be responsive to the needs of women in extreme poverty and ensure sustainable improvements in gender outcomes. We will focus particular attention on new or ongoing studies with the scope to add data collection modules or that will facilitate additional analysis to understand gender-disaggregated and intra-households outcomes relevant to women's economic empowerment, agency and health.

Our goals for this work is to:

- Develop actionable evidence on promising adaptations to the Graduation model that support women's economic empowerment, health and agency.
- Share evidence and equip our partners to engage in evidence-informed decision-making around the adaptation and scale of Graduation programming.

In order to advance this work, SPP welcomes full proposals from selected applicants that focus on the following priority research areas:

- Increasing women's agency and economic empowerment
- Improving health outcomes for women and children
- Adapting the model for cost-effectiveness and scale

This initiative will further explore the following key questions relevant to different segments of women:

- What variations on ultra-poor Graduation models can improve gender outcomes? How might innovations in content and delivery of multi-faceted programs impact women's access to productive credit and economic empowerment?
  - For example, group versus individual coaching, the use of technology in training facilitation and follow-up, curriculum targeting improvements in

### Application Guidelines

# Request for Proposals: New Wave Graduation Research Fund

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Our Request for Proposals provides an overview of the initiative's scope, research and

learning priorities, funded project types, evaluation criteria, timeline, and application process.

Please reach out to [Julie Kedroske](#), Director of IPA's Social Protection Program, with any questions.

Dates for the fund:

- June 26, 2024: Proposal submission deadline
- July 2024: Awards announced