

Innovations for Poverty Action Intimate Partner Violence Initiative Application Guidelines, RFP Round 5 (Fall 2023)

The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Initiative invites proposals from researchers to expand on planned or ongoing randomized trials for the fifth round of the IPV research fund. The purpose of this request for proposals is to leverage existing research studies to advance our understanding of the underlying factors contributing to intimate partner violence and providing insights into what policies and programs can reduce IPV.

Globally, violence against women is a leading cause of premature death and morbidity for women. Almost one-third of women report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point in their life, and nearly 40 percent of all homicides of women are committed by an intimate partner. Given the pervasive and complex nature of the problem, a wide range of social, economic, and psychological factors can drive changes in violence among intimate partners. Many of the factors that may shift IPV can be influenced by a range of development programs, government programs, or societal changes. However, what policies and program components that can reduce IPV, and why these changes may occur, is not well understood.

The IPA IPV Research Initiative seeks to inform global development policy and practice through expanding and improving the scientific evidence on pathways to mitigate IPV. By building on existing studies, the IPV Research Initiative aims to generate insights on the types of development programs that shift IPV outcomes and what factors drive these changes. Thematically, there is particular interest in studying increased women’s economic productivity and labor market engagement; “plus” components of livelihoods programs; socio-emotional and relationship skills development; family planning; adolescent mentorship and soft skills training programs; and programs that engage men in a way which could possibly reduce perpetration. However, we are open to consider a broader range of interventions so long as the research studies are ethically designed and there is a plausible theoretical basis for why we would expect to see changes in IPV based on the intervention.

In most cases, we expect to fund studies in which the intervention was not originally intended to target IPV, and the measurement of IPV outcomes were not part of the original study design. However, we will consider funding for the expansion of studies already focused on IPV where there is a unique opportunity to add novel insights. Examples of projects that received funding in previous rounds can be found [here](#).

Proposals are due by **11:59 pm EST November 17th, 2023**. We particularly encourage multidisciplinary teams that include researchers that are from the countries where the research occurs and includes researchers with expertise in gender or gender-based violence (GBV)

research. Those interested in applying are asked to first read through our eligibility and evaluation criteria listed in the sections below.

In this round, the IPV Initiative will consider proposals that fit into **one or more** of the following criteria:

- **Add IPV-focused survey modules to existing studies.** These are smaller grants that would fund the cost of adding IPV-focused survey modules to upcoming data collection rounds for existing studies. They are intended for research studies that are not already focused on IPV reduction but are likely to have notable impacts on IPV and related outcomes. In addition to our general thematic focus, we encourage researchers to build in questions on online GBV where relevant. Each award is estimated to be between USD \$35,000 and \$50,000.
- **New survey rounds focused on the long-term impacts to IPV or surveys of additional respondents.** These are moderately-sized grants to fund additional survey/data collection rounds focused on IPV. The types of proposals could include but are certainly not limited to: (1) a long-term follow-up survey of a concluded study, (2) supplemental household or spouse surveys with respondents that are not part of the original data collection plan, and (3) cases where it is important to separate any IPV data collection from the primary study's data collection for safety reasons. Each award in this category is estimated to be between USD \$50,000 and \$150,000 each.
- **Add an IPV targeted treatment arm to an existing study.** These are large grants that will support expanding a study by adding a treatment arm focused on reducing IPV to a randomized evaluation. In cases where there is a truly innovative or extraordinary research opportunity, applicants can request funding for the costs of expanding the study sample and survey as well as the IPV focused intervention. In exceptional cases we will fund proposals to add a treatment arm to a study. Each award in this category is estimated to be up to USD \$250,000 for a truly innovative or extraordinary study.
- **Improve IPV measurement and methods.** These grants will support projects to develop and test IPV measurement tools and methods. These grants are intended to provide insights that could improve how IPV research is conducted. For example, projects under this category could include studies that test ways to reduce under-reporting of IPV, reduce surveyor bias, or reduce respondent distress in field research (see [Park et.al](#) as an example). In addition, we welcome proposals for field work that allows for important analytic analysis (see [Chatterji et.al](#)) or novel ways of using qualitative methods to improve quantitative measurement of IPV (see [Jayachandran et.al](#) as an example). We anticipate funding 1 to 4 of these measurement-focused studies. Each award is expected to be between USD \$15,000 to \$50,000, though higher amounts will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Application Instructions

A completed proposal consists of:

1. A completed application form.

Please use [this template](#)

2. Original proposal for the current project.

3. A detailed budget.

Please use [this template](#)

4. CVs for all researchers on the project.

5. Letters of support.

Please provide the following letters of support:

- a) If working with an implementing partner, projects are required to provide a letter of support from the implementing partners.
- b) Projects are required to provide a letter of support from the institution that will receive the grant (which may be an IPA country office, a J-PAL regional office, or another institution).
- c) If available, applicants should also include letters of support from potential scale-up partners.

Please submit all materials through our online portal, [here](#), by **11:59 pm EST November 17th, 2023**.

Submission Instructions

Submit the following materials by **11:59 pm EST November 17th, 2023** through our [online portal](#):

1. Application form saved as a single .docx or .pdf file titled [PI last name] _[Proposal title].
2. A copy of the study's original/primary proposal titled [PI last name] _[Proposal title]_Primary Proposal. In the case where there is a working paper of the study you will expand, please submit the working paper instead of the primary proposal.
3. Separate budget saved as a single .xlsx file titled [PI last name] _[Proposal title]_Budget.xlsx
4. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) for all researchers on the project titled CV_ [PI last name].
5. *If Applicable*: Letter(s) of support from implementing partners saved as .pdf files titled [PI last name] _[Partner name].

Eligibility

1. Applicants.

Lead researchers must be affiliated with a research institution or a university and hold a PhD or be currently pursuing a PhD in a relevant social science discipline. Collectively, the team must demonstrate experience in field research and randomized evaluations and published works. IPA encourages proposals from diverse research teams. We welcome applications from researchers from multiple disciplines and historically underrepresented groups and we strongly encourage

research teams to include researchers from the countries where the project will take place, with clearly defined contributions from all members of the research team. To learn more about IPA's commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion, please see our [website](#). **Additionally, researchers applying from institutions in lower- and middle-income countries may submit for reasonable salary support. These salary expenses are considered separate from the suggested budget amounts, and they will be removed before sharing budget information with the selection committee.**

We strongly encourage current and upcoming IPA projects and/or affiliated researchers to apply, though we will also consider proposals from outside sources.

If researchers are not working with IPA to carry out the study, an award will be issued from IPA to the research implementing institution. Research institutions must be able to accept the subaward funding and have policies and procedures in place that demonstrate an ability to comply with subaward terms and conditions and be willing to undergo a due diligence process prior to being awarded funding.

2. Geographic Focus.

The fund exclusively supports research in lower- and middle-income countries. [IPA operates in 20 eligible countries around the world](#). If you are interested in working with IPA to implement research, please see country office contact information in the “About Innovations for Poverty Action” section.

3. Research.

All submissions must present a rigorous study design for expanding a randomized evaluation to include a focus on IPV and a clear set of hypotheses of why this is important. In very rare circumstances we will consider quasi-experimental designs where the study provides an exceptionally unique opportunity to generate insights on IPV that is unlikely to be studied through a randomized design. **We will not provide pilot or start-up funds for researchers interested in doing early-stage research. Studies should have already received an award notification from a primary funder before applying.** In very rare cases the IPV Initiative will consider being the standalone researcher funder for an RCT that only has a follow-up survey round of a relevant intervention.

All awardees are expected to coordinate with the IPV initiative on the selection of survey modules and reporting of IPV-related results. Awardees will be mandated to use all or a portion of the [World Health Organization's Violence Against Women survey module](#), unless there is a reason the module is unsuitable to the research. Studies must also be willing to accommodate all best practices for ethical research of IPV (see [here](#)). Submissions proposing to conduct field-based data collection should specify the research implementing partner organization that will assist the research team with the management and implementation of the randomized evaluation. The research organization must demonstrate experience implementing randomized evaluations and have a presence in the country.

If you are planning to work with IPA, please make sure that you reach out to the local IPA Country Office well in advance of the deadline to discuss your application, including the research design, implementation plan, and project feasibility. Pending review and approval of your proposed project(s) by the country office staff, they will work with you on the budget and application materials. If you need assistance in reaching out to IPA Country Offices, please email us at ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org. Research applicants are encouraged to provide a clear motivation in case they elect to work with another implementing organization in a country where IPA is present.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all studies. IRB approvals should be secured from internationally recognized IRBs and from boards with a deep understanding of the proposed research's locality. This may require two separate IRB approvals. This approval may come from your host institution's IRB or [from IPA's own IRB](#). If you are planning on using IPA's IRB, please budget \$2,000 for this process per IPA IRB's protocols.

Funding

Proposals shall indicate the overall cost of the project as well as the funding requested of the IPV Initiative. Funding is for research costs. Implementation costs for the program are expected to be covered from other sources, except when applying for an additional treatment arm or when adequate justification is provided for their inclusion in the study budget. Funding under the study budget for the salaries and/or time of researchers in developing countries will be assessed separately from the budget of the proposed study itself. If a study is selected for funding, the additional salary support for developing country researchers will be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Project Timeline

Projects are expected to provide **a final report before July 31st, 2025**. If this poses a problem, please indicate the expected project timeline in the proposal or reach out ahead of time to the IPV staff to discuss.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to provide meaningful and reliable insights into drivers of IPV and the types of programs that can lead to sustainable reductions in IPV in lower- and middle-income country settings. The potential scientific and policy insights will be directly weighed against costs of the amount requested. The selection committee will consider the following factors in evaluating proposals:

- *Academic contribution:* Does the study make a significant contribution toward advancing knowledge of IPV prevention? Is the intervention being studied likely to shift IPV outcomes? Does it answer new questions or introduce novel methods, measures, or interventions? How does the study compare with the existing body of research? Does the research strategy provide a bridge between a practical experiment and underlying economic theories?
- *Policy relevance:* Is there demand from policymakers for more/better information to influence their decisions in this area? Will this research be used by decision makers? Are there viable plans to get results-out beyond one discipline?

- *Technical design:* Does the research design appropriately answer the questions outlined in the proposal? Is the study able to isolate causal mechanisms or contribute to program design for IPV reduction more broadly? Are there sufficiently detailed power calculations? Does the study employ any innovative measurement or design strategy to improve or better understand some of the methodological issues of researching IPV?
- *Project viability:* Is the relationship with the implementing partner strong and likely to endure through the entire study? Are there any other logistical or political obstacles that might threaten the completion of the study, for example, government authorization or Human Subjects review? Is the research locally grounded and relevant? Is the composition of the research team well-suited to carry out research on this sensitive topic? Is the composition of the research team multi-disciplinary? Does it have knowledge researchers able to speak to respondent considerations and needs?
- *Sound ethical foundation:* Does the research team have a viable plan to ensure the study is ethically administered? Are any ethical concerns adequately addressed? Is there appropriate oversight and plan for any unexpected events?
- *Value of research:* Is the cost of the study commensurate with the value of expected contributions to science and policy? Does the study leverage funding from other sources?

Award Process

If your proposal is accepted for award, the IPV Initiative will develop a sub-award that outlines the deliverables of the grant, and the funds will be internally assigned to the IPA country office (if you will be working with an IPA country office). If PIs are not working with IPA to carry out the study, an award will be issued from IPA to the research implementing institution. In this case, the institution that is a sub-award recipient must pass IPA's due diligence process and be able to comply with the terms and conditions of the sub-award.

All applicants recommended for funding will be required to submit the following documents for their subrecipient institution:

- W9 for US-based organizations OR W-8BEN-E (for non-US-based organizations)
- Registration document/Charter to do business.
- Tax status document from your government
- Finance Policies & Procedures
- Procurement Policies & Procedures
- Human Resources Policies & Procedures
- Last two years of audited financial statements or unaudited financial statements if subrecipient has not been audited (latest fiscal years completed)
- Last two years of USG Single Audit (if required per 2 CFR 200.501)
- Proof of indirect rate (NICRA if you have one) or indirect cost allocation plan if claiming an indirect rate above the 10% de minimis.
- FFATA Form (if receiving \$30,000+ in US Government funding)

About Innovations for Poverty Action

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since its founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 850 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide.

IPA is present in 20 countries through our country offices. If you are working outside one of the countries mentioned below, please contact the IPV initiative team at ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org for further information.

Country Program Primary Contacts:

Burkina Faso/Mali/Ivory Coast: Thierno Faye, tfaye@poverty-action.org

Colombia/Dominican Republic: Juan Felipe García, jfgarcia@poverty-action.org

Ghana: Salifu Amadu, samadu@poverty-action.org

Kenya: Ginger Golub, ggolub@poverty-action.org

Malawi/Zambia: Tamara Billima-Mulenga, tbillima@poverty-action.org

Mexico: Odette Gonzalez Carrillo, ogcarrillo@poverty-action.org

Myanmar: Thein Oo, theinzawoo@poverty-action.org

Nigeria: Funmilayo Ayeni, fayeni@poverty-action.org

Peru: Sergio De Marco, sdemarco@poverty-action.org

Philippines: Aftab Opel, aopel@poverty-action.org

Rwanda/Uganda: Patrick Nalere, pnalere@poverty-action.org

Sierra Leone/Liberia: Walker Higgins, whiggins@poverty-action.org

Tanzania: Zachary Isdahl, zisdahl@poverty-action.org

Latin American Countries without Country Office: Sergio De Marco, sdemarco@poverty-action.org

Multi-country projects: Rachel Steinacher, rsteinacher@poverty-action.org

To connect with one of our country offices or questions about working with IPA, you may also contact ipvinitiative@poverty-action.org or pd@poverty-action.org.

General Terms and Conditions

1. This Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is not and shall not be construed to be a contract, offer, or request for an offer. Those responding to this RFP receive no rights whatsoever because of their submissions. Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) will not have any express or implied obligations or responsibilities to those who respond and will not otherwise be bound by any terms or conditions, except to the extent set forth in a definitive, final, written agreement duly executed by the recipient(s) and IPA. There is no commitment by IPA that such a final agreement will be executed, even if IPA enters into negotiations with a person submitting a proposal(s), proposed recipient(s), or his or her institution.

2. Innovations for Poverty Action in its sole and exclusive discretion may reject any or all proposals with or without notice or reasons, withdraw this RFP at any time before or after delivery of proposals, or if no proposal is accepted, abandon the RFP.
3. Innovations for Poverty Action further reserves the right in its sole and exclusive discretion to waive irregularities or defects in any proposal, but in no event will IPA have any obligation to do so. Moreover, IPA will not be responsible for errors or omissions by anyone submitting a proposal, and IPA shall be the sole judge of the responsiveness, appropriateness and completeness of any and all proposals.
4. Innovations for Poverty Action reserves the sole and exclusive right in its discretion to modify the timeline for decision-making or otherwise modify or amend this RFP as it deems appropriate.
5. All responses to this RFP become the property of IPA. Regardless of any markings identifying the proposal or its content as proprietary or confidential, IPA reserves the right to disclose or use any information contained in the proposals and other presentations responsive to this RFP.
6. Innovations for Poverty Action is not responsible for and will not reimburse any costs incurred in submitting materials or information pursuant to this RFP or in otherwise responding to this RFP, including but not limited to evaluating, responding, providing follow-up, negotiating, and otherwise complying with it.
7. Those submitting a proposal(s) agree to be bound by the terms of their proposal for at least sixty days from the date such proposals are due, and they otherwise agree to negotiate in good faith any other terms for a definitive arrangement if selected by IPA to do so.
8. Those submitting a proposal(s) certify that the work product they propose to create or use if they are a grant recipient will not infringe on or violate the intellectual property rights (including but not limited to trademarks, copyrights, patents, trade secrets, moral rights) or privacy rights of any person or entity. Those submitting proposals, materials, or information further certify that they have or will have such ownership or use rights in such work product sufficient to allow IPA to achieve its purposes as generally provided for in this RFP.
9. Grant recipients agree that, if requested by IPA, they will provide additional information about any subcontractors, graduate students, research assistants, and other third parties engaged by the grant recipient to provide services. IPA reserves the right in good faith to approve any such persons to ensure consistency with IPA's expectations of quality and character.
10. Innovations for Poverty Action reserves the right to request additional information from any or all persons submitting proposals. Such persons agree to make themselves available for follow-up as reasonably requested by IPA.