Researcher Diversification Strategy: Information Session

Exploratory grant Fund opportunity

…finding and sharing what works…

April 4, 2024
Information Session

Exploratory grant Fund opportunity

Moderator: Caroline Nyuguto, Regional Research and Engagement Manager

April 4, 2024
Panelists

Caroline Nyuguto  
Moderator  
Regional Research and Engagement Manager  
IPA Kenya

Olasubomi Obadeyi  
Panelist  
Research and Project Development Manager  
IPA Nigeria

Obed Kambasu  
Panelist  
Policy Manager  
IPA Uganda

Jemima Okal  
Panelist  
Associate Policy Manager  
IPA Kenya
| 01 | Panel Introductions |
| 02 | Introduction to IPA & RDS |
| 03 | The RDS Exploratory grant fund opportunity |
| 04 | Application tips |
| 05 | Next steps |
| 06 | Q & A |
Introduction to IPA

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org
What We Do: 3-Pillar Strategy

1. **Create Stronger Evidence**
   To deepen knowledge of how to reduce poverty

2. **Share Evidence Strategically**
   To influence conversations and inform decisions

3. **Equip Decision-Makers to Use Evidence**
   To improve the lives of the global poor
IPA at a Glance II

600+ Resources in our network

900 Evaluations to date in 91 countries

20 plus years of generating evidence and moving evidence to policy
IPA at a Glance

- 22 country offices
- 8 program areas
- 700+ partners
IPA’s Researcher Diversification Strategy

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org
Researchers from lower middle-income countries (LMICs) are underrepresented in development research.

IPA’s LMIC Researcher Diversification Strategy

By 2025, our goal is for 60 percent of IPA projects to include LMIC researchers.

01 Research Networks
Expand development research networks to include more southern researchers.

02 Funding
Enhance access to funding for southern researchers.

03 Pipeline Development
Promote pipeline development of southern researchers within our country office.

04 Policy Engagement
Support southern researchers with research communications and policy engagement.
IPA’s unique value lies in our role as developer and implementer of research projects with a large network of researchers.

- Role as a developer & implementer
- Hands on policy engagement
- Network of researchers
- Convening power
The Exploratory Grant Fund Opportunity

Learn more about what we do at www.poverty-action.org
Grant Types and Purpose

Proposal Development
Up to $10,000

Exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas

01 Coverage
These grants cover exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas, such as conducting background research, developing partnerships, visiting field sites, and collecting preliminary data.

02 Access to Data and RCTs
These grants may also be used for activities intended to facilitate access to administrative data for designing or conducting an RCT. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to, negotiating data use agreements, conducting exploratory data analysis and cleaning, or setting up technical access mechanisms.

03 Travel Cost for Proposal Development
The expectation is that these funds will be used to support costs related to PI travel to develop a proposal for a pilot or full-scale randomized evaluation during a subsequent call for proposals. Please note these grants are provided on a cost-reimbursable basis.
Eligibility Criteria

Researchers

▪ who hold a PhD AND
▪ whose primary affiliation is with a university, research institution or think tank AND
▪ who are based in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda

Note: Only 1 person per team needs to meet these criteria. There is no restriction on the co-PIs. Team applications are encouraged.
What are we looking for in a proposal?

- Based on a strong research idea.
- Has a clear pathway to a randomised evaluation.
- Follows the application guidelines.
- Written clearly, simply and succinctly.
- Avoids common mistakes.
- Well-planned.
What makes a strong research idea?

- Academically interesting
- Policy relevant
- RCT-able idea (cause and effect question)
What is a clear pathway to a randomised evaluation?

**Relatability**

For any grant type, proposals need to relate to a program. There needs to be an intervention or a planned intervention described as part of the proposal. It needs to be possible to randomize the implementation of the intervention.

This grant is not for a pilot or full RCT. Rather, it is for exploring the feasibility of doing either.

Exploratory work, within the context of our competitive fund, refers to preliminary research activities aimed at identifying and understanding key factors or variables relevant to a specific research question or problem.

**Exploratory phase**

This phase involves gathering initial data, conducting pilot studies, and exploring potential methodologies to inform the development of more comprehensive impact evaluations.

**Exploratory grants** are intended to support preliminary research, so proposals need only address the general topic of interest, the academic literature you hope to contribute to, and your current thinking about how relevant questions might be explored through a randomized evaluation. These proposals do not need to include a detailed program or evaluation design.
Proposal development grants (up to $10,000) should ideally contain:

- A concise statement of topic.
- Proposed partners, if available.
- A discussion of the project’s connection to each country office key themes.
- Budget
- Basic information about the PIs
Writing Tips for your Proposal

- Make sure each section speaks directly to the headings included in the proposal form
- Use a clear title for the proposal
- Use clear, concise language
- Cite related literature
- Review your own proposal & ask others to review it too.

Proposals that are simple, succinct and clearly written have higher chances of success
Common mistakes to avoid

Insufficient detail on the theory of change and intervention

- Explain the need that exists and how the intervention will address the need
- Provide specific details about the intervention and research - sample size, what the treatment involves, how it will be randomised, data collection etc.

Not laying out a clear pathway to an RCT

- The end goal for funding is a full scale RCT so you must explain how your proposal development grant will lead to a full scale in RCT
RFP Timeline

01 Proposal due Friday, 19 April 2024
02 Review of proposal Internal Month of May
03 Decision released May 31st, 2024
Thank you for your attention!

For more information, visit poverty-action.org/researchers.