

# Displaced Livelihoods Initiative

Round V Call for Proposals: What's New and What's Continuing

April 2026

**DLI's fifth and final competitive funding round is now open.** It funds rigorous research on sustainable livelihoods for displaced populations and host communities across all previous grant categories. This round also introduces dedicated funding pathways for researchers with lived experience of displacement and refugee-led organizations (RLOs). **Mandatory Expressions of Interest are due May 15, 2026, with Full Proposals due July 24, 2026.**

## Round V at a Glance

### What's New in Round V

- **Earmarked funds** specifically for projects that include researchers with lived experience of displacement and/or evaluate the work of RLOs
- **Evidence Use Grants** for RLOs and researchers with lived experience of displacement to pursue dissemination, policy engagement, and advocacy (maximum \$20,000)
- **Conference Travel Grants** to support researchers with lived experience of displacement to participate in key displacement research and policy events (maximum \$4,000)
- **RLO participation costs** can be included in any grant budget, covering relationship-building, co-design, and iterative consultation
- **Expressions of Interest** are *mandatory* in Round V and are due on May 15, 2026

### Continuing from Previous Rounds

- **Four grant types:** Exploratory (\$10K), Pilot (\$75K), Full Studies (\$250K), and Infrastructure & Public Goods (\$100K)
- **Research scope:** sustainable livelihoods for refugees, IDPs, stateless populations, and host communities
- **Five priority research areas:** Resilience; Wage Employment; Entrepreneurship; Social Cohesion, Inclusion and Norms; Rights & Regulations
- **Application process:** Full proposals, due July 24, reviewed by a rotating board of academic and policy experts
- **Evidence-to-policy expectations:** grantees engage with partners, publish non-technical summaries, and participate in DLI dissemination events

## Funding Categories

Grant Type	Max Award	Description
Exploratory Grants	\$10,000	Relationship-building, descriptive analysis, and data development to lay the groundwork for future evaluations
Pilot Studies	\$75,000	Upfront investments in design, measurement, and implementation before a full impact evaluation
Full Studies	\$250,000	Rigorous impact evaluations with committed partners, well-defined designs, and powered estimates
Infrastructure & Public Goods	\$250,000	Datasets, measurement tools, and other shared assets supporting future impact evaluations
Evidence Use Grants ★ <b>NEW</b>	\$20,000	For RLOs and researchers with lived experience of displacement to translate rigorous evidence into policy and practice
Conference Travel Grants ★ <b>NEW</b>	\$4,000	Participation support for researchers with lived experience at key policy and academic conferences

# New Grant Types

Evidence Use Grants and Conference Travel Grants

DLI's fifth competitive funding round will introduce dedicated pathways for researchers with lived experience of displacement and refugee-led organizations (RLOs). These changes deepen a commitment already visible in DLI's track record: of \$5.1 million awarded to date, \$2.9 million (nearly 60%) has supported projects with team members who have lived experience of displacement, and four projects have been implemented in direct partnership with RLOs.

## Evidence Use Grants · NEW in Round V

### Purpose

These grants support the translation of displacement research into policy and practice. They are specifically designed for refugee-led organizations and researchers with lived experience of displacement who are interested in additional support connecting rigorous evidence to programmatic and advocacy work.

### Who Can Apply

Researchers with lived experience of displacement and refugee-led organizations are eligible to apply. **RLO applicants do not need to be affiliated with a university**, unlike the standard grant categories.

### Eligible Activities

Support can be used to:

- Map existing evidence to an organization's programming or theories of change
- Develop evidence-informed theories of change for ongoing or planned programs
- Create policy briefs, accessible summaries, or translated materials from existing research
- Host events, workshops, or webinars to share research findings with practitioners and policymakers
- Conduct targeted policy advocacy grounded in rigorous evidence
- Leverage evidence for funding proposals or program design with donors

## Conference Travel Grants · NEW in Round V

### Purpose

These grants address a structural gap in displacement research: leading academic and policy conferences have historically had limited participation from researchers with lived experience of displacement. By funding attendance and, where possible, supporting panel participation, DLI aims to shift that dynamic and ensure voices of those with lived experience of displacement shape the academic and policy conversations.

### Who Can Apply

Researchers with lived experience of displacement who wish to attend qualifying conferences. Priority will be given to applicants and conferences with direct links to DLI's priority research themes.

### Key Details

#### Priority conference

Eligible conferences include, but are not limited to, the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Data Centre Conference on Forced Displacement, the 2026 Africa Evidence Summit, and the 2026 Re:BUiLD Research & Policy Symposium.

#### What's covered

Travel, accommodation, registration, and per diem. Where possible, IPA will also support grantees to participate in panels to disseminate refugee-led evidence.

#### Other eligible conferences

Additional qualifying conferences may be identified in consultation with IPA.

### How to apply for the new grant types

Applications will follow the same timeline as the main Round V call. Reach out to [displacement@poverty-action.org](mailto:displacement@poverty-action.org) with questions or to discuss eligibility.

**Expression of Interest deadline:** May 15, 2026

**Full proposal deadline:** July 24, 2026