

Application Instructions

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I. Overview

IPA and J-PAL's [Displaced Livelihoods Initiative](#), supported by the IKEA Foundation, has launched its fifth Call for Proposals. **Mandatory expressions of interest are due Friday, May 15, 2026 and proposals are due Friday, July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific.** Those interested in applying are asked to first read the initiative's [Call for Proposals](#) and our overview of what is different about Round V.

Please reach out to displacement@poverty-action.org with any questions.

II. Eligibility

Eligibility Quiz

Take our [self-assessment](#) to determine whether your project might be eligible for funding.

Researcher Qualifications

For all project types except “Evidence Use” grants, at least one researcher per project must be primarily affiliated with a university (e.g., PhD Candidate, Assistant Professor, Professor, etc.), and either hold a PhD or be currently pursuing a PhD in a relevant discipline. The research team must demonstrate experience conducting field research and applying impact evaluation methods in sectors that are relevant to the Displaced Livelihoods Initiative. Projects may include additional researchers that do not meet these requirements. We strongly encourage including in-country project leads—such as research assistants, managers, or other key team members—as PIs, given their contextual knowledge and proximity to the research setting. Please reach out to displacement@poverty-action.org if you have questions about these requirements.

Exploratory grants are earmarked for LMIC-based researchers, junior faculty, PhD students and candidates, and other researchers who do not have significant sources of funding for travel and exploratory work. Exploratory proposals from tenured professors from major research universities will not be considered.

Implementing Partners

For most grant types, implementers that deliver programs or design policies (civil society, governments, multilateral organizations, etc.) should partner with researchers with track records

implementing similar research studies to the one being proposed in order to apply for funding. For “Evidence Use” grants, refugee-led organizations are eligible to apply. IPA is available to support matchmaking with researchers. Please reach out to displacement@poverty-action.org.

Earmarked Funding for Researchers with Lived Experience of Displacement and Refugee-led Organizations

In Round V, additional funding will be earmarked for research teams that include individuals with lived experience of displacement and/or projects that evaluate the work of refugee-led organizations across all grant types. More information can be found [here](#).

III. Research Management

Projects collecting data should specify the research management organization that will assist the research team with the implementation of the study. The organization must demonstrate experience implementing fieldwork in the location(s) where the study will take place and have a presence in the country. When a project is awarded funding, the funds will be internally assigned to an IPA Country Office or provided through a subaward to the research management organization or host university.

Projects taking place in countries where IPA has a [presence](#) are expected to be run through the local IPA Country Office, as these offices have the experience and long-term presence to ensure that projects meet excellent research quality standards, maintain strong partner relationships, and integrate with the work of the Displaced Livelihoods Initiative and IPA as a whole. Applicants should provide a clear motivation if they choose to work with another research management organization in a country where IPA is present. Please make sure to reach out to the local IPA Country Office as early as possible in the project development process so they can assist with research design, project planning, proposal development, and partner development. For assistance reaching out to IPA Country Offices, please email us at displacement@poverty-action.org.

When conducting research in a country without an IPA Country Office, another research management organization must implement fieldwork. If the applicant is not already in touch with a research management organization, IPA may be able to assist in identifying an appropriate partner. For additional subgrantee requirements, please see the “*Grant Terms and Conditions*” section below.

Exploratory and conference travel grants are most often awarded as consultant contracts to the successful applicant or managed through an IPA Country Office, but in rare situations may be set up as a subaward to an appropriate research management organization. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Country Contacts

IPA offices have the ability to support project development and research implementation. Applicants should reach out to the contacts below at least two weeks prior to the expression of interest deadline.

Country	Contact Name	Contact Email
West Africa	Maud Amon-Tanoh	matanoh@poverty-action.org
Colombia	Juan Felipe Garcia	jfgarcia@poverty-action.org
Dominican Republic	Sergio De Marco	sdemarco@poverty-action.org
Ethiopia	Wogene Girma	wgirma@poverty-action.org
Ghana	Salifu Amadu	samadu@poverty-action.org
Kenya	Ginger Golub	ggolub@poverty-action.org
Liberia	Zin Nwe Win	znwewin@poverty-action.org
Malawi	Emmanuel Bakirdjian	ebakirdjian@poverty-action.org
Mexico	Odette Gonzalez Carrillo	ogcarrillo@poverty-action.org
Nigeria	Funmi Ayeni	fayeni@poverty-action.org
Papua New Guinea	Aftab Opel	aopel@poverty-action.org
Paraguay	Sergio De Marco	sdemarco@poverty-action.org
Peru	Barbara Sparrow	bsparrow@poverty-action.org
Philippines	Aftab Opel	aopel@poverty-action.org
Rwanda	Cassien Havugimana	chavugimana@poverty-action.org
Sierra Leone	Zin Nwe Win	znwewin@poverty-action.org
Tanzania	Zachary Isdahl	zisdahl@poverty-action.org

Uganda	Miriam Laker	molaker@poverty-action.org
Zambia	Emmanuel Bakirdjian	ebakirdjian@poverty-action.org
Countries in Latin America (other than the above)	Sergio De Marco	sdemarco@poverty-action.org

IV. Expression of Interest Instructions

To submit the mandatory Expression of Interest (EOI), please submit basic information about the project in English through [our online portal](#) by **May 15, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific**.

If desired, an [EOI form template](#) is available to be copied to support your drafting process before you submit through our online portal. Please note that this resource is for your record-keeping purposes only, and EOIs received in this template will not be considered.

EOIs will receive a response from IPA the week of **June 8, 2026**, recommending whether or not to submit a proposal. Teams that submit successful EOIs will receive a link to the proposal portal.

V. Proposal Instructions

Pilot Study, Full Study, and Infrastructure and Public Goods Creation Proposals

Proposal Requirements

Pilot study, full study, and infrastructure and public good creation proposals consist of (i) cover sheet and narrative; (ii) budget; (iii) letters of support; and (iv) power calculations (full impact evaluations and pilots that intend to randomize only). Please submit all materials in English, or with translations, by **Friday, July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific**. If you have submitted a successful EOI, you will receive a link to the online portal to submit your proposal.

Cover sheet and narrative: Pilot study, full study, and infrastructure and public goods creation projects should use [this template](#).

Please keep in mind the following when developing the cover sheet and narrative:

- The earliest grant start date we can consider is October 1, 2026, and the latest grant end date we can consider is September 30, 2027.
- The narrative should not exceed five pages, including the abstract and appendices, but not including the cover page.
- Please use 11-point Arial font.

Successful proposals will demonstrate:

- A clear research question that is framed in relation to the Displaced Livelihoods Initiative's scope and themes outlined in our [Call for Proposals](#)
- A robust research design, well-defined research instruments, and sample size estimates (or a plan to determine these through piloting)¹
- A feasible implementation plan
- Strong partnership commitment from implementing organizations (if applicable)

Budget: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep the following in mind when developing the budget:

- Budgets are expected to adhere to the budget caps outlined in our Call for Proposals. In recognition that research in some locations or with some populations is more costly, on a case-by-case basis we will consider budgets over the above award maximums with appropriate justification.
- Awards are normally paid on a cost-reimbursable basis.
- Proposals must explain all costs in the “description” column of the budget, or include a brief budget narrative document detailing the major costs within the budget. For example, travel costs should include a breakdown of how many trips are planned, the estimated cost per trip, etc. If field costs are detailed in the budget template (number of field staff, roles, rates, etc.), they do not need further explanation in a budget narrative.
- Indirect costs:
 - Allowable indirect costs for different institutions:
 - Universities in high-income countries can charge up to 10% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.

¹ Please note that all funded projects will need to adhere to IPA's [Mandatory Research Protocols](#).

- Non-university non-profits from any location and universities from [low- or middle-income countries](#) may charge up to 15% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.
- Projects implemented through IPA Country Offices do not need to include indirect costs in budgets, and may apply to the funding category cap in direct costs. Please consult your Business Development representative for further guidance.
 - We understand that the cap on overhead or indirect costs under this initiative is low. Grantees may include reasonable project support costs in budgets as direct costs. Such costs should be explained in the “description” column of the budget.
- Any equipment/asset purchases should include a breakdown of what is being purchased (e.g., how many laptops), as well as the project staff that will be assigned to the equipment.
- Costs for rent should be explained in the budget.
- For full impact evaluations, we will be requesting the collection of program implementation cost data, following IPA’s costing guidelines. IPA will provide templates for this. Researchers are encouraged to budget up to \$1,000 for the collection of this data.
- While we ask for the project’s total budget, we do not require this to include researchers’ salaries.
- It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the budget follows the prospective subawardee’s policies for costs.
- Subawardees must be able to comply with the prime donor’s contracting and spending guidelines. More information can be found below.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all studies. This approval may come from a host institution’s IRB or IPA’s IRB. If applicants are planning on using IPA’s IRB, please make sure to budget for this process [per IPA’s IRB fee structure](#).

Funding is for qualified research costs. We generally cannot support:

- Program or intervention implementation costs, except in extremely rare circumstances when necessitated by the research design
 - N.b., These include any costs the implementing partner would have otherwise incurred to implement the program or intervention being tested. This also includes costs associated with refining or developing new approaches that will be adopted by the implementing partner if proven effective. P&R may consider supporting additions or alterations to the program that are required to answer the proposed research questions, but that the partner has not implemented in the past and will not implement in the future (e.g., a placebo intervention). Please reach out if you have any questions.

- Salary costs for researchers from institutions in high-income countries (funding for the salaries and/or time of researchers from institutions in low- and middle-income countries and of researchers with lived experience of displacement will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the review committee)
- Purely qualitative research that does not contribute to the development of impact evaluations or to understanding the results of impact evaluations
- Lab-in-the-field or survey experiments, except in rare circumstances, or within the context of piloting or implementing a broader impact evaluation as a measurement tool
- Research using historical datasets, except in the context of a broader impact evaluation
- Costs labeled as incidental, miscellaneous, or contingency

Letters of support: Please provide the following letters of support:

1. All studies 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, a university, or another institution), stating that they have reviewed the proposal and accepted the budget. Please note that this requirement applies to all projects, including those going through IPA Country Offices. Please contact them in advance for information on their policies for review and give them enough time to meet the proposal deadline.
2. Full study projects are required to provide a letter of support from the **program implementing partner**, who will manage the intervention to be evaluated. Please include basic information about the intervention, its prospective or secured funding sources, the motivation to participate in an impact evaluation (if applicable), an agreement to share program cost data (if an impact evaluation), and the relationship with the research team. Applicants for pilot funding are encouraged to submit such letters of support, if available.
3. If available, please also include letters of support from **potential scale-up partners**.

Power calculations: Please note that all full studies are required to submit power calculations. If you are randomizing within a pilot, please also submit power calculations.

Your power calculation section should include an explanation of the parameters used and assumptions made, including sample size, effect size (minimum detectable effect), take-up and non-contact rates, attrition, and, if relevant, autocorrelation. For studies utilizing cluster randomization, these parameters should additionally include the number of clusters, average units per cluster, and intra-cluster correlation. Power calculations should be shown for each hypothesis question (outcome), and, if relevant, for sub-groups (strata or blocks). Make sure that the multiple comparison problem is addressed, if applicable (see Schochet, 2009). Justify your choice of parameters by discussing relevant literature.

The narrative should also explain the implications of the results for the main outcomes and hypotheses tested as part of this study. State how the power analysis varies with changes in key parameters. If possible, share the results of power calculations using a table.

Proposals should offer sufficient detail for reviewers to replicate power calculations. Include a supplementary file with the code and log (in Stata or R) that will allow the replication of your calculations. If you used another software to make power calculations, please provide the name of the source and the inputs used so that the reviewers can replicate the calculations.

Submission Instructions

1. Submit the following materials by **July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific** through our online portal. A link to the portal is provided to teams who submit successful EOIs.
2. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single Word Document file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]
 1. Separate budget form saved as a single Excel file titled [PI last name]_Budget
 2. Letter(s) of support from implementing partners saved as PDF files titled [PI last name]_[Partner name]
3. Power calculations document titled [PI last name]_Power

Exploratory Proposals

Proposal Requirements

Please note that exploratory grants are earmarked for LMIC-based researchers, junior faculty, PhD students and candidates, researchers with lived experience of displacement, and other researchers who do not have significant sources of funding for travel and exploratory work. Exploratory proposals from tenured professors from major research universities will not be considered.

Exploratory proposals consist of (i) a cover sheet and narrative, (ii) a budget, and (iii) a letter of support from the applicant's PhD advisor(s), if applicable. Please submit all materials in English, or with translations, through our online portal by **July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific**. If you have submitted a successful EOI, you will receive a link to the online portal to submit your proposal.

Cover sheet and narrative: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep in mind the following when developing the cover sheet and narrative:

- The earliest grant start date we can consider is October 1, 2026, and the latest grant end date we can consider is September 30, 2027. That said, we expect exploratory projects to be completed within six months of the start date.
- The narrative should not exceed two pages, including the abstract and appendices, but not including the cover page.
- Please use 11-point Arial font.

Budget: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep the following in mind when developing the budget:

- Exploratory grants are for a maximum of \$10,000.
- Please include detailed budget notes in the column provided in the template.
- Generally, these grants are expected to primarily cover travel-related costs for principal investigators to conduct scoping trips and relationship development, instead of survey costs.
- In cases where additional research assistance is required, hiring enumerators must be done in compliance with local labor laws.
- If a grantee plans to work with an IPA Country Office, a J-PAL Regional Office, or another implementing organization, they should notify the organization before submitting an

exploratory proposal, as these organizations may require applicants to budget for overhead or other expenses.

Letters of support:

- If the applicant is a PhD student or candidate, please submit a letter of support from a PhD advisor(s). If an advisor would prefer to provide the letter to us directly, they can send it to displacement@poverty-action.org.
- Letters of support from implementing partners are not required for exploratory proposals.
- If the applicant will be working with a research management institution (e.g., an IPA Country Office or a J-PAL Regional Office), we require a letter of support from the institution that will receive the grant. Otherwise, exploratory grants are provided as a consultant contract to one of the researchers.

Submission Instructions

Applicants should submit the following materials by **July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific** via our online portal. A link to the portal is provided to teams who submit successful EOIs.

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single Word Document file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]
2. Separate budget form saved as a single Excel file titled [PI last name]_Budget
3. Letter(s) of support from PhD advisor and/or research management institution, if applicable, saved as PDF files titled [PI last name]_[Advisor/Partner name]

Conference Travel Proposals

Proposal Requirements

Please note that conference travel grants are earmarked for researchers with lived experience of displacement. Conference travel proposals from other applicants will not be considered. More information about these grants can be found [here](#).

Conference travel proposals consist of (i) a cover sheet and narrative, (ii) a budget, and (iii) a letter or email confirming acceptance to present at or attend the conference, if applicable. Please submit all materials in English, or with translations through our online portal by **Friday, July 24, 2026**, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific. If you have submitted a successful EOI, you will receive a link to the online portal to submit your proposal.

Cover sheet and narrative: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep in mind the following when developing the cover sheet and narrative:

- The earliest grant start date we can consider is October 1, 2026, and the latest grant end date we can consider is September 30, 2027.
- The narrative should not exceed two pages, including the abstract and appendices, but not including the cover page.
- Please use 11-point Arial font.

Budget: Please use [this template](#).

Submission Instructions

Applicants should submit the following materials by **July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific** via our online portal. A link to the portal is provided to teams who submit successful EOIs.

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single Word Document file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]
2. Separate budget form saved as a single Excel file titled [PI last name]_Budget
3. Letter or email confirming acceptance to present at or attend the conference, if applicable, titled [PI Last Name]_[Conference Title]

Evidence Use Proposals

Proposal Requirements

Please note that evidence grants are earmarked for refugee-led organizations and researchers with lived experience of displacement. Proposals from other applicants will not be considered. More information about these grants can be found [here](#).

Evidence use proposals consist of (i) a cover sheet and narrative and (ii) a budget. Please submit all materials in English, or with translations, through our online portal by **Friday, July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific**. If you have submitted a successful EOI, you will receive a link to the online portal to submit your proposal.

Cover sheet and narrative: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep in mind the following when developing the cover sheet and narrative:

- The earliest grant start date we can consider is October 1, 2026, and the latest grant end date we can consider is September 30, 2027.
- The narrative should not exceed three pages, including the abstract and appendices, but not including the cover page.
- Please use 11-point Arial font.

Budget: Please use [this template](#).

Please keep the following in mind when developing the budget:

- Proposals must explain all costs in the “description” column of the budget, or include a brief budget narrative document detailing the major costs within the budget. For example, travel costs should include a breakdown of how many trips are planned, the estimated cost per trip, etc.
- Indirect costs:
 - Allowable indirect costs for different institutions:
 - Universities in high-income countries can charge up to 10% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.
 - Non-university non-profits from any location and universities from low- or middle-income countries may charge up to 15% in indirect costs, applied to total direct costs.

- Projects implemented through IPA Country Offices do not need to include indirect costs in budgets, and may apply to the funding category cap in direct costs. Please consult your Business Development representative for further guidance.
- Funding is for qualified evidence use costs. We generally cannot support:
 - Program or intervention implementation costs
 - Costs labeled as incidental, miscellaneous, or contingency

Submission Instructions

Applicants should submit the following materials by **July 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific** via our online portal. A link to the portal is provided to teams who submit successful EOIs.

1. Cover sheet and narrative saved as a single Word Document file titled [PI last name]_[Proposal title]
2. Separate budget form saved as a single Excel file titled [PI last name]_Budget

VII. General Terms and Conditions

1. This Call for Proposals is not and shall not be construed to be a contract, offer, or request for an offer. Those responding to this call receive no rights whatsoever as a result 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 grant agreement duly executed by the recipient(s) and IPA. There is no commitment by IPA that such a final grant agreement will be executed, even if IPA enters into negotiations with the applicants, proposed recipient(s), or his or her institution.
2. IPA in its sole and exclusive discretion may reject any or all proposals with or without notice or reasons, withdraw this call at any time before or after delivery of proposals, or if no proposal is accepted, abandon the call.
3. IPA 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. IPA reserves the sole and exclusive right in its discretion to modify the timeline for decision-making or otherwise modify or amend this call as it deems appropriate.
5. All responses to this call 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 call. The review board making funding decisions includes external academics and policymakers, who will receive a copy of the proposals.
6. IPA is not responsible for and will not reimburse any costs incurred in submitting materials or information pursuant to this call or in otherwise responding to this call, including but not limited to evaluating, responding, providing follow-up, negotiating, and otherwise complying with it.
7. Applicants agree to be bound by the terms of their proposal for at least sixty days from the date such proposals are due, and otherwise agree to negotiate in good faith any other terms for a definitive arrangement if selected by IPA to do so.
8. Applicants 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. Applicants 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 call.
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 in order to ensure consistency with IPA's expectations of quality and character.
10. Applicants are required to disclose to IPA all funders of their project. Depending on the co-funders, an applicant may be ineligible for funding from IPA under this call. Further information may be requested from the Peace & Recovery Program at IPA.
11. IPA reserves the right to request additional information from applicants. Applicants agree to make themselves available for follow-up as reasonably requested by IPA.

VIII. Grant Terms and Conditions

Information on which projects are eligible for funding can be found above and in our Call for Proposals. Budget requirements can similarly be found above. If an applicant is awarded funding by IPA, the grant agreement may include clauses similar to the following:

1. The Grant Recipient shall at all times comply with, and ensure that its employees, officers, contractors, subcontractors and other persons or entities involved with Partner or with the Project at all times comply with all requirements and obligations that apply pursuant to national and international laws and regulations. This shall specifically include, but not be limited to: (i) applicable data privacy law(s); (ii) any anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and regulations that may apply; (iii) any applicable laws and regulations that prevent fraud, money laundering and financing of terrorism; and (iv) any Trade Sanctions imposed by the UN, EU or US, or any similar sanctions or restrictions.
2. In order to be eligible to receive funding, subgrantees must have the following:
 - a. Financial and accounting policies and procedures
 - b. Procurement policies and procedures
 - c. Conflict of interest policies and procedures
 - d. Errors and omissions insurance
3. Specific FCRA-related stipulations:
 - a. The Grant Recipient shall comply with, and ensure that its implementing partners involved in the Project (if any) comply with, FCRA and its relevant requirements.
 - b. The Grant Recipient shall keep IPA informed of the validity, as well as any changes in the status, of its FCRA registration and that of any key implementing partners. No payments shall be made by the Grant Recipient to any India-based entity that is subject to the FCRA, in relation to any period in which the entity's FCRA registration is not valid or not active.
 - c. The Grant Recipient shall be fully responsible for (non-)compliance with FCRA and other applicable laws, and is liable for any damages, losses, expenses and claims arising out of non-compliance by Partner or its implementing partner(s).
4. The Grant Recipient shall respect human rights and shall abide by applicable local laws, environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, as well as internationally agreed core labour standards.
5. The Grant Recipient must provide regular financial and narrative reporting to IPA, as per a timeline and using templates provided in the grant agreement.
6. The latest subgrant end date will be September 30, 2027.
7. Grantees will acknowledge funding provided by the IKEA Foundation, awarded through the Displaced Livelihoods Initiative, in written and verbal communications about the research, including in announcements. Funding should be acknowledged with the following language in all publications:
 - a. Funding for this project was provided [in part] by the IKEA Foundation, awarded by Innovations for Poverty Action through the Innovation for Poverty Action and Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Displaced Livelihoods Initiative.
8. All projects will be required to collect cost-effectiveness data. Projects demonstrating positive impacts on the outcomes of interest will be required to make cost-effectiveness data publicly available, and all evaluations will be required to publish the per unit cost of programs.