

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION

Request for Proposals Guidelines: Round 6

Intimate Partner Violence Research and Policy Initiative

Deadline	11:59 pm EST, August 7th, 2026
Eligibility	Researchers affiliated with IPA or J-PAL, or invited researchers. See Section 6 for full eligibility requirements.
Geographic Focus	Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
Total Funding Available	Approximately \$450,000 across all categories
Submission	Online Submission Form
Contact	ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org

Table of Contents

1. Overview	2
2. Grant Categories	3
3. Evaluation Criteria	5
4. Study Design Requirements	6
5. Application Instructions.....	7
6. Eligibility	8
7. Review Process and Timeline	9
8. Frequently Asked Questions.....	10
9. About Innovations for Poverty Action.....	11
10. Country Office Contacts	12
11. General Terms and Conditions	13
12. Grants Terms and Conditions.....	14

1. Overview

The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Research and Policy Initiative invites proposals from IPA and J-PAL affiliated researchers, or invited researchers, to expand on planned or ongoing randomized controlled trials (RCTs). This sixth round of the IPV research fund seeks to build on existing research studies to advance understanding of the underlying factors that contribute to intimate partner violence, and to identify policies and programs that 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 at some point in their lives, 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 development programs; however, the policies and program components that reduce IPV, and the mechanisms behind these effects, remain poorly understood.

The IPV Research and Policy Initiative seeks to inform global development policy and practice by expanding the scientific evidence on pathways to reduce IPV. By building on existing studies, the Initiative aims to generate insights into the types of development programs that shift IPV outcomes and the factors that drive these changes.

In most cases, the IPV Initiative expects to fund studies in which the original intervention was not designed to target IPV and IPV outcomes were not part of the original measurement plan. The Initiative will also consider funding for the expansion of studies already focused on IPV where there is a unique opportunity to add novel insights. Examples of projects funded in previous rounds are available at poverty-action.org/intimate-partner-violence/funded-projects.

Thematic priority topic areas include:

- Women's economic empowerment and labor market engagement
- Couples' programming for relationship skills building and/ or interventions that engage men with the potential to reduce IPV perpetuation
- Interventions targeting men and boys' socio-emotional skills development, gender norms, or violent behavior
- Adolescent mentorship and soft skills training programs
- "Plus" components of livelihoods programs (e.g., psychosocial support, coaching, group formation)
- Studies on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), including its prevalence, forms, and measurement

The Initiative will consider proposals on a broader range of interventions, provided that the research design is ethically sound and there is a plausible theoretical basis for expecting changes in IPV outcomes.

Proposals are due by 11:59 pm EST, August 7th, 2026. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review these guidelines carefully before submitting. The Initiative particularly welcomes multidisciplinary teams that include researchers from the countries where the field research occurs and researchers with expertise in gender or gender-based violence (GBV) research.

2. Grant Categories

The Round 6 call will consider proposals that fit one or more of the categories below. The Initiative expects to award approximately \$450,000 across all categories.

Category	Suggested range	Purpose
1. IPV Survey Modules	\$35,000 to \$50,000	Add IPV-focused modules to upcoming data collection rounds for existing studies.
2. New Survey Rounds	\$75,000 to \$150,000	Fund new data collection rounds focused on IPV that would not otherwise occur.
3. IPV Treatment Arm	Up to \$200,000	Add an IPV-focused treatment arm to an existing randomized evaluation.
4. Measurement and Methods Addition	\$25,000 to \$50,000	Develop and test IPV measurement tools, methods, and field practices.

Category 1: IPV-focused survey modules

Anticipated \$35,000 to \$50,000

These grants fund the cost of adding IPV-focused survey modules (typically 15 to 20 minutes) to upcoming data collection rounds for existing studies of interventions that are likely to have notable impacts on IPV. They are intended for research studies that are not already collecting IPV measures. The expectation is that at minimum the WHO Violence Against Women Survey Module ([see link](#)), is added to the study, though additional measures of IPV and related outcomes are encouraged. Researchers are also encouraged to incorporate questions on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) where relevant.

Category 2: New survey rounds focused on long-term IPV impacts

Anticipated \$75,000 to \$150,000

These grants fund additional survey or data collection rounds focused on IPV. Eligible proposal types include:

- Long-term follow-up surveys of concluded studies
- Supplemental household or spouse/partner survey with respondents who are not part of the original data collection plan
- Cases where there is a need to separate IPV data collection from the primary study's data collection for safety or methodological reasons

Category 2 differs from Category 1 in that it funds new data collection rounds that would not otherwise occur, rather than additional survey modules within already-planned data collection. Like Category 1, at minimum the expectation is the research team would administer the WHO Violence Against Women Survey Module ([see link](#)), and are encouraged to include other IPV or related measures. For new survey rounds that other measures related to the primary study would also be collected where feasible with the given budget.

Category 3: Add an IPV-targeted treatment arm to an existing study

Up to \$200,000

These grants support expanding a study by adding a treatment arm focused on reducing IPV to an existing randomized evaluation. In cases of exceptional research opportunities, applicants can request funding for the costs of expanding the study sample, the survey, and the IPV-focused intervention itself.

Category 4: Improve IPV measurement and methods

Anticipated \$25,000 to \$50,000

These grants support projects that develop and test IPV measurement tools and methods. The goal is to generate insights that improve how IPV research is conducted. Examples include studies that test:

- Ways to reduce under-reporting of IPV
- Ways to reduce surveyor or respondent bias in IPV reporting
- Ways to reduce respondent distress and re-traumatization in IPV research
- Field work that allows for novel analytic approaches
- Qualitative methods to improve quantitative measurement of IPV
- Audio and Computer-Assisted Self-Interviews (ACASI) methods

3. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their potential to provide meaningful and reliable insights into the drivers of IPV and the effective programs that can lead to sustainable reductions in IPV in low- and middle-income country settings. Additional weight will be given to projects that indicate a strong potential for policy influence. The potential scientific and policy insights will be directly weighed against the funding requested.

The selection committee will consider the following six factors:

1. Academic contribution

Does the study make a significant contribution toward advancing knowledge of IPV prevention or reduction? 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 practical experiments and underlying economic theories?

2. Policy relevance

Is there demand from policymakers for more or better information to inform their decisions in this area? Will this research be used by decision-makers? Are there viable plans to facilitate take-up of the results?

3. 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 measurement or design strategies that address the methodological challenges of researching IPV? Is the project able to collect cost data and conduct cost effectiveness analysis?

4. Project viability

Is the relationship with the implementing partner strong and likely to endure through the entire study? Are there logistical or political obstacles that might threaten completion of the study, including government authorization or human subjects review? Is the research locally grounded and relevant? Does the research team include researchers with the contextual knowledge to address respondent considerations and needs?

5. Sound ethical foundation

Does the research team have a viable plan to ensure the study is ethically administered? Are ethical concerns adequately addressed? Is there appropriate oversight and a plan for any unexpected events?

6. Value of the study

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?

4. Study Design Requirements

All submissions must present a rigorous study design for expanding a randomized evaluation to include a focus on IPV, along with a clear set of hypotheses about why the proposed research matters. In rare circumstances, the Initiative will consider quasi-experimental designs where the study presents an exceptional opportunity to generate insights on IPV that is unlikely to be studied through a randomized design.

4.1 Survey Modules and Ethical Standards

All awardees must coordinate with the IPV Initiative on the selection of survey modules and the reporting of IPV-related results. Awardees are required to use all or part of the WHO Violence Against Women Survey Module ([see link](#)) unless unsuitable to the research context. Studies must comply with all best practices for the ethical conduct of IPV research. See IPA Ethical Guidance ([link here](#)).

4.2 Implementing Partners

Submissions proposing field-based data collection should specify the research implementing partner organization that will manage and support the implementation of the randomized evaluation. The research organization must demonstrate experience implementing randomized evaluations and have a presence in the country.

If planning to work with IPA, applicants must contact the local IPA Country Office well in advance of the deadline to discuss the research design, implementation plan, and project feasibility. Country office contacts are listed in Section 10. For assistance reaching a country office, contact ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org.

4.3 Institutional Review Board Approvals

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all studies. IRB approvals must be secured from internationally recognized boards and from local boards with an understanding of the proposed research's locality. This may require two separate IRB approvals.

Approval may come from the lead researcher’s host institution’s IRB or from IPA’s IRB and the local IRB board. Applicants planning to use IPA’s IRB should budget \$2,000 for this process per IPA IRB protocols.

5. Application Instructions

5.1 Required Materials

A complete application consists of the following materials:

1. **Completed application form.** [Use IPA's IPV Initiative Application Form](#)
2. **Original proposal for the parent project.** Submit the original or primary proposal for the study being expanded. If a working paper is available, submit the working paper as well.
3. **Detailed budget.** Use the [budget template](#)
4. **CV’s for all researchers on the project.**
5. **Letters of support, as specified below:**
 - From the implementing partner (required if working with an implementing partner)
 - From the institution that will receive the grant (required). The receiving institution may be an IPA country office, a J-PAL regional office, or another institution.

5.2 Proposal Format and Length

Each section in the application form has a specified word limit that applicants are expected to observe. Applications should be submitted in English. If an applicant is unable to submit their application in English, they are encouraged to first reach out to ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org to explore the possibility of submission in another language.

5.3 File Naming and Format

Save and label all submission files as follows:

Document	Format	File Name
Application Form	.docx or .pdf	[PI Last Name]_[Application]_[Proposal Title]
Primary Proposal or Working Paper	.docx or .pdf	[PI Last Name]_[Primary Proposal]_[Proposal Title]
Budget	.xlsx	[PI Last Name]_[Budget]_[Proposal Title]
CV’s	.pdf	[PI Last Name]_CV

Document	Format	File Name
Letters of Support	.pdf or .zip	[PI Last Name]_[Letter]_[Institution/Partner Name]

5.4 Submission

All materials must be submitted by filling the online application form ([link here](#)) by 11:59 pm EST, August 7th, 2026. For guidance or trouble submitting through the online portal, contact ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org.

6. Eligibility

6.1 Applicants

The lead researcher must be affiliated with IPA or J-PAL, or be an invited researcher. IPA encourages proposals from diverse research teams, including researchers from multiple disciplines and from historically underrepresented groups. Research teams that include researchers from the countries where the project will take place are strongly encouraged, with clearly defined contributions from all team members.

6.2 Geographic Focus

The fund exclusively supports research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to work with IPA in the locations where they work. For the list of countries where IPA operates, see Section 10.

6.3 Funding

Proposals must indicate the overall cost of the project and the amount requested from the IPV Initiative. Funding is intended to cover research costs. Implementation costs for the program are expected to be covered from other sources, except in cases where the proposal involves adding a treatment arm (Category 3) or where adequate justification is provided for inclusion of implementation costs in the study budget.

Funding for salaries or researcher time in low- and middle-income countries will be reviewed separately from the main study budget. If a study is selected, additional salary support for these researchers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Indirect costs. For grants managed outside of IPA, please use the host institution's standard indirect cost rate, with a maximum allowable indirect cap of 20%.

Subaward compliance. Sub awardees must be able to comply with the prime donor's contracting and spending requirements as well as IPA's funding and spending requirements.

Applicants should indicate if they anticipate any potential conflicts or challenges related to donor financial, contracting, or compliance requirements.

The IPV Initiative doesn't fund pilot or start-up projects. Studies must have an existing or already received an award notification from a primary funder before applying. In very rare cases, the Initiative will consider acting as the standalone research funder for an RCT with only an endline survey round.

6.4 Project Timelines

Projects are expected to be finalized and to submit a final deliverable by **February 28, 2028**. If this timeline poses a challenge, applicants should propose an alternative project timeline in the proposal.

7. Review Process and Timeline

Activity	Date
RFP released	June, 2026
Submission deadline	11:59 pm EST, August 7th, 2026
Review period	Approximately 3 to 5 weeks
Decision notifications	Anticipated by September 30th, 2026
Due diligence & granting	October 2026
Award start	After October 15, 2026
Final deliverable due	February, 2028

Proposals are reviewed by an external review committee composed of academic researchers with expertise in IPV, gender-based violence, and randomized evaluations. Conflict of interest is managed by recusing reviewers from evaluating proposals submitted by current or recent collaborators or by researchers at their home institution.

7.1 Award Process

If a proposal is selected, the IPV Initiative will develop a sub-award agreement that outlines the deliverables of the grant. Funds will be assigned to the IPA country office where applicable. If the lead researcher is not working with IPA, the award will be issued from IPA to the research implementing institution. In this case, the institution receiving the sub-award must pass IPA's due diligence process and comply with the terms and conditions of the sub-award.

Selected applicants whose institution will receive funds directly from IPA will be asked to submit standard subrecipient compliance documents:

- W-9 (for US-based organizations) or W-8BEN-E (for non-US-based organizations)
- Registration document or charter to do business
- Tax status document from the institution's government
- Finance policies and procedures
- Procurement policies and procedures
- Human resources policies and procedures
- Last two years of audited financial statements (or unaudited statements if the subrecipient has not been audited)
- Last two years of US Government (USG) Single Audit, if required per [2 CFR 200.501](#)
- Proof of indirect rate (Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, or NICRA, if available) or indirect cost allocation plan if claiming an indirect rate above the 10 percent de minimis
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) form, if receiving \$30,000 or more in US Government funding

8. Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply if my parent project does not yet have funding?

No. Proposals must be tied to a study that has already received an award notification from a primary funder. The Initiative does not fund pilot or start-up activity.

Can my proposal cover more than one category?

Yes. The Initiative will consider proposals that fit one or more categories. Identify all applicable categories in the application form and explain the requested budget allocation across categories.

Can I apply if I am affiliated with neither IPA nor J-PAL?

No, Lead researchers must be affiliated with IPA or J-PAL or have been invited by the IPV Initiative to submit a proposal. Co-investigators may have other affiliations.

Can I propose a study in a country where IPA does not have a country office?

Yes, but the fund exclusively supports research in low- and middle-income countries. Additionally, the IPV Initiative will not fund projects in countries with active US sanctions. If you have any questions on country eligibility, reach out to the IPV initiative at ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org.

What is the page limit for the proposal narrative?

The application form specifies the word limit for each section. There is no overall page limit; instead, applicants are required to adhere to the word limits provided for each individual section of the application.

When will I hear back about my application?

Applicants should expect to hear from the IPV Initiative by the end of September 2026. All applicants will receive an email communicating the decision on their application.

To support applicants and ensure clarity throughout the application process, applicants are encouraged to reach out at any time via ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org for clarification or guidance while preparing their submissions.

9. About Innovations for Poverty Action

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and advances what works to improve the lives of people living in poverty. 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 people living in poverty.

IPA works in Africa, Asia, and Latin America & the Caribbean. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 1,800 leading academics to conduct over 1,000 evaluations in more than 60 countries. This cutting-edge research quality, innovation, and impact has informed hundreds of programs that now reach hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

IPA is present in 15 countries. Applicants working outside one of the countries listed in Section 10 should contact the IPV Initiative team at ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org for further information.

10. Country Office Contacts

Country or Region	Primary Contact	Email
Côte d'Ivoire	Maud Amon-Tanoh	matanoh@poverty-action.org
Colombia	Juan Felipe Garcia	jfgarcia@poverty-action.org
Ghana	Salifu Amadu	samadu@poverty-action.org
Kenya	Ginger Golub	ggolub@poverty-action.org
Malawi, Zambia	Emmanuel Bakirdjian	ebakirdjian@poverty-action.org
Mexico	Enrique Fernandez Garcia	efernandez@poverty-action.org
Nigeria	Funmilayo Ayeni	fayeni@poverty-action.org
Peru	Barbara Sparrow	bsparrow@poverty-action.org
Rwanda	Cassien Havugimana	chavugimana@poverty-action.org
Philippines	Aftab Opel	aopel@poverty-action.org
Sierra Leone, Liberia	Francesca Simcox	fsimcox@poverty-action.org
Tanzania	Zachary Isdahl	zisdahl@poverty-action.org
Uganda	Miriam Opwonya Laker	molaker@poverty-action.org
Latin American countries without an IPA office	Sergio De Marco	sdemarco@poverty-action.org
Multi-country projects	Rachel Steinacher	rsteinacher@poverty-action.org

For general inquiries about working with IPA, contact ipvinitiative1@poverty-action.org or pd@poverty-action.org.

11. 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.
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.

12. 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 insuranceAnd if Human data will be used, the subgrantee must also have:
 - e. Data Protection Policy
 - f. Whistleblower Policy
 - g. Human Resource Policy

3. Specific FCRA-related stipulations where the Grant Recipient subgrants or transfers funds to India-based organizations
 - 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 labor 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 February 28, 2028.
7. All projects will be expected to collect cost-effectiveness data. Projects demonstrating positive impacts on the outcomes of interest will be expected to make cost-effectiveness data publicly available, and all evaluations will be expected to publish the per unit cost of programs.