

# LAI Letter of Interest (LOI) Preview

Last updated January 2025

**\*\*\*Do NOT submit this form\*\*\***

Applications can only be submitted through the online portal.

See the [LAI RFP page](#) for more information.

## CONTENTS

### Important Information

[Primary Eligible Researcher](#)

[Select PI Eligibility Category](#)

[Organization Name of Eligible Researcher](#)

[Team Members & Roles](#)

[PI Certification](#)

[Demographic Information](#)

### Project Details

[Full Title of Proposal](#)

[Past and Future Submissions](#)

[Funding Amount](#)

[Proposed Period of Performance Project Start Date](#)

[Proposed Period of Performance Project End Date](#)

[Abstract](#)

[Research Focus Areas and/or Cross-Cutting Themes](#)

[Initiative Alignment](#)

[Existing Research Project](#)

[National Location](#)

[In which cities, states, territories, or provinces will the project take place?](#)

## Important Information

Please note that applicants can move back and forth between sections to edit answers before submitting. Applicants can also save their applications, then come back later to make changes before submitting. For more details about how to navigate WizeHive, please see [these instructions](#).

### Subaward Setup

As you work on your application, please keep the following MIT/J-PAL policies in mind, as they might affect the contracting process with MIT if your project is selected for funding and not all requirements are met.

### Institute to Receive Award (ITRA)

**PLEASE NOTE:** MIT now requires that at least one project PI be employed by the organization receiving the subaward and funds. Please see this [memo](#) for more information.

### Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Record

If the project has not received an IRB exemption and IRB review is required (i.e., you plan to conduct human subject research), you will be required to provide the name of the current or expected IRB of record. IRB Requirements - If this proposal receives initiative funding, you will be required to submit the following:

- All IRB approval(s) or exemption(s)
- All IRB-approved protocols
- Any IRB-approved consent forms

### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Please be mindful that MIT requires that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) determination to be held by the institution that enters into the subaward agreement with MIT. The PI at the ITRA must be listed as the main PI on the IRB. If the institution does not have its own IRB, the institution must engage the services of a commercial IRB to review and provide oversight for the research activities. [Heartland](#) and [Solutions](#) provide review of international research and satisfy J-PAL's IRB requirements; fees can be found on their respective websites. Further information about this MIT policy can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Please consult with J-PAL regarding including the cost of this commercial entity in the project budget. J-PAL also requires that the reviewing IRB have IRB Organization (IORG) status with the US Office of Human Protections.

[You can look up the IORG status of an IRB here.](#)

For grants with **human subject research**, subaward contracts will be drafted within 90 days of receiving all materials and subaward amendments will take about 60 days. Please provide conservative rather than optimistic estimates for start and end dates to reduce the likelihood of needing to submit no-cost extension requests.

## Primary Eligible Researcher

Please identify one researcher who is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding. This may be the principal PI or any eligible co-PI. Only details for one primary eligible researcher are required in cases where there's more than one eligible researcher. Other PIs who are eligible can be added as co-PIs.

## Select PI Eligibility Category

Indicate how the researcher is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding.

## PhD Student Applicants

If you are a PhD student, please indicate the J-PAL-affiliated researcher who serves or will serve as an advisor on your dissertation committee.

## Organization Name of Eligible Researcher

Please tell us the name of the organization the eligible researcher (i.e., the professor or PhD student) is affiliated with.

## Organization Type

## Organization Website of Eligible Researcher

## Country Where Organization is Based or Headquartered

## Team Members & Roles

Please add all your project team members and indicate their role(s) on the project/application below. Please copy and paste the role exactly as it is written below so that it matches our internal database.

Role options are:

- Applicant
- Primary PI
- Co-PI
- PI at Institute to Receive Award
- Reporting Contact
- Secondary Reporting Contact
- IRB Contact
- Finance Contact
- Collaborator
- Contact for Contracting

If you are the applicant and a PI (or another role), indicate so by adding yourself as an applicant and then again as a PI. As the applicant, you will be receiving all notifications related to this application.

## PI Certification

- I certify that any listed eligible researchers have agreed to be active, engaged, and responsive PIs or advisors on this project. Eligible researchers who are involved have confirmed they will be dedicated to guaranteeing quality control on all aspects of this research and that their participation is not merely to provide access to resources and funding to other project team members who would otherwise be ineligible.
- I certify that all eligible researchers are up to date on reporting for all existing grants, across all J-PAL initiatives.

Do you certify the above statements? [Y/N]

## Demographic Information

J-PAL is collecting information about all project teams, including demographic information, to support our efforts to promote diversity in our research network and funding opportunities. As the applicant, please send the language and [link](#) included below to all PIs/Co-PIs on your proposal research team. Provide your proposal name and each member's role (as you listed them on the application) when you send out the blurb. Completion of this step is required for all primary investigators on your research team. If you have any technical problems with completing this step please email [lai@povertyactionlab.org](mailto:lai@povertyactionlab.org) or the initiative team directly.

Feel free to cut and paste this suggested language in an email to send to the PIs and Co-PIs on your team:

*J-PAL is collecting information about all project teams, including demographic information, to support J-PAL's efforts to promote diversity in the J-PAL research network and funding opportunities. J-PAL is requiring all PIs and Co-PIs on our research team to complete this [short form](#). This data will only be accessible in disaggregated, identifiable form to select J-PAL staff. Aggregate, anonymized data will be used to report to key partners such as donors and may be included on our website.*

**Please confirm that every PI/co-PI has completed the questions in the above-linked survey. You may select "Not Yet" so as to finish other questions. However, your submission will not be considered until you have checked "Yes" to indicate that all PIs/co-PIs have completed this survey.**

## Project Details

### Full Title of Proposal

### Past and Future Submissions

Have you submitted or do you plan to submit this LOI and proposal to any other J-PAL Initiative RFP, including in any previous LAI round of funding? [Y/N]

## Details about Past and Future Submissions

If you answered yes above, please state which initiative(s), year/season of RFP, and the name of the LOI/proposal you submitted or plan to submit.

Example: LAI Spring 2024 Improving learning by promoting mental health.

Are the PI team, context, and research question the same as in the previously submitted proposal? Please explain whether the project received funding and what type of funding it received (Travel/Proposal Development, Pilot, RCT). Additionally, please explain how the project has progressed since it was last submitted to the initiative, and explain how you addressed the feedback that was provided with your last submission. [350 word max.]

## Funding Amount

Amount of requested funding in USD.

## Proposed Period of Performance Project Start Date

What is the proposed start date for this J-PAL grant's subaward activities?

## Proposed Period of Performance Project End Date

What is the proposed end date for this J-PAL grant's subaward activities?

## Abstract

Write a study abstract, including the project description, research question, and intervention or treatment to be evaluated. Discuss the project's technical design, what is going to happen during the project, the practical value of your project, the conceptual value of your research, and the distributional implications of your work. Provide context about proposed partners. Please note that this abstract will be added to the Initiative's webpage if the project receives funding. [250 word max.]

## Scaling Abstract (Specific to Scaling applications)

Please provide a brief description of the project. Comment on the evidence-informed intervention(s) (policies, programs, processes, delivery mechanisms, etc.) you hope to adapt to a new context, conduct a policy pilot of, or support the scaling of. [200 word max.]

## Research Focus Areas and/or Cross-Cutting Themes

Please indicate which LAI focus areas or themes your proposal relates to; these are described in detail in the RFP materials.

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
- Socio-emotional Learning (SEL) and Measurement of Holistic Skills/Breadth of Skills
- Girls' Education
- Intersections of Climate and Education
- Long-term Economic and Health Impacts of Education Interventions

### **Explanation of Focus Areas and/or Cross-Cutting Themes**

If your proposal does not cleanly fit into any of the options listed, select “other” and describe why your proposal is a fit for the initiative. [250 words max.]

### **Initiative Alignment**

Please briefly describe how the project aligns with LAI's research focus areas and/or cross-cutting themes, as described in the RFP materials. [250 word max.]

### **Existing Research Project**

Are you applying to fund additional research as part of an existing research project previously funded by J-PAL (e.g., a second proposal development grant continuing from a prior proposal development grant, a pilot grant building on a travel/proposal development, a full RCT building on a pilot, etc.)? [Y/N]

### **Existing Research Project Details**

Please provide the title and/or J-PAL grant number of your previously funded project.

### **National Location**

In which country or countries will your research or travel take place?

### **In which cities, states, territories, or provinces will the project take place?**

Please do not abbreviate the names of the cities, states, territories, or provinces when listing them.