

J-PAL PROSA (SONDEO Y ARRANQUE) PROGRAM

Letter of Interest (LOI)

Second Semester, 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP)

J-PAL's [PROSA \(SONDEO Y ARRANQUE PROGRAM\)](#) calls for proposals from J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, and J-PAL invited researchers¹ for full research projects and pilot studies. **Letters of interest are due by Thursday, October 09, 2025 at 7:00 PM UTC-3. Proposals are due by Thursday, November, 06, 2025 at 7:00 PM UTC-3.** Please submit your application via PROSA's e-mail prosa@povertyactionlab.org

The full PROSA Overview and Instructions can be found [here](#).

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LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS

To best fill out this application, please adhere to each question's character counts (if applicable) and answer each question under the provided instructions. Please include a short response (single-spaced) to each of the following sub-sections. Questions with asterisks (*) are required. If you have any questions, please email us, through prosa@povertyactionlab.org.

Please submit this LOI, as a Word document, via email to prosa@povertyactionlab.org.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Proposed Period of Performance Project Start Date *

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

¹If you have questions regarding your eligibility to participate, we welcome you to inquire by emailing us at prosa@povertyactionlab.org. **Among those eligible to apply, note that all applicants are limited to being named (as PI or Co-PI) on a maximum of three proposals to PROSA per 12-month period.**

Please provide conservative rather than optimistic estimates for start and end dates to reduce the likelihood of needing to submit no-cost extension requests. Please note that it can take around 90 days from the results' announcement date for the signature of the contract and the disbursement of the funds. This span also depends on IRB approval time. Also, hiring a Senior Research Associate or Research Manager can take up to one month.

2. Proposed Period of Performance Project End Date *

What is the proposed period of performance end date for this J-PAL grant's subaward activities? Please provide conservative rather than optimistic estimates for start and end dates to reduce the likelihood of needing to submit no-cost extension requests. Please note that it can take around 90 days from the results' announcement date for the signature of the contract and the disbursement of the funds. This span also depends on IRB approval time. Also, hiring a Senior Research Associate or Research Manager can take up to one month.

3. Full Title of Proposal (up to 30 words) *

4. Eligible Researcher *

Please identify the researcher who is eligible for J-PAL funding. This may be the principal PI, or any eligible co-PI.

5. Select PI Eligibility Category *

Indicate how the PI identified above is eligible for J-PAL Initiative funding.

- () J-PAL Affiliate
- () Invited Researcher
- () J-PAL Postdoc

6. 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.

I certify that, if I receive award funding, I will submit all necessary materials for award setup within six months from the date of award notice, barring any extenuating circumstances.

() Yes

() No

7. Team Members *

Please list the research team members who will work on the project in the table below. Include each member's name, institutional affiliation, email address, and their role in the project.

First name	Last name	Email	Institutional affiliation	Role (main PI or co-PI)

8. Team Composition/Local Knowledge *

Is at least one of the Principal Investigators in your team based in or from the country where the research will be implemented? If yes, what is the scope of their involvement? Otherwise, what other efforts have been made to engage local decision-makers or stakeholders in the research? In addition, have any of the Principle Investigators completed high school or undergrad in a low- or middle-income country, as defined by the World Bank? If yes, what is the scope of their involvement? Additional consideration will be given to proposals that involve locally-based researchers and partners, as well as those with interdisciplinary co-authors from other fields such as Education and Psychology, for example (up to 200 words)

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9. Local Researcher Partnership Interest *

As part of J-PAL's efforts to address the lack of diversity in the field of economics, J-PAL aims to support the development of junior researchers, especially those working in resource-scarce environments. Please indicate if you're interested in partnering with local researchers. J-PAL staff may follow up with more information.

- () Yes
() No

10. Type of Local Researchers

If you answered yes above, what type(s) of local researchers are you interested in collaborating with?

- () Context or subject expert;
() Qualitative Researcher;
() Junior Researcher (eg Graduate students or research staff);
() N/A

11. Demographic Information *

J-PAL is hoping to collect 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, we kindly ask that you 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 help@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 hoping to collect 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.

- a. Country of birth (optional)*
- b. Gender (optional)*
- c. Race/ethnicity (optional)*
- d. Country of high school attendance
- e. Country of college/university attendance

12. Demographic Information Confirmation *

Please confirm that every PI/co-PI has completed the questions in the above-linked survey. Your submission will not be considered until this has been completed. Check here to indicate that all PIs/co-PIs have completed this survey.

(☐) Yes

(☐) No

13. Past and Future Submissions *

Have you submitted or do you plan to submit this LOI and proposal to any other J-PAL Initiative RFP?

(☐) Yes

(☐) No

14. 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: GI Spring 2019 Using Mobile Phones to Improve Service Delivery. 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, Scale). Additionally, please explain how the project has progressed since its last submission, and explain how you addressed the feedback that was provided. (up to 350 words).

PROJECT DETAILS

15. Funding Type *

Which type of funding is the project team applying for?

(☐) Pilot

(☐) Full RCT

(☐) Exploratory grant

16. Funding Amount (up to USD 25,000 exploratory grant; USD 75,000 - pilot - and; USD 160,000 - full RCT) *

Please ensure that the amount requested is in USD Dollars.

17. 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 and a timeline. Please note that this abstract will be added to the Initiative's webpage if the project receives funding (up to 250 words).

18. Research Focus Areas and/or Cross-Cutting Themes *

Please indicate the PROSA research themes that your proposal relates to; these are described in detail in the [RFP materials](#). You can select more than one research area.

Research Themes:

- () Nutrition
- () Early Childhood Stimulation (ECS)
- () Preventative Health
- () Home environment

19. Explanation of Focus Areas and/or Cross-Cutting Themes

If your proposal does not cleanly fit into any of the options listed, describe why your proposal is a fit for this RFP (up to 250 words)

20. PROSA Alignment *

Please briefly describe how the project aligns with the PROSA's research focus areas and/or cross-cutting themes, as described in the RFP materials initiative research agenda (up to 250 words).

21. Project Description *

Please briefly describe the research proposal. Please ensure to include information on the following points:

- For full studies: research methodology employed
- For pilot studies: details on the methodology you envisage to use for subsequent full studies

Please be as specific as possible as this information will help us determine eligibility for J-PAL funding. In addition, please consider providing information on how you will approach matters of accountability, safety and security in the research implementation (up to 250 words).

22. National Location *

In which country will your research or travel take place?

() Guatemala

23. Subnational Location *

In which department(s) will your research take place?

24. Additional Information

You're welcome to provide any brief additional comments about your form responses, or questions for us, here. Only a few sentences, maximum, please. If you have more detailed questions for us or information to share, you're welcome to email our staff team at prosa@povertyactionlab.org.