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TO: J-PAL Staff, Affiliates and Partner Organizations

FROM: Sharon Ray, CRA
Associate Director, Research Administration Services

DATE: November 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Subaward Principal Investigators and Human Subject Research

Principal Investigator:

The Principal Investigator (PI) of a subaward issued by MIT's Research Services Administration must have an official affiliation with the organization receiving the subaward and funds. This individual is fully responsible for the implementation of the research project in accordance with the proposal and with appropriate research and data protection practices.

Scenario 1:

A J-PAL Affiliate/Awardee plans to collaborate with a researcher (Co-Investigator) at another organization.

Option 1: MIT issues a Subaward to Affiliate/Awardee's home institution; which then engages the other organization through an agreement mechanism of the home institution's choice. Affiliate/Awardee serves as the Project PI.

Option 2: MIT issues a Subaward to the other organization and the collaborating researcher serves as the Project PI. Note: The Collaborating organization's Subaward Agreement would be contingent upon MIT's risk assessment and confirmation of their ability to manage the award.

Scenario 2:

A J-PAL Affiliate/Awardee plans to engage with a third party organization to provide services for a portion of the project.

MIT issues a Subaward issued to the Affiliate/Awardees home institution; which then engages the third party organization through an agreement mechanism of the home institution's choice.

Human Subjects:

The protection of human subjects is of prime concern when implementing research projects. As such, appropriate protocol Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals or exemptions are required to be in place prior to a subaward being issued and research commencing.

The IRB approval must be held by the institution that enters into the subaward agreement with MIT. If the institution does not have their own IRB, they must engage the services of a commercial IRB to review and provide oversight for their research activities. Consult with J-Pal regarding including the cost of this commercial entity in the project budget.

