

Human Trafficking Research Initiative
Application Guidelines for RFP Seed Funding Round (Spring 2021)

Overview

The Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI) invites proposals from researchers and organizations that intend to design and carry out studies on how to reduce human trafficking or respond to the needs of human trafficking victims, but need some additional time and support to push the research project to the next stage. We expect to fund a total of 6 to 9 proposals in this round that, as noted below, could cover a range of different activities.

With this call for proposals, IPA solicits proposals from researcher teams interested in expanding the evidence to further investigate this important topic. The fund will consider human trafficking research projects from all approaches to reduce human trafficking, including prevention, protection, prosecution, advocacy, and reestablishment programs. The primary focus of the fund for this round of study is to strengthen the evidence around potentially impactful programs. **Proposals are due by March 21, 2021**. These grants are geared to rapidly turn around usable data and analysis, so we expect all projects to produce **substantive progress reports by December 31, 2021** and complete **project closure by March 31, 2022**. Those interested in applying are asked to first read through our funding priorities below.

In this round, the HTRI will consider proposals that include:

- **Small research pilots of promising interventions**: These are grants that would fund the cost of a small pilot to assess the feasibility and value of a larger research project. These grants are intended to be the first step of formal research for promising interventions and anti-trafficking activities. Programs with monitoring and evaluation data, administrative data, and/or sound theories of change that indicate promising impact would be a good fit for this grant (for example, an employer-incentive scheme that has qualitative reports of success, or a reintegration program with promising signs of reduced rates of re-trafficking). We anticipate funding between $10,000 to $35,000 per pilot.
- **Seed money for a travel grant or staff time to build on nascent research ideas**: In normal times, IPA has issued small travel grants for researchers to develop partnerships and explore the logistics of promising research ideas. While this grant can be used for travel, we recognize it may not be safe due to COVID-19. Therefore, we encourage proposals that outline how project ideas and contextual factors can be appropriately explored given COVID-19 constraints. For instance, site visits by nationally based academics are highly encouraged in lieu of international travel. IPA country offices are also able to provide support. We anticipate funding between $2,500 and $15,000 per award.
- **Small grants for data work using existing sources to examine program impact**: These are small grants that will support researchers to use a partner's administrative data or other existing data sets, conduct desk research to deepen previous research analysis, or create

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In February 2021, the HTRI launched an open call for proposals for seed grants for partnership building, pilots, and data analysis. This RFP is closed as of March 21, 2021. Thank you to all who shared your submissions.

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Please refer to the linked PDF document on this page (click the "Download" button or the preview image) to review the application guidelines in full. The link to apply is here. Please direct any questions to the HTRI team.

As the guidelines state, the application materials are:

- Application Form
- Budget Template
- CVs of all researchers on the project (see pg. 2 of the guidelines PDF for more details)
- Letters of support from implementing partners, if applicable (see pg. 2 of the guidelines PDF for more details)
- Please complete all materials listed above and submit them via our online Application Submission Form

The HTRI will give preference to underrepresented researchers in the field. We encourage applications from minority researchers, such as women, junior scholars, first-generation college graduates, and citizens of lower- or middle-income countries. Local researchers and local organizations are necessary for the success of many human trafficking programs and assessments; this will be incorporated into our proposal assessment.

February 22, 2021