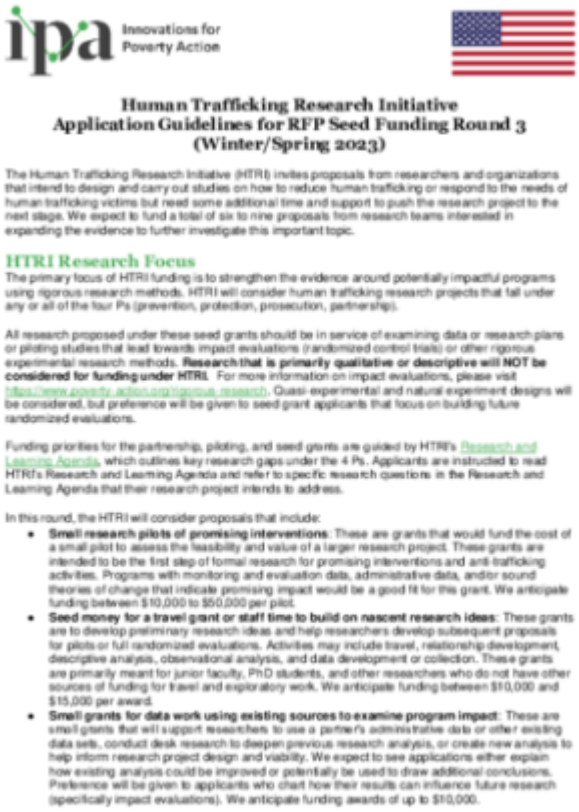


Human Trafficking Research Initiative
Application Guidelines for RFP Seed Funding Round 3
(Winter/Spring 2023)

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 six to nine proposals from research teams interested in expanding the evidence to further investigate this important topic.

HTRI Research Focus

The primary focus of HTRI funding is to strengthen the evidence around potentially impactful programs using rigorous research methods. HTRI will consider human trafficking research projects that fall under any or all of the four Ps (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership).

All research proposed under these seed grants should be in service of examining data or research plans or piloting studies that lead towards impact evaluations (randomized control trials) or other rigorous experimental research methods. **Research that is primarily qualitative or descriptive will NOT be considered for funding under HTRI.** For more information on impact evaluations, please visit https://www.poverty-action.org/rigorous-research. Quasi-experimental and natural experiment designs will be considered, but preference will be given to seed grant applicants that focus on building future randomized evaluations.

Funding priorities for the partnership, piloting, and seed grants are guided by HTRI's Research and Learning Agenda, which outlines key research gaps under the 4 Ps. Applicants are instructed to read HTRI's Research and Learning Agenda and refer to specific research questions in the Research and Learning Agenda that their research project intends to address.

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. We anticipate funding between $10,000 to $50,000 per pilot.
- **Seed money for a travel grant or staff time to build on nascent research ideas**: These grants are to develop preliminary research ideas and help researchers develop subsequent proposals for pilots or full randomized evaluations. Activities may include travel, relationship development, descriptive analysis, observational analysis, and data development or collection. These grants are primarily meant for junior faculty, PhD students, and other researchers who do not have other sources of funding for travel and exploratory work. We anticipate funding between $10,000 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 new analysis to help inform research project design and viability. We expect to see applications either explain how existing analysis could be improved or potentially be used to draw additional conclusions. Preference will be given to applicants who chart how their results can influence future research (specifically impact evaluations). We anticipate funding awards of up to $10,000.

Download Guidelines

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This call for proposals closed on Friday, March 31, 2023. Thank you to all who submitted applications. Any questions not covered in this document or on elsewhere on our website should be directed to the HTRI team at ipa_htri@poverty-action.org.

In March 2023, the Human Trafficking Research Initiative (HTRI) invited 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 six to nine proposals from research teams interested in expanding the evidence to further investigate this important topic.

This document outlined the guidelines for this request for proposals, including:

- HTRI Research Focus
- Application Instructions
- Eligibility Criteria
- Evaluation Criteria
- IPA Country Program Primary Contacts
- Grant Terms and Conditions
- General Terms and Conditions