



## Pretrial Release Decisions, Conditions and Services RFP Conference Call Q&A

Below are questions and answers from Arnold Ventures Pretrial Team's RFP Zoom Conference Call held on June 1, 2023, at 1pm EDT. Applicants can find the Pretrial RFP [here](#) and are welcome to send any questions to [PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org](mailto:PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org).

### Budget Questions

**Question:** When thinking about the budget guidelines, the RFP states that budgets should not exceed \$350,000 for a single jurisdiction, and if additional jurisdictions are added, the budget may be increased as needed up to \$25,000 per jurisdiction. Does this include projects where there is statewide data available as well as projects where data must be collected from separate systems across jurisdictions?

**Answer:** If the project is collecting statewide data, then budgets for statewide projects should not exceed \$500,000. We understand that getting the support of local jurisdictions is important, so the \$25,000 subawards are meant to assist local jurisdictions with providing data and being engaged in the research. It is important to note that \$25,000 can be given per jurisdiction. These budget requirements are not entirely rigid – while we will stay close to parameters, we understand that every situation is unique and that there may be specific needs that fall outside these guidelines. As noted in the RFP, if applicants have unique budget concerns/needs, we encourage you to send questions to [PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org](mailto:PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org).

**Question:** Is it only permissible to request a subaward of \$25,000 with a single community organization or may it be split between two (or more) organizations to obtain a more diverse range of community partner expertise and perspectives?

**Answer:** Yes, subawards can be split between multiple partnering community organizations. However, \$25,000 can also be given per community partnership. For example, if the research were to be conducted in two jurisdictions and there are separate community organizations that the research team believes are fundamental to the project, then a request for funding for both can be made.

**Question:** Are subawards allowed that exceed the \$25,000 threshold, if one stays in the ceiling budget of \$500,000?

**Answer:** We encourage applicants to reach out via email ([PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org](mailto:PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org)) with questions about any unique funding needs, as stated in the RFP, we would need more information and justification about specific needs and requests in order to provide guidance.

**Question:** Also, are the subawards of \$25,000 in excess of (in addition to) the ceiling award(s) of \$350,000 or \$500,000?

**Answer:** Yes. For example, if you are working in one jurisdiction on one of the specific research topics, and if the budget is \$350,000, you would be permitted to add \$25,000 to fund a subaward for a partner organization (totaling \$375,000).

**Question:** In the RFP, the guidance points to adding \$25,000 to each additional jurisdiction added to an applicant's proposal for (single jurisdictions). Can you clarify if that stipulation is limited to the \$500,000 threshold, if an applicant applies for funding to support several jurisdictions but their project isn't statewide in nature?

**Answer:** Yes, projects that are not using statewide data, but intend to work with several jurisdictions are eligible for \$25,000 subawards for each jurisdiction. We will provide feedback on the viability of this option after the LOIs are submitted. The \$25,000 subawards are in recognition of the work that your office/agency partners contribute to the project. Applicant teams are welcome to reach out via email at [PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org](mailto:PretrialRFP@arnoldventures.org).

### **LOI Application Types**

**Question:** Will pretrial service providers that already have a research and/or evaluation department be **required** to partner with an external evaluator?

**Answer:** There is a preference for research independence, but we would entertain the concept of an internal research or evaluation department being directly engaged in the research project.

**Question:** Can a single agency submit more than one LOI if these are submitted under different topic areas (i.e., one for Release Decisions, one for Release Conditions, and one for Pretrial Services)?

**Answer:** Yes, we would encourage this if the research topics and data will differ. If the same data can be used to answer multiple questions, we would ask that only one LOI be submitted.

**Question:** Putting together MOUs can take some time, so can you elaborate on the timeline for jurisdictional matches?

**Answer:** As stated in the RFP, there are three paths in which applicants can submit an LOI. The first path is for applicants who have established jurisdiction and research partnerships. The second path is for jurisdictions without research partners and who are interested in getting data and evidence to inform their policies and practices. The third path is for researchers who do not have active partnerships with jurisdictions but have access to data and would like to answer research and policy related questions. AV will review all LOIs as they come in and reach out as relevant to teams who are good fits for jurisdictional matches.

**Question:** In some jurisdictions there are requirements like a court vote which could preclude you from getting an MOU by the summer deadline. How will that be treated?

**Answer:** LOI application process does not require any application team to have a letter of support or MOU data sharing agreement in place. At the proposal stage, applicant teams will be required submit letters of support for research only applicants. However, activities such as data sharing agreements and MOUs will be embedded into the grant as project milestones to be completed after the award is received. We are flexible with timelines and willing to work with grantees as long as there is open and clear communication throughout the process.

**Question:** For jurisdiction only track how will you identify researchers who jurisdictions might partner with? How would jurisdictions be connected with researchers? Is this also through that RFP process? (Note: Each question was asked separately but combined here to limit redundancy)

**Answer:** There are a few steps that will be taken to find an appropriate match. First, we will learn what research topics, policies, and practices are of interest to the applicants from the LOIs. Then we

will engage jurisdictions and learn about any prior research they have participated in and topics that interest them. Finally, we will consider multi-site collaborations in efforts to improve the generalizability of findings if multiple sites share common interests. Our goal is to forge sustainable relationships that have the potential to be maintained after the life of the grant which creates opportunity for ongoing collaborations and research. Often, we look for researchers who have an interest in the areas being evaluated as well as local research partnerships. Lastly, we look to provide resources even if there is not a research opportunity to pursue. For example, we may learn that a jurisdiction is interested in specific policy implementation, and we can connect them with APPR or other grantees who can support that need.

**Question:** Is there a mechanism for researchers to sign up as a potential research partner?

**Answer:** We will work closely with research teams to find partnerships if we receive an email/LOI that a research team is interested in welcoming jurisdiction partners.

**Question:** For the research only track, do those researchers need to include a jurisdictional partner?

**Answer:** No, research only applicants are not required to include jurisdictional partners per the RFP. Research teams may have existing data that aligns with the RFP and can be used to answer relevant questions.

**Question:** When researchers say they have an LOI and a couple of interested jurisdictions, if they're open to working with other jurisdiction/have the capacity, if the data matches, can they indicate this on their application that they're willing to expand?

**Answer:** Yes, we encourage you to provide this information, however, this is not a requirement.

**Question:** For the researcher only LOI, does AV accept LOIs from researchers who aren't associated with institutions? If we have access to data and would like to work as an independent researcher.

**Answer:** Yes, we fund independent researchers.

**Question:** Could you tell us about what seems to be a preference for causal designs in this RFP?

**Answer:** Arnold Ventures is a policy foundation in which we inform policy positions based on rigorous evidence. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the most rigorous methodological approaches to evaluate policy and practice. Descriptive research may be appropriate when the policy and practice is not ready for a rigorous analysis. Applicant teams should provide information as to why their approach is the most rigorous as possible.