



QUESTIONS FROM THE MAY 3, 2018 CONFERENCE CALLS ON THE LAURA AND JOHN ARNOLD FOUNDATION RFPs

This document includes the questions submitted in advance and asked on the May 3, 2018, conference calls for the two RFPs the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) released on April 25, 2018: the RFP for a national training and technical assistance provider (national provider or National Provider RFP) and for research related to the Public Safety Assessment (research or evaluator or research RFP). We have arranged the questions by whether they were asked/submitted for the national provider RFP or the research RFP, but many of the questions are germane to both and we encourage people submitting LOIs to review the questions and answers for both.

Questions from the National Provider RFP call:

1. What is the expected size of the cohorts for medium-touch jurisdictions each year?

There will be 200 medium-touch jurisdictions in cohorts of 50 jurisdictions over five years. LJAF anticipates it will take approximately one year to launch the medium-touch program and that the 12-month learning cycles would commence in Year 2. In Year 2 through Year 5, one cohort of 50 jurisdictions would complete the medium-touch TTA model per year.

2. When will the ten high-touch TTA sites be initiated?

LJAF anticipates that the first 12 to 18 months of work at each site will be the most intensive period and that all ten high-touch sites will have launched implementation within the first two years. Due to the nature of the work, LJAF expects site launches to happen on a rolling basis across the ten sites rather than all at once.

3. How will the ten high-touch sites be selected?

The 10 sites will be selected through a Request for Proposal process.

4. Will the high-touch sites be in counties or states?

The National Provider RFP is open to county or state applicants. LJAF hopes to fund projects at a mix of jurisdiction levels.



Questions from the Research RFP call:

1. Does LJAF anticipate that the research evaluators will have tasks associated with site selection?

The ten high-touch sites will be selected through a Request for Proposal process. There will likely be tasks associated with site selection. As noted in the RFP language (Research RFP, p. 13), LJAF asks applicants to think about the necessary jurisdiction criteria to attain each research objective, and successfully address the scopes of Tier 1 or Tier 2.

2. Will the ten high-touch TTA sites currently be using the PSA?

No.

3. What is the review process for the LOI and proposals within LJAF?

The Letters of Interest will be reviewed by LJAF's Criminal Justice Initiative staff in collaboration with LJAF's Vice President of Research Integrity, Stuart Buck. LOIs for the Research RFP will be graded on a rubric that tracks with the criteria listed in the RFP. Full proposals will be reviewed by the Pretrial Research Advisory Board with the support of LJAF's Criminal Justice Initiative. The Advisory Board will provide a recommendation. All final decisions will rest with LJAF's Board of Directors.

4. Does LJAF anticipate making multiple awards within Tier 1 and Tier 2?

Tier 1 will be awarded to a single application team; Tier 2 will include awards to multiple application teams.

5. The solicitation indicates that the ten sites will roll out incrementally rather than simultaneously. Do you have a specific expectation for the timing of implementation across each site?

Roll out can occur incrementally. Please incorporate this into your study design as you see fit based on your strategic plan.

6. Who will oversee the researchers?

LJAF will oversee the Tier 1 research team. LJAF expects the Tier 1 research team and the national provider to work in partnership as appropriate.

7. Do you anticipate the Tier 1 evaluators will have any activities associated with medium and low touch TTA jurisdictions? For example, the RFP for the national provider mentions TA for all three site categories including new PSA algorithms.

Although the RFPs are separate, LJAF would like to stress the partnership between the national provider and research teams. The national provider efforts will provide a platform for learning and sharing knowledge. The research will inform policies and practices and be funneled back to the provider for broader dissemination to inform the work.



8. What is the start date for funded projects?

Provisional awards will be made on or about August 1, 2018. By LJAF policy, final grant awards must be completed within 60 days of the provisional award announcement; therefore, the projects may begin as early as mid- to late-September.

9. Is there a specific budget maximum budget amount that should be reflect in the Letters of Interest or proposals? For Tier 2 projects, is there a specific grant amount (or approximate budget range) that proposals' budgets should reflect?

No. Costs should reflect all necessary activities associated with the projects. For the Research RFP, funding will cover any research activities associated with the project. For both, the budget should reflect the cost of the cost of the high-quality research LJAF expects.

10. The RFP describes a range of potential project deliverables (e.g. reports and academic articles). Is LJAF interested in a specific set of deliverables?

LJAF aims to support projects that provide a strategic mix of deliverables. This could include, but is not limited to, policy-relevant briefs, academic articles, research reports, conference presentations, convenings, or new assessments that drive and inform pretrial justice. In particular, the Foundation would like to see some attention paid to academic journal publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dissemination plans should align with deliverables and support interactions across a broad audience in the field including researchers, practitioners, policymakers and advocates, and should reflect how the research teams thinks its findings would be best diffused to the field.

11. Page 15 of the RFP describes a forecast project timeline of two years, with an expectation to extend to five years with LJAF approval. Does this timeline apply to both Tier I and Tier II projects?

Yes. In the application materials, LJAF would like to see the research team's vision across five years.

12. Which LJAF staff will manage the RFP process and support the funded projects?

LJAF's Criminal Justice Initiative staff, the Pretrial Research Advisory Board for the Pretrial Research RFP, and the Foundation's Board will be involved in RFP decisions and project management.

13. Do you allow incentives to participants interviewed for research?

Yes. Incentives are allowed if they are appropriate given the study design and meet IRB requirements.

14. Is there funding for the ten research sites?

No. There is no direct funding to the research sites (e.g. to fund pretrial staff or services). High-touch sites will receive technical assistance from the national provider.

15. Is there an expectation to determine study sites and lock in consultants for the LOI or can that wait until the proposal?



LJAF would like to see some reference to study sites and jurisdiction criteria in the LOI as well as a brief biography for each project team member that specifies roles and responsibilities. LOIs should define project partners. Additional details should be included in the full proposal.

16. For Tier II research sites, can research teams work with sites outside the ten national provider sites?

Yes, and they make work with sites that have already implemented the PSA.

17. Is LJAF doing the match-making between research teams and research sites for Tier I and Tier II projects, or are research teams expected to make these connections prior to proposing?

For Tier I, research teams should specify the criteria that a jurisdiction must satisfy to accomplish to accomplish the research objectives within their study. LJAF is requesting this information in order to define these expectations within the RFP application process for sites interested in applying to be one of the 10 research sites.

For Tier II, research teams should also specify the criteria that a jurisdiction must satisfy to accomplish the research objectives within their study. In addition to this, research teams are encouraged to identify jurisdictions that will be strong partners to accomplish research objectives within Tier II. Research teams are not required to work with the 10 research sites for Tier II.

18. For Tier I proposals, are teams expected to respond to Objectives 1, 2 and 3?

Yes.

19. Could you clarify the difference between what LJAF is looking for in response to Objective 3 vs. Objective 4?

Research Objective 3 is exclusive to the PSA and improving its algorithm. One of the Research Objective 3 goals is to “[c]reate new pretrial risk assessment models and algorithmic procedures for jurisdictions to establish tools with local data.” This is intended to address the development of pretrial risk assessments using the jurisdiction’s data where the algorithm could also be applied and tested in new jurisdictions. These assessments would serve as general pretrial risk assessments intended to predict failure to appear and new criminal activity during the pretrial stage. Research Objective 4 focuses on pretrial risk assessments that specifically predict domestic violence, driving under the influence, and sex crimes. Further, Research Objective 4 seeks to understand the implementation and impact of using both a general pretrial risk assessment, meaning one that predicts failure to appear and new criminal activity during the pretrial period, in addition to a pretrial risk assessment that predicts a specific crime outcomes (e.g., domestic violence, driving under the influence, and sex crimes).



20. To what extent can you propose (potentially randomized) interventions or trials?

Research teams are encouraged to propose the strongest study designs in order to fully respond to the research objectives. This may include randomized controlled trials. Respondents are encouraged to consider a variety of rigorous methods and approaches to address the research questions of interest.

21. Do you have different expectations for deliverables from Tier I vs Tier II research?

LJAF does not have different expectations for deliverables for Tier One and Tier Two. For both Tiers, respondents should review the deliverables description found on pages 12 and 14 of the RFP.