



Reducing Violence Research RFP

Information Call Q&A Summary

June 23, 2022

On Thursday, June 16, 2022, Arnold Ventures held an optional informational call on our [Reducing Violence research request for proposals \(RFP\)](#). Slides from the call are available [here](#), and a summary of the Q&A is provided below for reference, organized by question topic.

Letters of interest are due on July 11, 2022. Please submit via email to reducingviolenceRFP@arnoldventures.org.

Note: When in doubt, please err on the side of submitting a letter of interest! While we are focused on the six violence reduction strategies outlined in the RFP, we know there is a wide range of promising programs that fall under these categories and will work with project teams to build on the LOI submission and guide the development of full proposals. Please contact us at reducingviolenceRFP@arnoldventures.org with any questions.

We look forward to reviewing your submissions!

Q&A Topics

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RFP Focus/Eligible Programs for Evaluation

- **The RFP specifies the applicants must designate which of the six work areas the letter of interest fits into. How would you address the scenario where your proposal cuts across several of these areas?**

Please note which intervention approaches will be evaluated in your submission. We know that it's likely a given jurisdiction is implementing multiple strategies, so the key question for us is going to be – what can we learn from this evaluation? Can we address how a given intervention or set of interventions fits into the broader violence reduction ecosystem? How does that ecosystem evolve, and can we design a rigorous evaluation to study that? We will work with prospective grantees to develop the full proposals, so we are open to the submission of projects that touch on multiple intervention approaches.

- **Are there any specific criminal justice topics or programs that you're seeking proposals for in particular?**

Nothing more specific than the six violent reduction strategies outlined in the RFP. We also encourage you to review our research agenda [here](#).

- **Does the program evaluated have to be new? Would Arnold Ventures still be interested in funding programs that already exist, as long as they abide by the preferred guidelines?**

The program does not have to be new.

- **If a program is not yet developed, would AV be willing to support model development, implementation, and evaluation? Or should this be solely focused on the research and evaluation portion?**

We would err on the side of encouraging you to submit a letter of interest, as additional context would be helpful in considering such a project, as well as in guiding its development into a full proposal.

- **For the priority area of youth cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and summer employment, are you looking specifically for proposals that include BOTH, or either, and would you be open to other youth-focused program evaluations and initiatives?**

Our review of the available literature suggests that the most promising programs incorporate both CBT and employment, so we will prioritize supporting research on those types of programs. That being said, the context and details of any program will be relevant for our review, so we would encourage submitting a letter of interest.

- **Do you have any preferred geographic scale for research proposals, such as local, statewide, or multi-site projects?**

We are interested in understanding what can be learned from any proposed project and to what extent the findings will be generalizable. This is not necessarily constrained by the size/scale of the proposed research, but it could be a relevant factor. We encourage

you to address this question in your submission, but there is no formal requirement for a particular study scale or site size.

For projects on focused deterrence or environmental strategies, we are especially interested in questions related to scalability, so we do encourage multi-site projects for these two violence reduction approaches. Again, however, there are no formal requirements, and we will work with project teams to address questions related to study scale/site selection as we move to the full proposal development stage.

Budget

- **Can the budget include programmatic as well as evaluation costs?**
Recognizing that there have been significant federal resources made available to states and cities to support programmatic implementation, we are viewing this RFP as a complement to those resources – we aim to be additive by supporting evaluations. To the extent that additional funds are necessary to provide some scaling up of a program in order to facilitate a more rigorous evaluation, that sort of programmatic support would more likely be within scope, whereas support for full programmatic implementation would fall outside of the scope of the RFP.
- **Are there any limits or ballparks in terms of budget – is Arnold Ventures open to a multimillion-dollar proposal?**
As noted in the RFP, we did not specify any budget ranges or limits as there are a variety of factors that will inform project budgets. We ask that you show your homework to justify the proposed budget, but we are open to big projects, including those in the multi-million-dollar range.
- **What is the percentage cap on indirect costs for universities and other organizations?**
Indirect costs are capped at 15% of the overall budget for universities and 20% for nonprofit organizations.

Eligible Applicants

- **Can there be multiple co-investigators?**
Yes.
- **Is there any preference for early career vs. senior PIs?**
No preference! We are mindful of this opportunity to develop the field and encourage early career researchers to apply.
- **If at the early investigator training stage, can we include mentorship/advisors as part of the research plan?**
Yes.

- **Can anyone submit a proposal? Do you need to be affiliated with a university or other organizations to submit?**

There is no formal requirement for a particular affiliation. We do expect that, given the nature of the programs we are focused on, researcher-practitioner partnerships would be beneficial to the success of these projects. To the extent that organizational infrastructure or resources are necessary to carry out a project, we will consider this in our review of the feasibility of the project, but there are no formal requirements.

- **Can you submit a proposal for a project that has also been (or will be) submitted for funding through another organization?**

Yes. Please indicate if this is the case on the cover page of the letter of interest. We will work with applicants to navigate multiple sources of funding if this happy problem arises.

Submission Materials

- **What materials would you like in the application bio section? Could this be a CV, a paragraph, or do you have something else in mind?**

We welcome CVs and NIH bio sketches (or similar formats). We also encourage applicants to highlight their experience/past projects relevant to this particular RFP and the proposed work in a brief narrative format. Please note that team bios do not count toward the total page length.

- **In submitting a proposal, do you understand key personnel as being the key investigators only, or is this a place to include mentors and advisors as well?**

Anyone with a significant role in the design/development of the project should be included, including principal investigators, key mentors/advisors, as well as any operational or study site partners that would be significantly engaged in the work (e.g., in the case of research-practitioner partnerships).

- **Do the formatting requirements for the full proposal also apply to LOI submissions (e.g., 12-pt standard font, 1" margins, single-spaced)?**

Yes.