

Responses to 2025 Research RFP Questions

Eligibility

Q1: Am I eligible to apply if I am an unpaid university professor or adjunct/voluntary faculty?

A1: Yes, unpaid university professors and adjunct/voluntary faculty are eligible to apply, provided that their affiliated university can officially accept funds on their behalf. However, any awarded funds must flow through a recognized academic or institutional entity or other eligible grant recipient like a non-profit or other charitable organization.

Q2: Our organization already holds a grant from the Fund in another portfolio (e.g., Firearm Suicide Prevention or Community Violence Intervention). Can we submit a research LOI?

A2: Existing grantees in other portfolios are welcome to apply to this RFP. The only restriction is that a current research PI may not apply as PI for a second, overlapping research grant.

Q3: Is research focusing on novel or less common aspects of gun violence prevention, such as ghost gun manufacturing, considered a good fit for this RFP?

A3: We encourage diverse and innovative research proposals. Projects exploring critical and emerging areas of gun violence prevention, such as the manufacturing stage of ghost guns, are considered relevant and a good fit for this call. Applicants should clearly articulate how their study advances evidence-informed policy or practice.

Q4: Our research center is housed within a university but none of our staff currently hold a terminal degree. Are we still eligible to apply, or should we include a faculty member with a terminal degree?

A4: The PI must have a terminal degree, but co-PIs do not.

Q5: May a non-academic entity (e.g., public-health department, for-profit research institute, community-based organization) apply?

A5: Yes, the eligibility list includes non-profit organizations and other charitable entities that can demonstrate the capacity to conduct rigorous research and manage compliance for the grant award. For profit entities are also eligible to apply but are required to attest that any funds granted to them for this project will be used for charitable purposes only.

Q6: If a PI currently has an active research grant from the Fund that extends through the end of the calendar year, are they eligible to apply as (co-)PI for this new opportunity?

A6: FSF values diversifying, broadening, and strengthening the pool of GVP researchers. As such, unfortunately, a current lead PI is not eligible to apply until their current grant closes.

Q7: Can multiple applications come from the same institution?

A7: Yes, institutions may submit multiple LOIs. But it is unlikely that more than one application per institution will be selected for funding.

Q8: Can someone be PI on one proposal and co-I (or co-PI) on another, and still have both proposals considered?

A8: Yes, both proposals can be considered. However, it is unlikely that both proposals from the same institution would be funded, though it does not preclude multiple applications from being submitted and reviewed.

Q9: Are postdoctoral researchers eligible to apply for ECR funding if they are within the 10-year post-terminal-degree window?

A9: Yes, postdoctoral researchers qualify for ECR funding provided they meet the NIH definition (i.e., they earned their terminal degree within the past 10 years).

Q10: If our project is larger than the ECR reserved fund of \$100K, can we apply for a higher amount (up to the full \$250K) while also requesting consideration for the ECR pool if our initial application is not successful?

A10: Yes, ECRs wishing to apply for the non-capped ECR budget will be considered along with the full pool of applicants. If you are an ECR, we recommend submitting the LOI for the desired funding amount, specifying your ECR status, and checking the relevant boxes in the application portal.

Application Requirements

Q1: Regarding references, should they be included as additional pages that do not count against the page limit, or should they only be embedded as hyperlinks within the proposal?

A1: References do not count towards the overall page limit of your LOI. While embedding hyperlinks is acceptable for highlighting organizational websites or similar resources, traditionally formatted references (e.g., academic citations) for scholarly sources are appropriate and expected.

Q2: What does “capacity-building — diversifying the pool of researchers” mean in the LOI guidelines?

A2: This refers to how the project will diversify and strengthen the pool of researchers working in the field of gun violence prevention based on a broad spectrum of diversification. This includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, field of study, geographic location, and lived experience, especially from communities with high burdens of firearm violence. The aim is to foster a more inclusive and representative research community.

Q3: At the LOI stage, is it permissible to include letters of support from community partners and data providers?

A3: Letters of support from community partners fall outside the scope of allowable materials for the LOI stage. Sharing these is more appropriate if selected for a full proposal.

Q4: Our proposed project includes both programmatic funds for program expansion and research support for evaluation. Can we apply for only the research component from the Fund and have our community partner apply for programmatic support separately?

A4: Yes, you can specify that you are applying for a portion of the funding for the research component of your joint project. While the overall project budget can be made known, you should clearly state that you are seeking funding for the research aspect from the Fund. Please note the Fund supports projects that will result in peer-reviewed articles published by grant recipients within three years. Also note: aside from the research grants it provides, other proposals to the Fund are by invitation only.

Budget & Project Period

Q1: What is the duration of the grant funding? Is it a two- or three-year project?

A1: Applicants can propose a timeline that is suitable for their project needs. The Fund expects that research findings will be disseminated at a maximum of three years from project start date.

Q2: Is the \$250K grant award ceiling a per-year figure or a total budget for the entire project duration?

A2: Total. The entire amount you may request, including indirect costs (max 10%), may not exceed \$250K.

Q3: If our proposed project's overall budget significantly exceeds the \$250K maximum, should we indicate that we are applying for a portion of the funding from the Fund and seeking alternate sources for additional funding?

A3: Yes, you should specify that you are applying for a portion of the funding from the Fund and be specific about which portion. It is beneficial to make known the overall project budget, as this can be a factor in our consideration regarding the likelihood of the project securing full funding through other sources, as well as understanding how you might scale back the proposed project should additional funding not become available. Please note that a requirement of this RFP is that the findings be disseminated within three years.

Q4: How will award funds be disbursed—as a grant, contribution, contract, or sponsored-research agreement—and which entity will issue the payment?

A4: Funds will be issued as a charitable grant agreement from Global Impact (the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor for the Fund).

Q5: Is coverage of salary permitted in the budget?

A5: Yes, salaries of research team members should be included in the budget. This includes fair wages for graduate students who may be contributing to your project, as capacity building for researchers in the gun-violence prevention field is a core principle of this RFP.

Q6: How should we classify costs in the budget, and does the Fund's 10% indirect-cost limit apply even if our institution has a higher federally negotiated rate?

A6: Direct costs are project-specific expenses that can be traced wholly to the research activities (e.g., investigator salaries and fringe, participant stipends, travel for data collection, specialized software, open-access publication fees, or lab supplies). Indirect costs (overhead) support broader organizational infrastructure from which multiple projects benefit (e.g., office rent, utilities, general administration, IT, or institutional compliance). Day-to-day management and administrative charges for the grant fall under indirect costs. Regardless of your institution's federally negotiated indirect-cost rate agreement, the Fund reimburses no more than 10% of the total project budget for indirect costs. This policy is firm and non-negotiable to ensure the largest possible share of limited resources flows directly to research activities.

Q7: Is there a specific format that the budget should be in?

A7: No, there is no specific format for the budget, so long as it lists the major budget categories, dollar amounts for those categories, and a total. In the full proposal stage, a template will be provided that applicants have the option of using for their full budget.

Q8: Should project milestones be included in the timeline, or is the project start and end date sufficient at this stage?

A8: At this stage, the project start and end dates are sufficient for the Fund to understand the scope and timing of your project. For the proposal stage, applicants will be expected to provide a project timeline that details activities and milestones over the course of the project. If invited to the proposal stage, you may change your project start and end dates, so long as they meet the requirements of the Fund.