



Institute for African Development

CALL FOR PROPOSALS for IAD Africa Development Initiative Projects

Executive Summary

The Institute of African Development (IAD) at Cornell University is soliciting proposals for original and innovative scholarly research in Africa. IAD is committed to mobilizing support from a broad constituency to promote collaborative engagement in Africa by fostering interdisciplinary and professional linkages with institutions both within and beyond Cornell. The Institute's ultimate goal is to foster an enabling environment where research, outreach and teaching facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue to impact programs and policies for African development.

Scope of Research Proposals

IAD invites research proposals that effectively bridge both theory and practice from current tenured and non-tenured Cornell faculty. Non tenured track faculty will require a written endorsement from the departmental chair(s). For each research grant, there is a \$75,000 ceiling for a 2-year project and \$50,000 for a one year project. Applicants are encouraged to submit research proposals that cover diverse and interdisciplinary topics, which lend themselves to practical impact, policy engagement and relevant learning forums both in the field and within academic arenas. Thus, the purpose of IAD supported research is to primarily tap into and direct funding to research projects that

- Advance the understanding and design of reliable and adaptable methodological approaches to tackling development issues;
- Produce *new* knowledge in various field(s) of study;
- Integrate and build capacity in the research process;
- Link theory, practice and policy; and
- Create or foster emerging innovations within Africa.

Application Guidelines

Proposals are due by - and completed applications, with supporting documents, should be submitted electronically to IAD at (ciad@cornell.edu / jsb25@cornell.edu) in Microsoft word document format. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals in advance of the deadline as late applications and supporting materials will not be accepted. All applicants will be notified regarding application status by the end of March, 2016. The content and format of proposals required for submission are as follows:

1. **Research Proposal** (single spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman)
 - i. Title Page with Abstract (250 words maximum)
 - ii. Applicant Information (Principal and co-principal investigator(s) names, contact information, including department and college affiliations.

- iii. Proposal Narrative (7 pages maximum): At least three to four pages should be used to define the *problem statement*, *literature review*, *research objectives*. The remaining pages should be used to outline and explain the *methodology* (e.g. proposed dataset, framework of design, criteria and rationale for selecting model, and data); *expected outputs/outcomes* (e.g. potential policy and programmatic implications and *dissemination plan* (e.g. communication approaches and formats for sharing research findings to intended audience)
 - iv. References
2. **Project Time Frame and Outputs** (key timeline and milestones of the project and a clear description of how the study will meet milestones/outputs and reporting requirements)
 3. **Budget with a Narrative:** Explain and justify the research budget. The proposed budget must give a complete and accurate assessment of all item costs and amounts that are deemed necessary and reasonable. Costs should include items such as: personnel, supplies, and activities only required for the completion of the project. Budget will only be approved based on feasibility and within the defined limit or ceiling)
 4. **Supporting Documents**
 - i. Curriculum vitae (CV) of all the principal and co-principal investigators
 - ii. Letter of Intent from African partner(s) expressing interest, commitment and role in the proposed research project (if applicable)
 - iii. Endorsement from departmental chair for non-tenured Faculty (signature and brief statement from chair supporting the proposed project within the guidelines and timeframe indicated above)

Assessment Criteria

The research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance, Significance and Sustainability:** Does the proposed research support the five research priorities of IAD? Will the proposed policies/innovation/recommendations have relevant large-scale implications and also improve the well-being of people under study?
2. **Strength and Feasibility of Methodology:** Is the research design clear? Is the methodology rigorous? Can it demonstrate reliability for future evidence to be presented
3. **Clarity of Work Plan and Outputs:** Does the proposal clearly state the output/outcomes and deliverables? Does it provide guidelines on how to meet milestones
4. **Feasibility of proposed budget**

Funding Disbursements and Restrictions

Grant funding is linked to approval of the research proposal, the effective implementation of project, the timely receipt of reports and the dissemination of findings. The funds will be administered by IAD through a grant account. These disbursements will happen as follows:

- Grantee(s) receive one-third of the total approved project budget at the beginning of grant period;
- Two-thirds of the total approved budget will be paid in two disbursements based on IAD evaluations and receipt of quarterly reports. During the grant period, grantees are requested to report any additional grant awards from other institutions or foundations to IAD to access duplication or conflict of interest.

Conditions and Requirements for Award Acceptance

There are several conditions for accepting the award. First, grantees are required to submit quarterly reports (3-6 pages) and a comprehensive final report (15-20 pages). Detailed reporting guidelines and evaluation expectations will be provided to grantees prior to the first grant transfer. Second, grantees must actively seek to present the research in at least two forums and publish the work in peer-reviewed journals.

Other Terms and Conditions

IAD reserves the right to negotiate with project/research investigators. Any presentations and/or publications produced as a result of the grant must recognize IAD as a funder and partner. Each format used to share any parts of the research must include the language “Funding for this research was provided by the Institute of African Development at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.” We would request that IAD website be added if feasible or relevant.