



International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

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## **3ie REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE FOURTH OPEN WINDOW (OW4)**

3ie is pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) for impact evaluations of social and economic development interventions in low and middle-income countries.

This call is made under 3ie's fourth Open Window (OW4), which accepts proposals in any sector. Preference will be given to proposed studies that:

- Are impact evaluations of large-scale development interventions and/or have a high probability of influencing policy;
- Clearly elaborate the theory of change for the intervention and the assumptions underlying the theory of change;
- Use mixed methods to explore the causal mechanisms behind interventions and measured outcomes;
- Have a clearly demonstrated and close partnership with the implementing agency; and
- Are produced by developing country researchers/evaluators or through a partnership between developed and developing country researchers/evaluators.

3ie hopes to make 6-10 awards of up to a total value of US\$4 million under this RFP. There is no maximum size for individual grants.

### **SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE**

All submissions must be made using 3ie's online Grant Management System:

<http://praxispts.com/3ieImpact/>

There is a two stage submission process:

1. Submission of an expression of interest (EOI). The window for the EOI opens on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. These one-page documents will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Notification of selection for the next phase will be given within 1-2 weeks of submission. If selected, applicants can begin drafting the full proposal at the time of notification. The final deadline for submitting EOIs is 11.59 pm, GMT on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

2. If the EOI is selected for the next phase, the full proposal must be submitted by 11.59 pm, GMT on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

All EOIs go through an internal review by 3ie's Evaluation Office. EOIs selected by 3ie's Evaluation Office for the next phase will be eligible for submitting the full proposal. EOIs that are rejected by the Evaluation Office are sent to an external reviewer for an independent decision. If the EOI is selected for the next phase by the external reviewer, the applicant is then eligible for submitting the full proposal. If the EOI is rejected by the external reviewer, the applicant is not eligible to submit the full proposal.

All full proposals are reviewed by one internal 3ie reviewer and three independent external reviewers. The average scores from these reviews will be used to prepare a shortlist of proposals. Subsequently, a panel of policy makers reviews and ranks the shortlisted proposals for policy relevance and potential policy impact.

Final approval of awards is made by the 3ie Board of Commissioners.

### **3ie REVIEW CRITERIA FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

EOIs are screened for completeness, as well as for fulfilling the following criteria:

- Utilizing a rigorous methodology;
- Proposing an evaluation of a social and/or economic development intervention; and
- Proposing an evaluation of an intervention taking place in eligible country(ies); i.e., low and middle-income according to World Bank definition.

### **3ie REVIEW CRITERIA FOR FULL PROPOSALS**

3ie supports impact evaluations that adhere to agreed-upon methodological standards for addressing the attribution challenge; i.e., establishing cause and effect between programmatic activities and specified outcomes. For further details refer to [3ie's Principles of Impact Evaluation](#).

All proposals will be scored from 0 to 10 on the following criteria:

- Qualifications of proposed staff;
- Involvement of developing country researchers/evaluators and developing country organisations;
- Quality of technical proposal: internal validity;
- Quality of technical proposal: external validity;
- Policy Relevance;
- Potential Policy Impact;

- Cost of the Evaluation; and
- Membership Allowance<sup>1</sup>.

These scores are combined according to predetermined weights. Full descriptions of these criteria will be provided at the time the full proposal is made available.

## **PROCESS FOR ACCEPTED FULL PROPOSALS**

If the proposal is successful, the awardees will be required to submit the documents listed below, which are part of the scope of work for grants made under OW4. 3ie must approve these documents before the grant agreement can be finalized.

1. Responses to a c4r: 3ie prepares a consolidated comments for response (c4r) document for all successful proposals based on comments from an internal reviewer from 3ie's Evaluation Office and an independent external project advisor.
2. Responses to a b-c4r: 3ie prepares a separate budget comments for response (b-c4r) document for all successful proposals. This document consists of comments from 3ie's Evaluation Office and the Finance Offices of 3ie and the Global Development Network. Additionally, comments raised during the panel meeting regarding price reasonableness and best value of proposals are included in the b-c4r.
3. Submission of a PIP: Awardees are required to write and submit a Policy Influence Plan (PIP) that identifies policy influence and communication strategies for the findings of the evaluation. PIPs are reviewed by members of 3ie's Policy, Advocacy, & Communication Office.

More information about these documents can be found on the 3ie Open Window webpage: <http://www.3ieimpact.org/openwindow/>

**Any questions should be sent to Ms. Anita Sircar, Program Officer,  
[OW4@3ieimpact.org](mailto:OW4@3ieimpact.org).**

**ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED USING 3ie's ONLINE GRANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER WAY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

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<sup>1</sup> A membership allowance is granted for 3ie membership or associate membership of the grant-holding organisation, the implementing agency or a major funder of the programme to be evaluated