



Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Evidence-to-Action Supplements for 2018

1. Background

The objective of PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplement funding is to allow PEER-supported researchers to apply the data, evidence, and results generated under their PEER awards towards facilitating program changes, policy recommendations, or sustainable technological products. These funds are intended neither to support additional research activities, nor to achieve project goals described in the original PEER award proposal. Evidence-to-Action Supplements are intended to support new activities that will help achieve the development impact of the original PEER award by strengthening engagement with one or more key actors such as the local community and local organizations, policymakers, and/or the USAID Mission in the country or region where the project is based. The potential development impact must be clear, measurable, and relevant to specific programs or policies in the country or region where the project is based.

If the original PEER project has already been completed, proposed activities must be completed within one year of receipt of funds. For currently active projects, the funds will be added to the PEER award according to the existing project dates. If the existing project ends in less than one year, the award will be extended to provide at least one year from the time the supplement is made.

2. Timeline

October 9, 2017	PEER Evidence-to-Action supplement funding announced
November 17, 2017	Supplement proposals due
January 2018	Evidence-to-Action Supplement awardees notified

3. Budget

Total budget requests for PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplements cannot exceed U.S. \$25,000 per supplement.

A detailed budget is required at the time of submission. It should identify all costs associated with the proposed activities, including equipment, supplies, technical services, facilities fees, travel, living expenses, other direct costs, and applicable institutional indirect costs. Projects are to be completed within one year of the receipt of funds. Requested funds can only be used to support costs for researchers and institutions in developing countries.

4. Eligibility

Former PEER awardees, as well as current awardees **whose PEER awards began before January 1, 2017**, are eligible for PEER supplements. Former PEER awardees must have completed their original PEER award in good standing, with all required quarterly and yearly reports having been submitted, and must continue to meet the original PEER eligibility requirements. U.S. Government (USG)-supported partners are not eligible for PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplements. PEER awards that have been terminated early are not eligible. In order to be eligible for PEER supplements, applicants must still be employed and residing in the eligible PEER country in which their original PEER award was based, and that country must still be eligible for PEER (please see http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/PEER/PGA_174593 for a list of currently eligible countries).

Submissions will be limited to one proposal per original PEER award. PEER projects involving awards with multiple PIs/co-PIs are encouraged to submit proposals, but they should be developed into a single proposal with one designated lead PI. Individuals who have been designated as co-PIs on an original PEER award may serve as the lead PI on a PEER supplement funding application.

5. Types of Activities Supported by PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplements

Proposals for PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplements are being accepted in the following focus areas:

- **Policy Impact**
- **Program Impact**
- **Technology Acceleration**

Policy Impact: Policy Impact supplements will support activities that aim to impact relevant policies in the applicant's home country at the local, regional, and/or country level. The policy impact can be in any topic area that is related to the original PEER award. Education and the use of a new methodology or practice are also acceptable topics. Applicants should use the results, data, and evidence generated by the activities in the originally funded PEER award as the basis for informing and impacting policy decisions. The impact should be achieved by engaging relevant stakeholders, such as national and local policy makers, government-appointed officials and regional managers, civil society groups, and/or the general public.

Examples of supported **Policy Impact** activities include, but are not limited to:

- Convening a workshop or scientific meeting to draft policy recommendations based on evidence acquired through PEER-supported work
- Creating multimedia materials to disseminate research findings to the community and policymakers
- Convening a workshop to disseminate information to policymakers
- Coordinating with civil society and advocacy groups to achieve a policy impact

Program Impact: Program Impact supplements will support activities that aim to impact relevant programs in the applicant's home country, including programs developed by the country's government, USAID, or other donors. The program impact can be in any topic area that is related to the originally funded PEER award. Program areas such as education, health, environment, or the implementation of a new methodology or practice are encouraged. Applicants should use the results, data, and evidence generated by the activities in the originally funded PEER award as the basis for program impact. The

impact should be achieved by engaging relevant in-country stakeholders, including USAID or other donor organizations, national and local policymakers, government-appointed officials and regional managers, civil society groups, or the general public.

Examples of supported **Program Impact** activities include, but are not limited to:

- Holding a conference or workshop that facilitates the integration of PEER-supported evidence, data, or technology into USAID or country programs
- Scaling up a PEER-supported technology or approach, such as a new educational tool or health intervention, into USAID or other development sector programming
- Working with USAID, country, or other donors to adopt a PEER-supported technology or approach for use in development programming

Technology Acceleration: Technology Acceleration activities are those that aim to advance technologies toward market commercialization or sustainable production and distribution. Applicants should seek to advance a technology developed under an originally funded PEER award and should engage in activities that will accelerate the technology towards achieving sustainable use through either a commercialization or not-for-profit model. The proposed activities should aim to demonstrate the technology and support its development with the purpose of achieving sustainability. The aim of a Technology Acceleration supplement is to provide initial funding for activities that will enable the applicant to leverage additional investments from private sector or other donor organizations, USAID-sponsored innovation accelerator programs, or any other sources that can help advance and support the technology. In addition to the proposed activities, applicants must develop a plan for sustainability that can be achieved within a reasonable amount of time and demonstrates a high likelihood for impact.

Examples of activities supported under the **Technology Acceleration** topic area include, but are not limited to:

- Developing a prototype of your technology
- Developing a business plan around your technology
- Launching small-scale production for limited distribution
- Conducting a pilot study of your technology
- Purchasing services from a business development program to help advance your technology

6. Types of Activities Not Supported by PEER Evidence-to-Action Supplements

Supported activities will enhance the impact of and help achieve the broader development objectives of your originally funded PEER award will be supported. PEER supplements can **NOT** be used to support the following activities:

- New **research activities** related to the original PEER award
- The continuation of research activities associated with the original PEER award
- Dissertation or master's work of the PEER principal investigator or students
- Training programs, workshops, or conferences that do not enhance the impact of the originally funded PEER research

- Activities conducted principally in the United States
- Activities led by the USG-supported partner
- Activities that are not likely to yield any impact in low and middle income countries.

7. Application Sections

Each PEER Supplement application must contain the following sections:

- **Supplement background:** Please describe the accomplishments made under the PEER award to date and the specific aspects of the research results that would be highlighted as part of the proposed activity. (2000 characters)
- **Objectives of the proposed supplemental activity:** Please describe how the proposed supplemental activity will enhance the development impact of the originally funded PEER award, through activities such as reaching out to policymakers; raising public awareness; advancing a new technology, methodology, or practice; or introducing technology to new populations or markets; etc. (2000 characters)
- **Details of the proposed supplemental activity:** Please describe in detail (i) the type of activity (e.g., workshop, meeting, multimedia, policy document, technology use pilot study, prototype development, etc.); (ii) the format, content, and language(s) of the activity (if the language used is other than English, English translation will be required); and (iii) the participants involved (students, community members, subject matter experts, etc.). (3500 characters)
- **Impact sustainability:** Describe how the proposed activities will lead to a long-lasting policy or program impact or sustainable technology production and distribution. Identify specific policies and programs that will be impacted and how the proposed activities will engage the necessary country and USAID stakeholders long-term. Explain how this engagement will have a lasting impact. For *Technology Acceleration* proposals please describe any services that will be needed (e.g., technical assistance, business development services, market advisor, etc.) and how these services will help to achieve sustainability. (2000 characters)
- **Measuring results of the evidence to action activity:** Explain how you will know your evidence to action activity was successful. Describe specific steps you will take to measure or assess whether your evidence to action activity met its objectives. Describe any data you will collect and explain how that data will help you understand the results of the activity. (2000 characters)
- **Timeline** of the proposed supplemental activity, specifying milestones and a completion date.
- **Detailed budget**, broken down by expense categories (salary, equipment and supplies, travel, other direct costs, and institutional indirect costs, if any) with relevant justifications.
- **Letter of support (optional):** The most competitive applications will provide a letter from a relevant stakeholder that expresses interest in the PI's research and its potential to be utilized by that stakeholder. Letters may be written by any relevant stakeholder, such as a local or national government official, a private-sector firm, an operating unit of USAID, a non-governmental organization (NGO), etc. The letter should address the potential for policy change, program change, or technology acceleration.

8. Submission

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to peer@nas.edu by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on **Friday, November 17, 2017**. Include the words “PEER EVIDENCE-TO-ACTION SUPPLEMENTS” in the e-mail subject line. **Proposals must be submitted in English using the forms provided.** Supplement proposals will be evaluated by NAS and USAID program staff and awarded competitively. The total amount of funding available to support these supplemental grants is limited, and **PEER anticipates awarding no more than ten Evidence-to-Action supplements** for 2018.

In addition, please note that supplemental funding will be awarded only to applicants who have either successfully completed their PEER projects or who are making steady progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of their active PEER projects. Applicants with questions are invited to contact peer@nas.edu.

9. Review Criteria

All applications will be competitively reviewed based upon the following criteria:

- **Supplement background:** Has there been enough progress on the original PEER award to provide data, evidence, or results of sufficient quality to make a societal impact and justify a supplemental award?
- **Objectives of the proposed supplemental activity:** Is the desired impact adequately described and relevant to the original PEER award? Do the objectives and goals of the proposed activity help achieve the desired societal impact? Are the objectives reasonable given the proposed timeline and budget?
- **Details of the proposed supplemental activity:** Do the details adequately describe the proposed activity? Will the described activities help meet the objectives and have the desired societal impact?
- **Impact sustainability:** Is the plan for achieving impact or technology sustainability reasonable, likely to be long lasting, and appropriate for the proposed topic area or technology? Are the proposed policies or programs relevant to the work? Are the engaged stakeholder groups appropriate for achieving the project goals? Have all required services needed for success been considered and justified?
- **Measurable results:** Is there an explanation of how the PI and program sponsors will know that the evidence to action activity was successful? Did the PI describe any data that will be collected and explain how that data will help in understanding the results of the activity?
- **Timeline:** Is the project timeline reasonable? Can the proposed activity be accomplished in the expected 12-month period?
- **Budget breakdown:** Is the project budget detailed and the requested amount reasonable? If funds are requested for other institutions besides the PI’s institution, are they consistent with the goals of the supplemental activity? Are all budget justifications appropriate?
- **Letter of support (optional):** Does the letter demonstrate that the PI has already generated interest in their results with policy-makers or influential organizations or community members? Does the author believe that there is potential for policy change, program change, or technology acceleration?

10. Reporting

Awarded applicants complete the standard quarterly, annual, and final reports required of all PEER awardees. A template for these reports will be provided. In the quarterly and annual report, under the section *Supplemental Grant Summary*, awardees must describe the status of the Evidence-to-Action Supplement activities and attach any products or results that were supported by the supplement. For supplements in the Policy Impact and Program Impact categories, a typical product would be an agenda and participant list for a stakeholder workshop or a policy recommendation document. For supplements in the Technology Acceleration category, the product of your activity would be a business plan, a set of technical and managerial guidelines, a market analysis document, etc.