

SOCIAL PROTECTION THEMATIC WINDOW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



General Questions

What organizations /institutions are eligible to submit proposals in response to this Request for Proposals?

Organizations /institutions with relevant evaluation expertise are eligible to submit applications, as long as they have established and can prove demand for the evaluation from the implementing agency. The typical applicant is a research institute, think tank, university or consultancy firm. Both non-profit as well as for-profit organizations can apply. Governmental agencies can also apply, as long as they are not the agency responsible for implementing the programme or policy being evaluated.

Can an institution submit more than one application?

Yes.

Can an organization/institution be awarded more than one grant?

Yes.

Can a researcher be involved in more than one application?

Yes, as long as she/he has the time available to participate in all submitted studies, should they all be awarded with grants.

Can more than one affiliate of an applicant organization/institution submit applications?

Yes.

Is there a maximum or minimum limit to a single grant awarded?

There are no pre-established funding limits, however, applications are scored on cost criteria.

What is the average grant size awarded by 3ie?

An average 3ie grant is just under US\$ 350,000.

Does 3ie pay for the cost of the intervention being evaluated?

No. 3ie funds can only be used for the costs of the evaluation. The costs of the intervention are expected to be borne by the implementing agency, or potential implementing agency in the case of a pilot program.

Does 3ie prefer evaluation of large scale interventions?

Applications are scored on policy relevance and policy impact, where the scale of the intervention could increase policy impact. There are other factors behind policy impact as well, however. Please see the review sheet for the full explanation of the scoring criteria.

Questions on Social Protection Thematic Window

Can an organization/institution that currently has a grant with 3ie submit an application for Social Protection Thematic Window?

Yes. Mention is to be made of the current grant in the application form.

What is the total value of the award under 3ie's Thematic Window for Social Protection?

3ie will make 7 – 12 awards of up to a total value of US\$ 5 million under this Request for Proposals.

What are the target/focus countries under this call for proposals?

The focus of the Social Protection Thematic Window is on generating lessons and evidence relevant to low income countries. Proposals for studies of social protection interventions that include work in a middle-income country will also be accepted, as long as the study clearly demonstrates that the lessons from this work are of relevance to low-income countries. Cross-country and cross-regional studies are also of interest, as they can bring relevant comparisons of experiences.

What would be the duration for the study?

The duration of funded studies is not expected to exceed 3 years.

What is the review process?

The review process is laid out in detail in the RFP document, pages 4 through 7.

Where can more information be found regarding this request for proposals?

All information regarding the details of this call is available from the [Request for Proposals](#) document. In addition, applicants can read the scoping report that formed the basis for the call design, as well as 3ie's strategy: [Improving Lives through Impact Evaluation: a strategy for 3ie](#).

How to apply?

All applications are to be submitted using 3ie's online Grant Management System at: <http://praxispts.com/3ieimpact/>. The person in charge of submitting the application must register on the site and will be given login details. The system will not be open until the 10th of October, when the window is launched.

Application – Expression of Interest

Where can the Expression of Interest form be downloaded?

The Expression of Interest form should be completed on 3ie's Grant Management system. Applicants have to first register online to access this form.

Can the form for the Full Proposal be accessed during the Expression of Interest period?

No. The Application form will be accessible to only those applicants that are successful at the Expression of Interest stage after that stage has been completed. Shortlisted applicants will receive a notification with a link to the online Full Proposal form. Applicants will not have to register again.

If an Expression of Interest is rejected, can it be revised and submitted again for consideration before the deadline for submission of the Full Proposal?

No.

When will the results for the Expression of Interest be announced?

3ie expects to notify the shortlisted teams by 18 November 2011. Applicants who are not shortlisted will not receive any further information or invitation.

Full Application

Can the Full Proposal be submitted at the first stage?

This is a two stage application process. Only applicants that are successful in the Expression of Interest stage are invited to submit a Full Proposal.

How would the Full Proposal be scored? – What is the criteria for scoring the Full Proposal?

Proposals are scored against two sets of pre-determined criteria. The criteria and their weights have been listed in the RFP, and further details of these criteria will be available by the time the online application stage for the full proposal is open.

Does 3ie promote or prefer some specific evaluation methods and approaches?

3ie promotes the use of the best available method to address the evaluation question at hand. Please consult [3ie Principles of Impact Evaluation](#) and [3ie Impact Evaluation Practice](#) for further information.

3ie supports impact evaluations that adhere to agreed-upon methodological standards for addressing the “attribution challenge” – e.g. establishing cause and effect between programmatic activities and specified outcomes. This specific call will place additional emphasis on the importance of integrating cost benefit or cost effectiveness analysis into the financed studies. Researchers are also strongly encouraged to lay out the theory of change and use mixed methods to explore the causal mechanisms between interventions and measured outcomes. For select priority areas in this call, CGE modelling approaches and systematic context analyses are also sought.

What kind of methodological standards are expected from the evaluation design?

3ie supports impact evaluations that adhere to agreed upon methodological standards for addressing the ‘attribution challenge’ e.g. establishing cause and effect between programmatic activities and specified outcomes, in particular, evaluation designs must be capable of addressing : (a) confounding factors (b) selection bias (c) spillover effects (d) contamination of control groups and (e) impact heterogeneity by intervention, beneficiary type and context.