



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Arnold Ventures Evidence and Evaluation: Sports Betting RFP

- **What specific study designs are eligible for funding under the Sports Betting RFP?**
  - The RFP will provide funding to conduct randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental studies that generate causal evidence. Eligible designs may include: randomized controlled trials, natural experiments, regression discontinuity, difference-in-difference, continuous interrupted time series, and instrumental variable approaches. In general, we do not fund studies that rely solely on matching or selection on observables unless used in conjunction with other identification strategies.
- **How are applications evaluated?**
  - Applications are reviewed by the Arnold Ventures team and external expert reviewers with research expertise in our policy areas of interest. Reviewers will follow the criteria outlined with the RFP, with a focus on policy relevance, rigor of proposed empirical strategy, implementation feasibility and the proposed budget.
- **Will questions beyond those listed in the RFP be considered?**
  - Yes. While we will prioritize the questions explicitly outlined in the RFP, we welcome the submission of additional causal questions. All proposed questions will be evaluated for relevance, feasibility, and alignment with the objectives of the RFP.
- **Can we submit multiple letters of interest?**
  - Yes, we welcome multiple research ideas. Please submit a separate letter of interest for each distinct project.
- **How long does your application process take from start to finish?**
  - This varies from project to project. From receipt of letter of interest to the execution of a grant agreement, our process typically takes around 6 months.
- **Do I have to pre-register my study on the Open Science Framework? Can I use another platform, such as the American Economic Association or ICPSR pre-registry?**
  - We are committed to prioritizing principles of open science to encourage research transparency and accessibility. Our team requires all grantees to pre-register studies on the Open Science Framework, but if you feel there is a compelling reason to use a different pre-registry, we'd be happy to discuss.
- **Can I meet with your team to discuss a potential research idea?**
  - Unfortunately, due to the number of inquiries we receive, our team is unable to schedule a call or provide individual feedback at the letter of interest stage.
- **Do you fund studies outside the United States?**
  - We only fund studies that focus on U.S. programs, policies and regulations. However, we can fund international researchers if the topic of their study focuses on a U.S. program, policy, or regulations.
- **Do my references/citations count as part of the three-page limit?**
  - No, references/citations do not count as part of the three-page limit.

- **Is there a maximum budget?**
  - There is no set maximum budget. We expect project costs to vary based on the complexity of the study, data collection methods, and overall scope of work. Budgets should be well-justified and aligned with the project's goals and design. Reviewers will assess the proposed budget closely as part of the evaluation process. As a general reference, studies previously funded by AV have typically ranged from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- **Is there a maximum period of performance?**
  - There are no limits on period of performance, and we expect study duration to vary from project to project. The average period of performance for studies funded by AV is about 2-4 years.
- **What should be included in the budget?**
  - You should specify the amount of funding requested from AV, reflecting the project timeline and the study scope, along with a brief budget narrative. The budget should include the anticipated drivers of project costs (e.g., personnel time, data acquisition, travel, and administrative costs), and indirect costs that are consistent with AV's cost policy (linked in the RFP). If we invite a full proposal, we will share a detailed budget template.
- **Are for-profit institutions eligible to apply?**
  - Yes, for-profit institutions are eligible for funding, though reporting requirements may differ if a grant is awarded.
- **Do PIs need to have conducted an RCT before to apply?**
  - No! Our team hopes to encourage all researchers who may be interested to apply. We do encourage applicants to consider the inclusion of at least one project team member with prior experience conducting RCTs, who might provide advice in designing the study to avoid common challenges and pitfalls, or partnering with more experienced research teams.

