



## REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation's (LJAF) core objective is to address our nation's most pressing and persistent challenges using evidence-based, multi-disciplinary approaches. LJAF is seeking Letters of Interest from organizations and scholars with innovative ideas for how to evaluate interventions that aim to improve research quality and transparency—including tools and programs that are intended to encourage researchers to share data, methods, and code—and policies that are designed to address the “publish or perish” culture perpetuated by journals and universities.

### Background information

LJAF's Research Integrity initiative has funded a number of efforts that are intended to improve reproducibility and transparency in science, including the Transparency and Openness Promotion Guidelines, the Reproducibility Project in Psychology, the Reproducibility Project in Cancer Biology, the Good Pharma Scorecard, and others. The team believes that several strategies, such as incentivizing pre-registration, encouraging journals to publish null and negative results, and enhancing transparency requirements for data, methods, and code, could help to improve the quality and validity of science. In an effort to determine whether these strategies are effective, LJAF is requesting Letters of Interest that propose research projects testing the effectiveness of interventions intended to improve reliability through the use of randomized controlled trials or rigorous quasi-experimental designs, such as controlled interrupted time series or difference-in-differences.

### Selection criteria

- Letters of Interest should succinctly identify a specific problem, such as inadequate sharing of metadata; a specific solution; and a method of rigorously testing that solution.
- Proposed solutions should be scalable and efficient, and should not require an unrealistic commitment of time and resources.
- Solutions may include anything from specific behavioral interventions to reorienting journal policies to addressing funding mechanisms.
- Letters of Interest should briefly review previous efforts (if any) to address the problem and how the new proposal will add to existing knowledge.
- Letters of Interest should explain potential risks and how they will be mitigated.

### Submission guidelines

Letters of Interest should meet the following guidelines:

- Address each of the selection criteria in no more than **three** single-spaced pages of narrative, not including a C.V. (if desired)
- Specify the proposed recipient of the grant award, which LJAF generally expects to be a tax-exempt organization (*e.g.*, public charity or governmental unit)

- Specify the amount of funding required to conduct the proposed initiative (budget may be included in spreadsheet format).

Letters should be submitted by Dec. 15, 2016, to [ResearchIntegrityLOI@arnoldfoundation.org](mailto:ResearchIntegrityLOI@arnoldfoundation.org). Please include the subject of the Letter of Interest within the subject line of the email. If LJAF determines that your Letter of Interest meets the criteria outlined above, you will be asked to submit a full proposal.

### **Additional information**

LJAF grant funds may only be used for charitable, educational, and/or scientific purposes. LJAF does not fund efforts to influence legislation, to intervene in political elections or campaigns, to promote propaganda, or to conduct voter registration drives. LJAF does not make grants or loans to individuals and does not directly fund scholarships, fellowships, or prizes.