



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 with innovative ideas for creating tools and techniques to measure the impact of public investments in science and technology research and development.

Background information

The United States government spends more than \$140 billion annually on research and development initiatives in science and technology. However, there are few tools or metrics available to evaluate the effect these investments have on our economy, workforce, health, and security—or to ensure that taxpayer dollars are allocated in a smart, efficient way. LJAF is requesting ideas that will help to further the development of tools, metrics, and techniques to measure the impact and output of federal research investments. We are particularly interested in tools that will allow funders and policymakers to identify high-leverage investment opportunities and harness strong data-driven evidence to improve decision making. For example, Letters of Interest could propose a tool that would allow policymakers to determine extraordinary opportunities for investment in a particular field of research or to gauge whether investments should shift within a field of research. An additional project might establish metrics intended to improve the allocation of taxpayer dollars by helping the government identify research labs that have a proven track record of success.

Selection criteria

Letters of Interest should address the following criteria:

- Name, title, and institution
- Description of the project that is being proposed and how it will result in increased access to research results
- Description of the scale of the project and anticipated impact on access to scientific research results
- Description of the project timeline, milestones, and metrics for success
- Explanation as to whether the proposed project or a similar project was previously attempted in other countries or other industries (Please provide an explanation as to why it was or was not successful in the other context.)
- Description of the key risks of the proposed solution and a mitigation plan
- High-level budget, description of the project team, and organization background (include in Appendix).

Submission guidelines

Projects must be of domestic relevance, and Letters of Interest should meet the following guidelines:

- Address each of the selection criteria in no more than **three** pages
- Be single- or double-spaced and use an 11-point font or larger
- 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

Letters of Interest should be submitted by Dec. 15, 2016, to ScienceTechnologyLOI@arnoldfoundation.org. 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.