Release Date: August 22, 2016

Fall 2016

**DIL Top-up Translation Grants**

# Request for Applications

# **Quick Reference**

# 

Deadline: September 18, 2016 11:59pm PST

Total Funds Available: $1 million

Individual Grant Range: $100,000 - $200,000

# **Overview**

# The Development Impact Lab (DIL) is entering its final year of programming. This grant period will focus on top-up investment and translation of successful DIL-sponsored interventions. DIL invites select DIL researchers to apply for a top-up grant focused on translating previously supported research for scale-up.

# Grants are intended to support a) endline data collection for an evaluation of an existing DIL-sponsored technology intervention, including evaluation of the business model for delivery/scale-up of the innovation; b) support for adaptation and replication of a proven approach in new contexts; c) linkages and an action plan for outside partners to implement findings at a broader scale. The purpose of this competition is not to seed new work but rather to accelerate existing DIL approaches toward scale.

# Successful applicants will demonstrate a commitment from in-country partners and decision-makers to support the translation and sustainability of the proposed work. Special consideration will be given to projects that are engaging with local governments and/or USAID Missions or operating units to scale DIL innovations and approaches.

# **Geographic Eligibility**

# Applicants must focus their research in the country they have previously been funded to work in. Expanding work to new countries may require lengthy review times by our sponsor. If you would like to focus your project in a new country, please contact [dil-grants@berkeley.edu](mailto:dil-grants@berkeley.edu) as early as possible.

# **Timeline**

# Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm US Pacific Time, Sunday, September 18, 2016.

# RFA Release August 22, 2016

# Intention to Submit Due August 29, 2016

# Submission Deadline September 18, 2016

# Anticipated Award Notification October 31, 2016

# Earliest Start Date November 1, 2016

# Award End Date September 30, 2017

# The performance period is 11 months for all grants.Applicants must provide a realistic plan for implementing and spending the total requested amount by the end of the performance period.

# **Review Process and Evaluation Criteria**

# Applications received by the submission deadline will be pre-screened for eligibility and completeness by DIL staff. Eligible applications will be peer reviewed, with final decisions made by the DIL Board of Directors. Applications will also be reviewed by USAID before awards are made. Please contact [dil-grants@berkeley.edu](mailto:dil-grants@berkeley.edu) if your application contains confidential information, or if you wish to review the DIL conflict of interest policy.

# Successful applications will clearly advance the nascent field of Development Engineering by combining techniques and insights from social science with advances in engineering and the natural sciences. DIL does not fund projects that focus exclusively on technology design, prototyping, or modeling without consideration for the social, economic, and institutional factors that affect technology adoption. Similarly, DIL does not fund projects that lack a technological innovation. For example, DIL would not fund routine application of existing mobile technologies.

# Applications will be scored according to the following criteria:

# Significance and Scientific Merit of Project: The application provides empirical evidence, theory or model predictions demonstrating that a) the evidence to be generated will answer questions essential for scale-up or application of a DIL-sponsored innovation, b) the solution is superior to existing approaches, and c) there is likely to be adequate demand or take-up of the solution.

# Approach and Feasibility: The specific questions to be answered are well defined, and it is clear how the results will be translated for scale-up. The project integrates different disciplinary perspectives—including social or economic research questions—as required for successful implementation. The project team, activities, timelines, milestones and resources are realistic and relevant.

# Strategy for Take-up or Translation of Innovation or Approach: The project has a compelling strategy for promoting the take-up of evidence, including how the grant will advance a larger effort by in-country partners or decision-makers. Successful applications will demonstrate a track record of engaging stakeholders for scale-up (e.g. meetings with USAID Missions, government actors, or industry; outreach, op-eds, and/or advocacy to generate social pressure, etc). The proposal presents a vision for how research results will inform scaling, including lessons for researchers who want to influences decision-makers in future.

# **Submission Instructions**

# All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM US Pacific Time on September 18, 2016. Please follow these instructions carefully when developing your grant application.

# *Do NOT submit your application through the UC Berkeley Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) or the office of sponsored research at your home institution.*

# Application Submission: Submit the completed application package using DIL’s [online submission platform, submittable](https://impact.submittable.com/submit/925834dd-7dee-438a-a2f4-b57850757f0c). Submitted files should read “[Project Name]\_[PI Last Name]”. The application should include:

# Application Cover Sheet.

# The Research Narrative. Your narrative should directly follow the cover sheet in a single document. Narratives must be single spaced, using 11-point font, with one-inch margins, is not exceed 3 pages and should address all prompts. No supplements, appendices, or additional materials will be reviewed.

# The Budget. Please read the instructions tab for detail on allowable costs.

# 11 months of funding can be requested.

# Proposal budgets must include direct and indirect costs (such as university overhead).

# Given the short time period of this grant, DIL discourages new external (non-UC) subawards and independent contracts.

# Grants will be issued as sub-awards from a parent contract between USAID and UC Berkeley; all awards are subject to US government policies and regulations.

# *Please note that DIL reserves the right to request additional information from applicants as necessary.*

# **Other Considerations**

# Human Subjects: Grants supporting research that involves human subjects require documentation of approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) recognized by UC Berkeley. You are encouraged to submit your protocol as early as possible.

# Support Letters: Letters of support are not required. However, if research or other work is to be done outside the US, applicants are encouraged to submit a letter from a host university or institution expressing their commitment to work with the research team. Additional letters advocating the proposed approach or confirming the value of the research—from scale-up partners, collaborating institutions, policy-makers, or USAID staff—are welcome. No more than 2 letters will be accepted.

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# Cover Sheet

# *All fields are required.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title: |  | | |
| Focus Country: |  | | |
| PI Name: |  | | |
| PI University: |  | PI Department: |  |
| Secondary Contact: |  | Secondary Contact  E-mail: |  |
| Project Summary  (1 sentence): |  | | |
| Partner Organization: |  | | |
| Int’l Partner Contact: (Individual)\* |  | Partner Contact Email: |  |
| Total Funding Requested (USD): | $ | | |
| Institution Receiving Award\*\*: |  | | |

\*DIL may vet partners by email during the review process. Please ensure you provide accurate partner contact information.

\*\*Applications may be submitted to DIL directly by investigators, but please enter the institution that will receive grant funds.

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| **Abstract:** Please include an executive summary of your proposed project (max 200 words), in language appropriate for a non-technical reader. |

**Past DIL Awards:** Please list all of the DIL grants (including funding amounts) you have received for this work.

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|  |

**Progress Along Innovation Pipeline:** Please illustrate and describe below where your project started when first funded by DIL and where the work is now. Identify when first awarded DIL funding (circle one) as well as the status of the project today (circle one):

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

|  |
| --- |
| *Enter brief description here.* |

**USAID Resources:** If you have received or applied for any USAID funding or in-kind support beyond DIL grants for this project (or a related project), please describe below.

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**USAID Engagement:** If you have engaged with a USAID Mission or Operating Unit on this project, please describe below.

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**Outside Resources**: If your project directly builds on or incorporates existing infrastructure, equipment, funding or other resources, please list these below. Only include contributions with estimated dollar values, and describe how the resource supports your project. [OPTIONAL]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Award or Other Resource | Estimated Value (USD) | Description (for award, include dates) |
|  |  |  |
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# Research Narrative

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| **Instructions**  1. Narrative text should use 11-point font and one-inch margins.  2. The narrative should NOT EXCEED 3 PAGES. Additional pages will be discarded.  3. The Research Narrative should follow your Cover Sheet as an unprotected and unlocked (editable) text (.doc) file. |

1. **Track Record**. Please outline up to *3 outputs* (i.e. products, tangible deliverables) and up to *3 outcomes* (i.e. policy changes/influence, partnerships, behavior changes, long-term impacts) from your past round(s) of DIL funding.
2. **Evidence to be generated.**

* What is the theory of change for your technology innovation or intervention?
* Why is it important to decision-makers that these questions are answered?
* How will this evidence contribute to the field of Development Engineering?

1. **Innovation and Approach.** Describe your plan of action and how it will translate your technical research into broader action. Detail and justify your strategy.

* How does your plan respond to the development challenge your work is targeting? Please reference the scientific literature and any preliminary, unpublished results that have informed your approach.
* Why is your strategy promising for scale-up? How cost-effective, versatile or generalizable is your approach?
* What are the two most important alternatives or competing interventions? Why is your innovation more promising (e.g. cost-effective, versatile, generalizable) than existing alternatives?

1. **Vision for Success and Scalability.**

* How will this work translate into improved outcomes for the poor?
* What evidence (e.g. market research, willingness to pay data) do you have of the demand for your innovation or approach (e.g. by users, target beneficiaries, policy-makers)?
* What is the role and level of engagement of your in-country partners? Who are they? How will they support translation of your proposed work?

1. **Sustainability**.

* What value will one more year of DIL funding offer your project?
* What will become of this project beyond the life of the grant?
* Are their committed or prospective funders that will sustain this project? Please explain including any fundraising strategies or prospects.

1. **Risks.**

* What could prevent you from completing this work by September 30, 2017?
* Are there other risks you foresee in implementing this project? How would you overcome them?

1. **Project Plan.**

* What is your implementation plan or organizing strategy for executing this project?
* Please outline a project plan & timeline in a table or Gantt chart which includes key activities and major deliverables.

# Describe the unique capacity of your team to carry out this work. Who will serve in the project manager role?

**Suggested Peer Reviewers:** Eligible applications will be peer reviewed by a panel of three reviewers, one engineer or computer scientist, one social scientist, and one practitioner or industry expert. Please recommend up to six peer reviewers (preferably two from each category). [OPTIONAL]