Charter School Research Collaborative
Proposal Development Evaluation Criteria

Proposal development grants are intended to be used for early-stage research activities. See here for additional guidance and example projects.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria.
- **Project viability:** Proposals should demonstrate a clear plan to determine whether a pilot or full research project is feasible (e.g., in regard to data access).
- **Policy relevance:** The proposed work should help foster a relationship between the researcher and the research partner. Proposals should answer questions of pressing interest to policymakers and practitioners.
- **Research agenda alignment:** Proposals should align with at least one of the questions in the Collaborative's research agenda (see here). Projects that examine one of the Collaborative's geographic areas of interest (see here) are preferred, but projects that fall outside these regions will also be considered. All projects should focus on US charter schools.

Review Process

An Executive Committee composed of leading charter school researchers, practitioners, and policymakers will review all proposals. The review process will take two months from the deadline date. The committee will be divided into two subcommittees: a research subcommittee and a policy/practice subcommittee. The committees will be asked to review proposals on the following indicators:
1. Project viability
2. Policy relevance
3. Research agenda alignment

Each proposal will be peer-reviewed by at least one member of the research subcommittee and one member of the policy/practice subcommittee. The Executive Committee will then meet to discuss the proposals, and final funding decisions will be made by Blueprint's Directors.

Applicants who receive a grant will be subject to the following requirements:
1. IRB approval or exemption before MIT can establish a subaward agreement to setup funding.
2. MIT requires an official acceptance of the proposal and budget by your institution to set up the subaward. Applicants are encouraged to submit the proposal to their office of sponsored programs or contracts department prior to the award decision to avoid delays and ensure that your institute will accept your proposal and proposal budget.
3. Once all materials have been received, it can take up to 60 days to establish the subaward. The award is paid on a cost reimbursable basis, and spending can usually be backdated through the date of the Blueprint award letter or date of IRB approval (whichever comes later). Funds are to be used for the purposes described in the proposal narrative and proposal budget. Significant changes to the project scope, design, or budget must be pre-approved by Blueprint Labs.
4. The terms of the award will be further specified in the award letter and in any subaward established with MIT. Acceptance of funding from Blueprint Labs signals your consent to these requirements. Non-compliance with these requirements could affect your eligibility for future funding from any Blueprint Labs Collaborative.

5. Grantees will typically be required to submit several reports, including a brief annual progress report and a final report, both including financial data.