

Evaluation of ARC's ARISE Initiative – RFP Questions and Answers

Will grants get approved in groups, or on a rolling basis?	In the near future, we expect that grants will continue to be awarded on a rolling basis, one at a time. ARC may move toward an application process in which grants would be awarded in small batches.
Is there a range on what ARC is expecting to spend?	There are no parameters for the overall budget, but proposals should include an initiative-level price as well as grant-level pricing for individual grants evaluated.
Can the price proposal be a fixed-price per year (as opposed to a fixed-price for the entire duration of the contract?)	Yes, ARC is open to various pricing structures.
Is ARC mostly interested in quantitative or qualitative analysis?	Both – We are interested in whatever quantitative metrics are available during the time covered, but also interested in feedback from grantees, and - when possible/relevant - their beneficiaries.
Would the contractor have access to data being provided by grantees to ARC?	Yes, the contractor would have view-only access to ARC's grants management database.
Would ARC recommend that proposals include an ability to bring in experts on infrastructure since the grants will be focused on infrastructure?	To clarify, the grants will not just be focused on infrastructure; they may cover the full range of projects under ARC's strategic plan. We wouldn't expect to see a specific emphasis on infrastructure in the proposal.
What are ARC's expectations of showing impact of the overall initiative when the period of evaluation is only three years and most grants haven't been funded yet?	<p>At this time, ARC is not offering an initial contract beyond three years. The Commission approves its funding allocations on an annual basis, but the ARISE Initiative may continue for the duration of availability of IJJA funding, and it is possible that by FY 2026, ARC will have allocated \$400 million toward ARISE.</p> <p>A decision will be made prior to the end of the contract on whether or how to extend the evaluation work. We understand that the timeframe may make it challenging to draw strong conclusions about the overall impact of the initiative, but we also anticipate that valuable information can be learned about initial impacts. Also, regardless of whether the evaluation contract continues, ARC has an internal process to follow up with grantees on the impacts of their grant after closeout.</p>
Would the POWER evaluation be a good model for what ARC is looking for with this?	The POWER evaluation would be a good model in many respects, including how that

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	<p>evaluation approached using qualitative information to present themes about initial impacts. An important difference is that, given the relatively smaller number of ARISE grants and larger grant amounts, ARC expects this evaluation to have a heavier focus on grant-level evaluation.</p>
<p>Will ARISE grantees also be receiving technical assistance in some form apart from this evaluation? We know that ARC provides grantee TA internally and through various other means -- we're wondering if there is a separate contract for ARISE TA and if so, is there any expectation or opportunity that the evaluation team would have some way of communicating with them to provide real-time learnings based on emerging grantee needs during the evaluation period of performance? And in any case, to the extent you would speak to it, would real time learning for grantees be a value for ARC as part of this evaluation?</p>	<p>ARISE grantees will receive TA as needed internally through ARC. There is not a separate contract for ARISE TA. Real time learning for grantees would be of value to grantees and ARC is open to finding workable solutions for that information sharing to take place among the grantees, ARC, and the evaluator.</p>
<p>Do all grantees have capability to conduct virtual interviews with the consultant team?</p>	<p>Only one grant has been awarded so far, but we anticipate that grantees will have the ability to engage in virtual interviews.</p>
<p>Would ARC prefer that some interviews be conducted in person? For both the implementation grants and the planning grants?</p>	<p>To some extent, the appropriateness of in-person vs virtual data collection will vary depending on the scope of each grant. ARC anticipates that some of the grant-level evaluation work would benefit from in-person data collection.</p>
<p>Are all those included in the staffing plan to be considered Key Personnel?</p>	<p>Key personnel would have a major role in designing and implementing the project and communicating with ARC. We understand there may be additional personnel involved in routine tasks who will be included in the staffing plan, but may not be key personnel.</p>