



Call for Proposals

Developing a Method to Estimate the Harms and Benefits That Gun Policies and Violence Prevention Interventions Have on Legal Users of Firearms

Call for White Paper Proposals

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals:
5:00 p.m. PDT, April 10, 2020

Introduction

When making decisions about gun laws and programs in the United States, policymakers should consider both the potential reduction in harm from firearm violence and the potential harm to the interests of gun owners and users that the policies may cause. These dimensions of a specific gun policy are difficult to evaluate objectively, however. Although it is sometimes possible to estimate the benefits resulting from a reduction in death and injury, little attention has focused on how to evaluate gradations of harms or benefits to the rights and privileges of those who use guns legally. Instead, any such harms are often conceptualized by stakeholders as all-or-nothing effects that programs or policies may impose. A more comprehensive assessment of the magnitude of effects on all relevant parties is necessary to evaluate the full range of costs and benefits associated with gun policies.

The mission of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR) is to fund and disseminate nonpartisan scientific research that offers the public and policymakers a factual basis for developing fair and effective gun policies. We are interested in funding research on the costs and benefits associated with gun policies and programs, including the effects of gun policies on the interests of gun owners, such as their rights to possess and use guns, their privacy rights, and their ability to defend themselves with firearms.

Despite a successful first round of funding that awarded almost \$10 million in research grants, NCGVR has yet to receive fundable proposals evaluating how gun policies benefit or harm gun users. This may be because there is no established method for evaluating the impact of these policies on gun owners and users, and attempts to provide accurate measures of the benefits of defensive gun use have been [challenging](#).

To address the need for better information on harms and benefits to gun owners, **we are issuing a special call for proposals to develop or propose a method for estimating the impact of gun violence**

prevention interventions on the interests of gun owners and users. This special NCGVR white paper (or concept paper) solicitation is supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Description

We are seeking proposals for a white paper describing a rigorous method for evaluating the benefits or harms that gun policies impose on gun owners and users. The concept outlined in the white paper will ideally provide guidance for the development of a scale or measurement tool that could be used to quantify the impact of specific types of programs or policies related to gun use or possession on the interests of gun owners. The proposed method should take into account both the tangible and the intangible effects of various policies. It should identify the range of potential harms or benefits to gun owners that diverse policies might impose and a method for assigning weights or values to those effects. Different methods may need to be applied to different subpopulations of gun owners. The same may be true for different types of gun policies or violence prevention interventions. The paper should be a design statement for the collection or assembling of data that can be used to estimate the impact of various gun control policies. The proposed method should be feasible to implement with existing data or specify the new data that would be needed and how they would be collected. Although a measurement approach that satisfies all these requirements would be ideal, we will consider concepts that address only a subset of them, if the reasoning for a more limited measurement approach is persuasive.

The white paper will be a research product shared with the public and will also be used to inform future requests for proposals (RFPs) from NCGVR to encourage more studies on the full costs and benefits of gun policies. The concept paper may also lead to a solicitation for funding full development of the proposed measurement approach.

Information for Prospective Applicants

- NCGVR will issue up to \$30,000 for one award to produce the white paper
- The expected timeline for the project is six to eight months
- The white paper should consider the applicability of the proposed method for a wide range of program and policy evaluations
- Proposals are due Friday, April 10, by 5:00 p.m. PDT and should be emailed as a single PDF attachment to proposals@ncgvr.org
- Questions about this RFP should be sent to proposals@ncgvr.org
- One award will be made in late May or early June
- Proposals should include the following information in a single PDF document:
 - Administrative information:
 - Organization's name
 - Organization's address
 - Organization's tax ID number
 - Organization's authorized representative's name, title, email, and direct telephone number
 - Total requested amount (indirect costs are not allowed for this solicitation)
 - Start date
 - Investigator's name, title, email, and direct telephone number
 - Narrative (may not exceed three single-spaced pages, using one-inch margins and no smaller than 12-point font)
 - Project title
 - Approach: describe your initial concept and the overall approach you will take to achieve the intended results of this project
 - Qualifications: describe the experience of the proposed investigator(s) and any relevant past research.

Eligibility

Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Organizations whose tax-exempt status has been suspended are not eligible. International organizations, public universities, and public agencies that meet the same requirements as a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) public grantee under U.S. tax law and can demonstrate capacity to carry out the research funded by NCGVR are also eligible. Ineligible grant recipients include non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organizations, private nonoperating foundations, lobbying and 501(c)(4) organizations, political campaigns or other political entities, or any organization whose purpose is not entirely charitable. The RAND Corporation, RAND Europe, their staff, and their adjunct staff are not eligible to apply for NCGVR funding.

Eligible organizations can submit more than one proposal. NCGVR especially encourages researchers from underrepresented communities to submit applications.

NCGVR will support direct costs only for this solicitation. Indirect costs will not be supported.

