



OREGON HEALTHY WORKFORCE CENTER

NIOSH TOTAL WORKER HEALTH® CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

CALL FOR PILOT PROJECT PROPOSALS

Due SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Submit applications to
Courtney Donovan:

donovcou@ohsu.edu

The Oregon Healthy Workforce Center (OHWC) announces a call for pilot research project proposals addressing *Total Worker Health*®. The goal of our Pilot Project Program is to support new and impactful research that advances the OHWC's theme: *Total Worker Health* (TWH) intervention effectiveness, translation, and outreach to advance safe and healthy work design.

The OHWC Pilot Project Program aims specifically to: 1) stimulate the development of new TWH research ideas to advance the OHWC's theme; 2) increase opportunity for research-to-practice/R2P; and 3) increase diversity of research and partnerships in Region 10 (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska). Given the goals of this program, we will evaluate each proposal for pilot funding in terms of its potential to evolve into an innovative and high impact larger project.

Specifications:

- Funding Amount: We will fund up to three pilot projects of \$15,000 – \$20,000 each. Proposals from applicants external to OHSU must include indirect costs within the requested \$15,000 - \$20,000 total. A maximum indirect cost rate of 10% can be applied. Please confirm your institution will accept this rate.
- Funding Period: October 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026
- Submission deadline: **September 15, 2025**; Award notification: September 30.
- Eligibility: Applicants must be based at a university in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with industry and/or labor partner organizations within our region, including [TWH Affiliates](#).
- Study types: Including but not limited to intervention development/evaluation, survey studies examining relevant TWH issues, intervention translational, development of useful workplace assessments or tools, and understanding basic/etiologic mechanisms for worker safety, health, and well-being outcomes.
- Focus on research to practice (R2P): Proposals are required to include a knowledge dissemination plan, which targets both academic and practitioner/other non-academic audiences. Examples include peer-reviewed academic presentations or publications, presentations and report-outs to research partner organizations, dissemination in popular media (such as the OHWC's blogs/social media) and practitioner-focused newsletters. See Supplemental Guide below for more detail.
- **Proposal Requirements:**
 - (a) Research Plan: 4-page research plan, single-spaced, 12-pt. font, 1-inch page margins
 1. Title, project overview, rationale, and significance
 2. Target population and study variables
 3. Specific aims, hypothesis
 4. Methods:

- (i) Research design, methodology, measures, and recruitment strategy
 - (ii) Data analysis plan
 - (iii) Study timeline and phases
 - (iv) Expected results, study implications, and future directions
 - 5. Knowledge dissemination plan (outlined above)
 - (b) References (not included in page limit)
 - (c) Budget (not included in page limit): Permitted expenses include:
 - Participant fees/incentives
 - Research or survey software
 - Data collection equipment or supplies
 - Travel to and from research sites
 - Workshops or training on research techniques or methods relevant to the research
 - Dissemination materials
 - Travel to present results at a conference and/or partner organization
 - Staff and student time [note that the pilot funds cannot be applied to faculty/PI time]
- Please note: Proposals from applicants external to OHSU must include indirect costs (IDC) with total project costs capped at \$20,000. The indirect cost rate is limited to 10%.
- (d) Letter(s) of support (as applicable)

Send submissions to Courtney Donovan: donovcou@ohsu.edu

- **Review of OHWC pilot project proposals:**

All applications will be reviewed by a scientific review panel. Committee members will include at least one applied and one basic scientists at the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences who do not have a pilot project proposal under consideration, and an external practitioner (public health, safety) member from a non-OHSU organization.

The review process will be conducted using the NIH scoring rubric for *Significance, Investigators, Environment, Innovation, and Approach*. All responsive applications will be discussed and will receive feedback from the review committee. Those selected for funding may be asked to prepare planned responses to critiques before receiving funding.

Supplemental Guide included below!

SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE

We highly recommend reviewing this information prior to applying. It will provide useful context on the *Total Worker Health* approach and our work at OHWC.

Total Worker Health

Your proposal and its hypotheses must be clearly tied to the definition of *Total Worker Health*, which is defined as:

"policies, programs, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being."

Developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), *Total Worker Health* (TWH) is an approach that jointly addresses workplace factors such as hazard reduction and work design along with employee-related issues like chronic illness prevention and health improvement in order to reduce injury, increase safety, and enhance worker well-being.

Learn more about *Total Worker Health*: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/index.html>

NIOSH and TWH align with the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), in particular with [NORA's Healthy Work Design and Well-Being Cross-Sector Council](#).

OHWC's mission and theme

OHWC is a *Total Worker Health* Center of Excellence funded by NIOSH (Grant # U19OH0101). Our overarching mission is to make meaningful strides toward improving the safety, health, and well-being of workers in our region. Our theme in our current cycle (2021 – 2026) is TWH intervention effectiveness, translation, and outreach to advance safe and healthy work design.

Learn more about the Oregon Healthy Workforce Center: <http://www.ohsu.edu/ohwc>

Research to Practice (R2P): The OHWC is committed to research-to-practice. We have built a robust R2P pipeline where research outcomes are translated into informational resources and evidence-based products that are disseminated through [OHWC's Outreach Core](#). In keeping with this, we welcome pilot studies that focus on R2P issues, including translating evidence-based approaches to new industries and worker populations, identifying and addressing barriers to dissemination and implementation of interventions for worker well-being, and community-based participatory research.

If you have questions, please contact Leslie Hammer: hammerl@ohsu.edu

Disclaimer: *Total Worker Health*® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Participation by the Oregon Healthy Workforce Center does not imply endorsement by HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.