



OREGON HEALTHY WORKFORCE CENTER

NIOSH TOTAL WORKER HEALTH[®] CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

CALL FOR PILOT PROJECT PROPOSALS

Due AUGUST 15, 2026

Submit applications to
Leslie Hammer: hammerl@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; 2) increase opportunity for research-to-practice/R2P; and 3) increase the variety of research and partnerships in Region 10 (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska). Given these goals, each proposal will be evaluated 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. *Note for external applicants:* Proposals from applicants external to OHSU must include indirect costs (IDC) within the requested \$15,000 - \$20,000 total. IDCs will be at your institution's federally negotiated rate or the 15% de minimis rate if no federal agreement is in place. Applicants with a federally negotiated rate may provide documentation from their institution agreeing to accept an alternative rate of no lower than 15% if desired.
- **Funding Period:** October 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027
- **Submission deadline:** **August 15, 2026**; **Award notification:** September 15, 2026 (pending notice of award from federal sponsor).
- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be based at a university in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). Applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with industry and/or labor partner organizations within our region, including [TWH Affiliates](#).
- **Study types and focuses:** Including, but not limited to intervention development/evaluation, survey studies examining relevant TWH issues, intervention translation, development of useful workplace assessments or tools, and understanding basic/etiologic mechanisms for worker safety, health, and well-being outcomes. In this year's call, we particularly invite these projects, although not required, in the context of our special focus:
 - **SPECIAL FOCUS on AI and WORK:** In this year's call, we particularly invite projects exploring the intersection of AI and occupational safety, health, and well-being. While there is currently abundant discussion of AI, many questions remain on how it will impact the workforce and how the TWH approach can be used to prevent its potential negative impacts while promoting its positive value. Our targeted pilot project call invites exploratory, epidemiological, and intervention projects geared toward understanding the direct and indirect mechanisms by which AI adoption impacts worker outcomes, as well as preventing harm and promoting worker health and organizational outcomes from AI adoption, use, and misuse.

- 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 the Supplemental Guide below for more details.
- **Proposal Requirements:**
 - (a) Research Plan: 3-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 and hypotheses
 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 project
 - Dissemination materials
 - Travel to present results at a conference and/or partner organization
 - Staff and student time [Note: Pilot funds cannot be applied to faculty/PI salary or time]
 - Letter(s) of support (as applicable)

Please note: Proposals from applicants external to OHSU must include indirect costs (IDC) with total project costs capped at \$20,000. IDC rates other than your institution's federally negotiated rate must be accompanied by documentation from an institution official agreeing to accept the proposed rate.

Send submissions to Leslie Hammer: hammerl@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 scientist and one basic scientist 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 evaluating *Significance, Investigators, Environment, Innovation, and Approach*. All responsive applications will be discussed and will receive feedback from the review committee. Applicants selected for funding may be asked to prepare formal responses to critiques before funds are officially awarded.

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.