

Call for Proposals: *Total Worker Health*® Dissertation Awards 2018-19 Oregon Health Workforce Center

The Oregon Healthy Workforce Center (OHWC) announces the *Total Worker Health*® (TWH) Dissertation Research Awards Program. The award program is designed to encourage and support doctoral student research in this important emerging discipline. The OHWC is a Center of Excellence in TWH funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The OHWC is housed within the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences at Oregon Health & Science University.

Description of the TWH Dissertation Award

The OHWC invites applications from doctoral students whose dissertation is focused on the integration of (or interactions between) worker safety, health, and/or well-being.

Examples of types of studies that may be proposed include:

- Cross-sectional or observational studies
- Longitudinal studies
- Intervention studies
- Archival research (data sets are available from the OHWC)

The research proposal and its hypotheses must be clearly tied to the definition of TWH, 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.”

For examples of TWH topics, review [NIOSH’s Total Worker Health issues](#). To learn more about Total Worker Health, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/totalhealth.html.

Eligibility for Applying for a TWH Dissertation Award

- Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at a university in Region X (AK, ID, OR, WA). Examples of programs include but are not limited to Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Occupational Health Psychology, Environmental and Occupational Health,
- Applicants must be in the pre-proposal or early stage of their dissertation

TWH Dissertation Research Award Specifications

- Award amount: \$4500. The award amount is a one-time stipend.
- Application due date: November 15, 2018
- Notice of award: January 2019
- Funding availability: February 2019
- Time frame to conduct research: It is desirable for awardees to complete their research within one year, but the timeline is flexible to accommodate dissertation committee operations and procedures.
- The selection committee will review applications and select an award winner. More than one award may be issued in a given year depending on available funds.

If no applications meeting criteria are received, an award may not be issued in that year.

- Awardees will be asked to provide a brief response to the selection committee's feedback (adjustments based on feedback are encouraged with deference to the applicants dissertation committee positions) and evidence of IRB approval prior to receiving the \$4500 stipend.

Additional Considerations for Developing a Proposal

- The first criterion an applicant must meet is that the proposed research will produce knowledge that advances our understanding of TWH mechanisms or practice. This means that applications must clearly demonstrate how they address the integration of (or interactions between) worker safety, health, and/or well-being within a particular occupational context or problem.
 - The definition of TWH is broad, so it is up to the applicant to make the case for how the proposed research addresses issues relevant to a specific TWH issue.
- We encourage applications that address the [TWH Hierarchy of Controls](#), and those that address how the knowledge produced by the research will inform the improvement of working conditions to advance TWH.
- If a student is developing a proposal that would utilize an OHWC dataset, that student should [review publications](#) from the relevant project (see "OHWC-funded research" publications), and then contact the Principal Investigator for that OHWC study to alert them to their interest and request the data codebook for the study.

Application Requirements

- (a) Cover Letter: Please provide a cover letter with your application title, name, contact information, graduate program and university, graduate advisor/dissertation committee chair, and dissertation committee members (if identified), and stage of dissertation and expected timeline.
- (b) Research Plan (up to 6 pages):
 - (1) Title, abstract, and specific aims
 - (2) Significance of the problem being studied. Also highlight any innovation and/or potential impact of findings.
 - (3) Methods:
 - (i) Research questions/hypotheses
 - (ii) Study design, methodology, measures, and recruitment strategy
 - (iii) Study timeline and phases, including anticipated dissertation proposal and defense plans/timeline
 - (iv) Data analysis plan
 - (v) Future directions and study implications
 - (4) Budget: Please provide an estimated budget for how the stipend will support your proposed research.

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
- Travel to present results at a conference

While your budget may equal the total \$4500 amount, it is not required to exactly match it. Unbudgeted stipend dollars may cover unforeseen or other expenses in support of your research project. Required procedures and paperwork for receiving the stipend will be provided to awardees after the notice of award.

(c) References Cited (not included in the 6 page research plan limit)

(d) Letter of support from dissertation committee chair that addresses status or stage of the student's dissertation work and prospects for a successful outcome

(e) CV of applicant

Responsibilities of the Awardee

1. A response to reviewer feedback and IRB approval is required prior to release of funds.*
2. For awardees using archival data from the OHWC, a data use agreement must be signed between the awardee and OHWC prior to release of data.
3. Study progress: the awardee will (a) present an informal chalk talk about their proposal at one of OHWC's monthly Internal Steering Committee meetings (in person or by web) during the first quarter of the award; (b) as materials become available, provide the OHWC with copies of their dissertation proposal and presentation slides; (c) provide one brief progress report (up to 1 page) at 6 months (halfway point) of the project year. The student's advisor may also be contacted periodically to check in on progress; (d) a copy of the final completed dissertation must be provided when it is completed.
4. Awardees are encouraged to present study findings at a regional or national conference. An example is the Annual Cascadia Symposium on Environmental, Occupational and Public Health, in northern Washington.
5. Awardees must cite the OHWC grant number in all presentations and publications related to their dissertation work, and (if applicable) acknowledge the PI and study for relevant OHWC datasets in publications and presentations.

Review Considerations:

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- **Significance:** the application addresses a socially important question related to Total Worker Health
- **Innovation and Potential Impact:** Innovation and/or potential impact of the research for advancing knowledge or practice for improving worker safety, health, and well-being

- Approach: quality and rigor of research design and methods

**The stipend must be returned to the OHWC if the student does not have an approved dissertation proposal at their institution by the third quarter of the project year. Students may appeal for an IRB approval extension if extenuating circumstances out of their control have disrupted their timeline. Funds will not cover indirect costs from the study and may only be used toward to cover costs from the specific research project (e.g., participant incentives, study materials, software)*

Further Information

- For questions regarding the TWH Dissertation Research Award: rameshba@ohsu.edu
- To learn more about the Oregon Healthy Workforce Center: <http://www.ohsu.edu/ohwc>
- To learn about Total Worker Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/totalhealth.html>
- Total Worker Health list of issues: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/pdfs/TWH-Issues-4x3_10282015_final.pdf