



March 16, 2022

Re: Call for Proposals for NC OSHERC Pilot Project Awards for 2022-2023

Dear Colleagues:

The North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center (NC OSHERC) announces the availability of funding for pilot research projects. The goal of the NC OSHERC Pilot Research Project Program (PRPP) is to (1) support research related to current and emerging occupational health and safety (OHS) science and worker health and safety issues and (2) engage predoctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty, and experienced investigators new to OHS to develop or extend their programs of research, with a special emphasis on researchers from underrepresented and minority (URM) groups. The PRPP Program will provide seed money for investigators to conduct short-term projects (12 – 18-months) that are timely and innovative studies to advance OHS sciences and worker health and safety. These projects may be new or creative characterization studies, those that are testing out a new method or approach to build scientific knowledge in OHS sciences or those that are designed as research translation projects (i.e., research to practice), to build capacity for OHS sciences in the workforce, or to engage businesses and the workforce to improve worker health and well-being. In all cases, the project will address an important area of research in OHS in one of the NORA sectors listed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/sector.html> or related to Total Worker Health® (TWH) found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/totalworkerhealth/default.html>. Project proposals may also include the current COVID-19 pandemic, as long as they align with a NORA and/or TWH sector. It is important to visit the NIOSH website that discusses the NORA sector and the TWH approaches. It is expected that ALL pilot projects will generate preliminary data that will lead to new larger-scale funded grant proposals, (i.e., federal, state, philanthropic foundation, or other non-governmental funding sources) that build capacity for OHS in the workforce, disseminate findings through scientific publications, and ensure the health and safety of all workers.

The NC OSHERC PRPP accepts application for ~\$10,000 inclusive of all costs (direct and indirect cost), though funding could be up to \$20,000 for one individual project. Indirect costs are limited to 8% and must be included within the total award for the pilot project. Funding for NC OSHERC pilot grants is made possible by support from NIOSH: T42OH00 8673.

The deadline date for receipt of the proposal from you is **June 1, 2022** and should include:

- Application Cover Page
- Abstract (max 250 words)
- Research Plan; maximum 5-page, single-spaced proposal that follows core elements of a traditional NIH proposal (Times 11-point font, and half-inch margins) describing the pilot project concept that details:
 - Specific Aims (1 page)
 - Research Approach (i.e., the work required to achieve this within the context of the goal of the pilot project program as stated above) (2 pages)
 - Relevance, Innovation, Expected Outcomes and Impact, and a statement of the Future Funding mechanism investigators plan to apply for upon completion of the pilot project (2 pages)
 - For predoctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty, a mentoring plan is required to identify a mentor and a plan for successfully completing the project and to identify a mechanism to apply for external funding (1 page). Mentoring plans must include approaches for project oversight,

mentee/mentor communication regarding project procedures, timeliness of project completion, ethical considerations, and opportunities for presentations, publications, and future funding.

- References
- Timeline
- Budget and Budget Justification (i.e., estimated but detailed total budget, inclusive of direct/indirect costs, not to exceed the total amount available for this award as described above).
- A short description of the student and/or faculty member's existing works (max. 1 page)
- NIH Biosketch for all investigators (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>); and CV for student investigator (if applicable).

Prior to the awarding of any funds, IRB or IACUC approval must be obtained for projects including human subjects or vertebrate animals, respectively, after which the project will be reviewed for final approval by the Center director. **Funds awarded must be spent within the current award budget period, or by June 30, 2023. Semi-annual reports** of not more than two pages in length are required of funded pilot projects. **A final report** must be submitted no later than 60 days following the award budget period, by August 30, 2023. Awardees are also requested to present their findings/results at the joint Southeastern States Occupational Network/Southeast Regional Research Symposium in March 2023. Travel funds to attend the Symposium must be included in the budget and budget justification.

Please send all pilot project proposals as an email attachment to Julie Myers at jmyers@unc.edu. If this is not feasible, please send by fax or hard copy to the address below, so it is received by the deadline date. All proposals, electronic, mailed, or faxed, must be **received** by the due date of **June 1, 2022**.

Pilot projects will be reviewed by a panel comprised of individuals with expertise in the field of OHS and include at least one member of the NC OSHERC Executive Committee. All review panel members will be ineligible to compete in this pilot project application process. Review criteria include:

- scientific merit
- creativity related to and innovativeness of the project
- feasibility to conduct the research and potential for translation of research results to practice
- PI junior, underrepresented and minority, and/or new to OHS and TWH
- relevance to goals/objectives of the predoctoral student, post-doctoral fellow, or junior faculty academic program
- relevance to the goal/objectives of NC OSHERC, NIOSH NORA, and TWH
- likelihood of leading to future work and research funding (e.g., NIOSH/CDC or NIH funding)

We hope you will be eager to participate in this new endeavor and look forward to receiving your proposal by the due date specified.

Sincerely,



Leena A. Nylander-French, Ph.D., CIH
Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health, Director, NCOSHERC
Tel. +1.919.966.3826
leena_french@unc.edu