

ANNOUNCEMENT
PROJECTED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT PILOT/SMALL RESEARCH
PROJECTS
IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH), Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine, announces an initiative to support pilot/small research projects in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). This Pilot/Small Projects Research Program is supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the RMCOEH. It is anticipated that four to six research projects will be funded at a level of approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year per project. Projects may be for up to 24 months, and are non-renewable.

The purpose of this program is to enhance worksite-based OSH and builds on the NIOSH “National Occupational Research Agenda” (NORA). Information regarding NORA is available at the NIOSH site: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/>. Additional information about NORA is provided in the summary of a 2006 town hall meeting at www.uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh/Research/NORATownhallMtg.pdf. Research projects may also support the NIOSH Research to Practice (r2p). r2p information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/>. The goals of the pilot/small research program are to improve workplace OSH, reduce the burden of workplace injuries, improve health, and lower workers’ compensation costs. Novel ideas as well as collaborative, interdisciplinary projects are encouraged. Direct linkage to NORA I, II or NIOSH Research to Practice (r2p) is required. Examples of potential projects include:

- Initial support to develop innovative approaches/lines of investigation in OSH program areas.
- Innovative new directions in OSH sciences.
- Stimulation of investigators from other fields to apply their expertise to OSH issues.
- Development of new mechanisms for external collaborative partnerships to address emerging safety and health concerns.
- Initial support for translational/research to practice projects.
- Support for Masters and Doctoral capstone projects (faculty mentor is required)

Pilot projects are intended to develop improvements in OSH and explore or develop new and creative OSH-related innovations and interventions. Projects may be exploratory, interventional or investigational. Pilot Project Principal Investigators (PIs) must be full-time faculty or doctoral students. Faculty from outside the University of Utah, but in Region VIII (UT, CO, MT, SD, ND, WY) may also apply, but should identify a Program Director of the RMCOEH with whom to communicate and/or collaborate to ensure program goals are met. Master’s trainees may not serve as principal investigators, but are encouraged to apply with a faculty mentor. It is anticipated that successful projects will result in at least one peer reviewed publication and submission of additional research grants, particularly those requesting extramural funding. Projects are expected to be one to two years in duration, although most are expected to be of one year duration.

Merit Review of Applications:

Merit review of each proposal received will be accomplished by a standard review process. Each proposal will be separately ranked using the following domains and weights:

1. Relevance to NORA I, II, or r2p objectives. (20 points)

2. Interdisciplinary involvement or potential. (10 points)
 3. Research capacity-building for large-scale projects, R21, R01 or similar funding. (20 points)
 5. Innovativeness and scientific merit; adequacy and feasibility of experimental plans (20 points)
 6. Appropriateness of budget and budget justification. (10 points)
 7. Participation of multiple stakeholders (employers, employees, academia). (10 points)
 8. Potential impact of a study on OSH and ability to quantify benefits. (10 points)
- Total possible: 100 points

For those proposals in which an item above is not relevant (e.g., participation of multiple stakeholders in a proposed laboratory animal study), the remaining items will be used to adjust the score to 100 possible points. For masters and doctoral student projects, adequacy of supervision and the capabilities and track record of the mentor will be factored into the final funding recommendation.

Additional Information and Application Materials: please see attached information.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2008. Award Date: July 1, 2008 (subject to funding availability)

Applications should be sent to:

Royce Moser, Jr., M.D., MPH
Professor and Deputy Center Director
391 Chipeta Way, Suite C
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

phone (801)-581-4800

Attachment 1

Pilot/Small Research Projects in Occupational Safety and Health

Application Instructions

A. Application Content

1. Proposals must focus on NORA I, NORAll, or r2p. Emphasis on meeting regional OSH needs is encouraged. Exceptions must be justified (e.g., new and emerging problem.)
2. Applications with greater potential for leveraging external funding will be given priority.
3. Projects will be encouraged that quantify results, including healthcare and/or workers compensation costs and/or claims, if applicable.
4. Master's students may apply for project funding. However a faculty member must serve as PI. Doctoral students may serve as PI, but must have a faculty supervisor identified for a Pilot/Small Project. All faculty without prior extramural funding must have a senior faculty advisor.
5. The faculty member supervising a student is responsible for oversight and management of the project. That faculty member is ultimately responsible for delivery of a final report.
6. The application must include an application face page, detailed budget, biosketch, timeline and up to 5 pages of narrative for the project plan. A biosketch of a faculty mentor is required for MS/PhD student projects.
7. A Form Page 2 (PHS 398) is required.
8. A Budget Page (PHS 398) and Justification is required.
9. A PHS 398 Resources page is required.
10. Narrative is to be placed on a PHS 398 continuation page and follow PHS 398 outline.
11. Narrative must be limited to 5 pages maximum.
12. All grantees are expected to deliver research results at one or more conferences. Exceptions must be justified.
13. All projects must have a final report delivered to the RMCOEH.
14. Future outcomes and impacts must be tracked and reported upon request (e.g., abstracts, presentations, publications, grant applications, extramurally funded projects leveraged from this project, injury reductions and economic impacts).
15. Inclusion of women, children and minorities, whenever feasible and appropriate is encouraged.
16. All approved projects involving human subjects will have Institutional Review Board review and approval prior to initiating research or expensing funds. **NOTE: Although final IRB approval is not required at the time of the proposal submission, the final IRB approval must be submitted to, and approved by NIOSH before the research and use of funds commences. Investigators should recognize that considerable time will be required for such approval and initiate IRB approval requests at the earliest possible time.**

- B. Funding eligibility.** Any faculty member of any rank from any academic institution in Region VIII is eligible to apply. However, senior, established researchers are ineligible as PIs unless the pilot project develops a new line of research for that investigator. Conversely, senior advisor/mentorship of junior investigators is encouraged. OSH professionals outside of academia, but from within Region VIII may apply, but must have a faculty collaborator who will have primary responsibility for this project. Faculty who are not from the University of Utah must identify a collaborating faculty member in the RMCOEH. This is so that there is an adequate level of coordination of the research project. Graduate students

(Masters or Doctoral) are also eligible to apply. However, all graduate students must have a full-time faculty member identified who agrees to take responsibility for, and accomplish oversight of, the project.

C. Number of Awards per Year. It is anticipated that four to six awards will be made each year. Most will range from \$5,000-\$15,000. The maximum for any one award is \$20,000 annually. The number of awards will depend on the availability of funds, though the maximum total projected amount of available funds is \$40,000.

D. Length of an Award. Researchers may request up to two years of funding with this mechanism, although it is anticipated that most applications will be for one year of funding. Awards are not renewable.

E. Human Subjects. In accordance with NIOSH and University of Utah guidance, any Pilot/Small Project that involves human subjects will be submitted to the relevant university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for evaluation. No funds will be dispensed under this award mechanism until IRB approval is forwarded to the RMCOEH and approved by NIOSH. (See Item A. 16 above.)

F. Animal Welfare. In accordance with NIOSH and University of Utah guidance, any Pilot/Small Project that involves animals will be submitted to the relevant university's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for evaluation. No funds will be dispensed under this award mechanism until IACUC approval is forwarded to the RMCOEH and approved by NIOSH.

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