

PILOT/SMALL PROJECTS RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

Request for Proposals

Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety
A National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Education & Research Center (ERC)

Deadline for Applications: March 15, 2017

Background: The purpose of the Deep South ERC's Pilot/Small Projects Research Training Program (PPRTP) is to promote and expand the research training mission of the Deep South ERC. Through this mechanism the Deep South ERC will support small/pilot research projects that will emphasize the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. NORA uses a sector-based approach to define and meet high priority needs. These sectors are: a. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, b. Construction, c. Healthcare and Social Assistance, d. Manufacturing, e. Mining, f. Services, g. Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities, and h. Wholesale and Retail Trade.

Purpose: The Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety is soliciting faculty and student applications for grants of up to \$20,000. The purpose of the grant awards are to encourage new and innovative research by students, postdoctoral trainees and new investigators in topics related to occupational health and safety that are among the priorities set by the NORA and established by NIOSH. Eligible candidates for this request for proposals are members of higher education institutions from the southeast region of the United States

Categories of Awards:

1. Trainee Award: Master and doctoral students from the Southeast Region will be eligible. Each trainee applicant may apply for \$5,000 to \$12,000 awards for research projects that are part of master's project or doctoral dissertation. For this category of award students must list an advisor who must have faculty ranking at the same institution.
2. Postdoctoral Trainee Award: Individuals with PhD/DrPH/MD degrees working as post doctoral trainees, medical fellows, or equivalent position are eligible for this award. Each trainee may apply for \$8,000 to \$15,000.
3. Career Development Award: Junior faculty members will be eligible to apply for this award. The maximum award amount can be up to \$20,000 each. This award is designed to support new investigators in establishing new research areas and to encourage the most creative individuals from other research areas to apply their expertise and pursue innovative and novel approaches that may significantly contribute to the NORA objectives.

The project period will be maximum one year from the date of the award.

The Scientific Review Board will award grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. (No indirect cost will apply) conditional upon renewal of NIOSH funding for the Deep South Center beginning on July 1, 2017.

Eligible expenses: If there is clear justification of need for expenditures and clear explanation of their direct relevance to the proposed research these awards may be used for any category of research-related expenses. The awards cannot be used for student tuition support!

Requirements: Successful awardees will be required to present the results of their projects in two ways:

1) An oral presentation of the project results at an interdisciplinary research seminar (The Deep South Center NORA Symposium) held by the Deep South ERC. 2) A final report, with results presented in manuscript form, due at the completion of the project. A list and copies/reprints of any publications and presentations resulting from the project should be included in this final report. Investigators will be encouraged to present results of their work in papers or abstracts and will also be encouraged to submit a full-scale extramural application based on the project work. It is expected that presentations of work resulting from this award will acknowledge support by NIOSH and the Center. Reprints of papers and abstracts resulting from the award must be provided to the research training program director. Additionally, award recipients will agree to report periodically (once per year) information regarding their career track for at least five years from the beginning of award to measure the impact of the program. This information will be collected by the program director.

To monitor progress a six-month update form is required to be filled out by the PI and submitted to the program director by January 15, 2018.

APPLICATION:

Prior to applying for these funds a short electronic note expressing the intent of applying and the broad area of the proposed research is required to be sent to the program coordinator by **February 15, 2017**. Up to half of the grant money will be allocated for projects addressing a chosen thematic. This year the chosen theme is "Occupational Ergonomics".

To apply for these grants, the following materials must be received by the application deadline:

1. Face page (PHS #398) and a maximum 300 words abstract.
2. Biographical sketch or resumé (trainees) for each person involved in the research (including faculty adviser, if applicable).
3. A short (5 pages single-spaced) proposal narrative, outlining the proposed research project, including: a) purpose and benefit of the proposed research to the field, b) objective and specific aims, c) methods proposed to accomplish the proposed aims.
3. Budget (use the NIH PHS #398 budget forms).
4. Budget justification describing each item of the proposed budget and its relevance to the research

5. Human subject, vertebrate animal, and/or radiation safety assurances information. Demonstrated compliance that necessary approvals have been submitted and are pending or already received. **Attention! Funding will not be initiated until formal notification of IRB / IACUC approval is received by the Program Coordinator**

6. Trainees should submit separately a maximum one page statement describing what the funding will do to foster their training.

7. Student applicants must list a faculty adviser / mentor. A short training plan for the student should be submitted by the adviser / mentor together with a letter of recommendation.

8. If the proposed project involves organizations or persons other than those affiliated with the applicant institution, letters of support must be included with the application.

Applications determined to be incomplete or unresponsive to this announcement will be returned to the applicant without further consideration.

Review Criteria: The following criteria will be used to determine the recipients of these awards:

1. **Scientific score (70%)** will assess the overall scientific merit taking into account the following:

Research Strategy: The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses are properly developed, integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project;

Innovation: Does the research employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims innovative?

Scientific Relevance and Impact: The extent to which the project, if successfully carried out, will make an original, important and/or innovative contribution to the field of occupational health and safety;

Feasibility: The likelihood that the proposed work can be accomplished by the investigators, given their documented experience and expertise, past progress, preliminary data, requested and available resources, institutional commitment, and, if appropriate, documented access to other research or technologies;

External Funding Plan: A description of how the results will be leveraged into external applications and a plan for expanding the work as a line of research (Career development only).

Principal Investigator: Is the PI trained and well suited to carry out this work (Career development only)?

Trainees: Is the trainee well suited and if a student, does he have the approval of his mentor to carry out this research? Is the proposed research part of the training plan described in the trainee's statement and approved by the mentor?

Resources and Environment: Is there evidence that the scientific environment is an appropriate setting for the proposed research (Career development only)?

Human Subjects, Gender/Minority and/or Vertebrate Animals Issues: Is approved IRB or IACUC included?

Budget: Is the budget justified?

2. **Programmatic score (30%)** will assess the compliance with the following criteria: The proposed research:

- a. Meets the NIOSH NORA (www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/) and research to practice (www.cdc.gov/niosh/r2p/) priorities and the unique occupational health and safety needs of the region.
- b. Builds research capacity among trainees and new investigators. The funds provided by this project will facilitate trainees to undertake more research opportunities and encourage investigators to develop innovative research approaches.
- c. Involves multiple stakeholders. The research seeks to involve multiple parties such as employees, academic institutions, labor organizations, employer, state and federal agencies

The projected starting time for funding will be July 1, 2017.

Submission: Completed applications are to be sent **electronically** to:

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