



# Request for Pilot Research Project Proposals: 2021

The Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety, supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), announces the availability of funds to support pilot projects. The mission of the Heartland Center is to serve Federal Region VII by providing graduate training, continuing education and outreach in occupational health and safety (OHS).

## PROJECT SCOPE AND LOCATION

Research projects must be related to one of the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) sector areas (see: <https://www.cdc.gov/nora/comment/agendas/default.html>), and pertain to an occupational health or safety issue. The research must be conducted in the United States.

## WHO MAY APPLY

This pilot mechanism is limited to junior faculty, faculty developing a new research initiative in an OHS area, and research trainees pursuing a MS or PhD degree. Each proposal submitted by a trainee must have a faculty sponsor who will oversee the research.

## FY 2021 AWARDS

Two types of projects will be awarded on a competitive basis for the period 7/1/21 – 6/30/22:

- 1) A project that can include student funding with a maximum award of \$20,000
- 2) A project that does not include student funding with a maximum award of \$5,000

## BUDGET RESTRICTIONS

- If the PI is a Heartland Center trainee, then requested salary support for the PI plus PI stipend support provided by the Heartland Center for the 2021-22 academic year cannot exceed the NIH stipend rate, currently \$25,320. A budget that includes trainee funding must be sent to Ms. Mindy Sickels Sterbenz for approval prior to submission. Contact her at [mindy-sickels@uiowa.edu](mailto:mindy-sickels@uiowa.edu).
- Funds for meeting/conference travel is not allowed.
- Faculty salary support is not allowed.
- Indirect costs of 8% can be applied for budgets originating outside the University of Iowa.

## APPLICATION MECHANISM

The following format must be followed for both funding types. Omission of any requested component of the application may result in the application not being scored and funded. The proposal section for applications for \$20,000 funding will be no longer than 5 pages, single-spaced, and no longer than 3 pages, single-spaced for \$5,000 awards. Applications for the lower funding level should emphasize the “research plan” and the specific aspects of the project requiring the budgeted equipment and/or supplies.

A Cover Page consisting of **all** of the following:

- Proposal Title, Investigators (Identify the PI) and Affiliation(s),
- Abstract (300 words max), and
- A short paragraph that specifies (a) which NORA sector area, (b) which occupation and (c) what health and/or safety issue will be addressed in the study.

- The following statement:  
 “This pilot grant application is not currently under review by any other grant-administering program. If I submit this pilot grant application (or an application with similar aims) to another funder while it is under review by the Heartland Center, I will notify the Heartland Center. I understand that failure to comply with this policy is grounds for rejection of the application and withdrawal of any funds that may be awarded”.

A Proposal consisting of the following sections:

- Specific Aims
- Background and Significance
- Research Plan (linked to each Specific Aim)
- Expected Products (conference abstracts, papers, subsequent grant application, etc.)

Additional sections include

1. Timeline - covering the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
2. References
3. Detailed Budget and a Budget Justification that provides the rationale for each item in the Budget
4. Appendix

At minimum the Appendix will include:

- For a student PI – letter-of-support from the faculty sponsor that explains the student’s role in the project and their process for providing oversight to ensure the success of the project. All projects that include a student or post-doc as the PI should include a written mentoring plan. Please contact Dr. Field for more information about the scope and content of the mentoring plan ([bill-field@uiowa.edu](mailto:bill-field@uiowa.edu)).
- 2-page NIH biosketch for each faculty investigator/PI
- 1-page resume for each student investigator/PI

## HUMAN SUBJECTS

For projects involving human subjects, approval by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) is not required for grant consideration; but applicants are encouraged to begin the submission process early so minimal time will be lost in securing approval. If the pilot application is approved for funding, funds will be made available once final IRB approval is obtained and documentation submitted to Ms. Janie Simmons at [janie-simmons@uiowa.edu](mailto:janie-simmons@uiowa.edu). For projects funded that do not involve human subjects, a letter is required from the appropriate IRB stating that IRB approval is not needed.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW

A Review Committee of regional occupational health and safety specialists will evaluate applications. Applications will be reviewed and scored in the following areas (in order of importance):

- Relevance to occupational health and safety issues
- Scientific merit (originality, validity and reliability of methods; quality assurance)
- Project feasibility in terms of budget, timetable, and applicant expertise
- Capacity to build the research skills of the PI
- Potential for future grant support or significance of other grant outcomes
- Appropriateness of the budget and budget justification

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE, DEADLINE, AND AWARD DATE**

Please send an electronic pdf version of the application to Ms. Janie Simmons at [janie-simmons@uiowa.edu](mailto:janie-simmons@uiowa.edu) no later than April 2, 2021 to be considered for funding. Applicants will be notified of an award decision by May 15, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the pilot grant requirements, or you would like to determine whether your topic is applicable to this funding mechanism, please contact Pilot Program Director, Dr. Bill Field, at [bill-field@uiowa.edu](mailto:bill-field@uiowa.edu).