

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Research Accelerator 2026 Pilot Projects Research Training Program Funding Opportunity

Application Due Date:	November 30, 2026 at 5 PM CT
Notice of Awards:	December 11, 2026
Project Period:	January 1, 2027 – January 1, 2028 (12-month) January 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 (18-month)
Award Amount:	\$10,000 to \$15,000 per award

OVERVIEW

The Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) Research Accelerator at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health announces the availability of funding to support postdoctoral fellows and early-career researchers as they develop the skills and experience needed to become successful researchers in occupational and environmental health through mentored research training. These funds are intended to accelerate research projects in occupational safety and health with a focus on worker health and well-being.

The SWCOEH Pilot Project Research Training (PPRT) Program has a regional focus and seeks to strengthen inter-institutional partnerships and occupational health research capacity within Public Health Region 6 (PHR 6), which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity provides funding for two types of awardees:

- Postdoctoral fellows working in an occupational health and safety-related discipline.
- Early-stage researchers with interests in occupational health, safety, or worker well-being.

For this program, early-stage researchers are investigators who completed their terminal degree or postdoctoral training within the past seven years and have not previously served as Program Director (PD) or Principal Investigator (PI) on a substantial independent research award, such as an R01 or R01 equivalent. Previous service as PD/PI on R03, R15, R21, K01, K08, or K12 awards does not affect eligibility.

Early-stage researchers are encouraged to engage doctoral students in their research proposals. Priority will be given to proposals that include doctoral student participation.

Applicants must be affiliated with an academic research institution located in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, or Texas.

Awards are limited to one per PI.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Researchers may request \$10,000 to \$15,000 in total costs. The SWCOEH Research Accelerator will allocate up to \$50,000 in funding to augment active research projects in occupational safety and health with a focus on worker health and well-being.

Support for this opportunity is made available through a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health (T42OH008421).

Applicants must submit an IRB determination letter prior to the start of research activities.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted by **November 30, 2026, at 5 PM CT** through the online portal linked below. We recommend that you use the .doc version of our application also linked below to prepare your responses prior to submission because your progress will not be saved within the portal.

Application Portal: <https://go.uth.edu/ApplicationPortal>

Application Preparation Template: <https://go.uth.edu/PrepTemplate>

You must complete all sections of the application marked with a red asterisk (*). The application includes the following sections:

Budget Request

Allowable expenses include:

- Salary support for UTHealth Houston School of Public Health personnel
- Small equipment essential to the project (totaling less than \$5,000)
- Supplies essential to the project
- Other expenses as typically acceptable in most federal grants

Unallowable expenses include:

- Consultants and sub-contracts
- Travel
- Food and beverage
- Indirect costs

The application will allow you to list up to 5 expenses under each category: personnel costs, equipment costs, supply costs, and other expenses. Please note that funds will be available immediately after receiving a notice of award and expenses must be invoiced by June 1, 2026.

Budget Justification

You will be required to provide a justification for each category of funds requested: personnel costs, equipment costs, supply costs, other expenses [max. 250 words per category].

Project Summary

You will be required to answer each of the following questions [max. 250 words per question]:

- **Background:** Provide a brief background of the project. It should reference the burden and need for the research.
- **Project Objectives and Aims:** Concisely state the overall objectives and specific aims of the project, including any intermediate and/or final outcomes that may result from the research.
- **Research Design and Methods:** Briefly describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated objectives and aims of the project.
- **Anticipated Benefit of Funding:** Briefly describe how this funding is anticipated to enhance the impact of your research on worker health and well-being.

Attachments

You will also be required to submit the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- IRB determination letter to conduct research
- Reference list for the project summary section

You may submit up to 2 additional attachments that are no longer than 5 pages each to supplement your application.

REVIEW

Complete applications will be evaluated by a single review panel, consisting of faculty members affiliated with the SWCOEH at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. At least two members of the review panel will score each proposal. Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to achieve its aims. If there is a wide discrepancy in the two scores received for an application, additional members of the review panel may be consulted.

PROGRESS REPORT

A brief progress report will be **due on June 1, 2027**. This report should include preliminary results and any problems encountered in conducting the study. A Progress Report template will be provided for awardees.

FINAL WRITTEN REPORT

The final report will be **due on or before January 1, 2028 (for 12-month projects) and June 1, 2028 (for 18-month projects)**. This report should describe the results of the study and document all planned and confirmed presentations, publications and follow-on grants that have resulted, in part, directly or indirectly from this award. A Final Report template will be provided for awardees.

PUBLICATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Publications resulting from this work should meet the NIH Public Access Policy and have an associated PMCID number. More information is available here:

<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/index.htm>.

The investigator must acknowledge support from the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health in all related publications and presentations. Specific language will be provided to awardees.

For more information, please contact:

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