

FY2027 Request for Applications

Pilot/Feasibility Program

Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education

The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention, and Education (SW Ag Center) supports the Pilot/Feasibility Program (PFP) to promote health and safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AgFF) occupations. The goals of this program are to:

1. Identify and mentor new or junior researchers to conduct innovative research, intervention, and translation projects in AgFF worker safety and health.
2. Support projects that provide data for innovative approaches to improve AgFF occupational safety and health that justify further research.
3. Promote mentoring relationships between junior and established scientists to build capacity for AgFF occupational safety and health careers.

The SW Ag Center (U54OH007541) is one of twelve Centers currently funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The SW Ag Center serves U.S. Public Health Service Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. [Learn more about NIOSH Agricultural Centers.](#)

Eligibility

- Junior investigators interested in gaining research experience in AgFF occupational safety or health.
- Graduate students, medical residents and interns, or postdoctoral fellows.
- Faculty members of any rank who are interested in exploring an AgFF research question.
- Applications from student investigators and other scientists new to the field of agricultural occupational safety and health are strongly encouraged.
- Team science approaches are encouraged.

Programmatic Interest

PFP projects should have a well-defined, narrow scope with achievable goals. NIOSH has established priority areas for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing. [Review the NIOSH AgFF research portfolio.](#)

- Conducting research to understand and decrease exposure to hazards that cause disease and injury in AgFF industries.
- Developing and evaluating control measures and technologies to protect workers.
- Producing educational, outreach, and prevention programs to guide workers and employers.

NIOSH has also established strategic goals concerning health and safety issues facing the U.S. workforce. [Review the NIOSH Strategic Plan.](#)

- Reduce occupational cancer, cardiovascular disease, adverse reproductive outcomes, and other chronic diseases.
- Reduce occupational hearing loss.

- Reduce occupational immune, infectious, and dermal disease.
- Reduce occupational musculoskeletal disorders.
- Reduce occupational respiratory disease.
- Improve workplace safety to reduce traumatic injuries.
- Promote safe and healthy work design and well-being.

Other topics related to improving the safety and health of AgFF workers will also be considered.

Key Dates

Item	Details
Application deadline	July 15, 2026
Notice of award	September 1, 2026
Anticipated start date	October 1, 2026
Number of awards	Up to 2
Duration of award	12 months
Award amount	Up to \$25,000

Award Information

- Funds are awarded considering the scientific merit of the proposal and fit with the SW Ag Center mission and priority areas.
- The project period is for a maximum twelve-month period.
- Awards will be up to \$25,000, inclusive of direct and indirect costs.
- Equipment purchased for the project vests to the institution sponsoring the project.
- Supplemental publication support is available through the SW Ag Center for accepted manuscripts, contingent upon the availability of funds. Do not include publication costs in the proposal budget.
- Principal investigators will receive review comments and a funding decision by September 1, 2026.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs may be included in the total amount requested. The total project budget may not exceed \$25,000. Include documentation of your institution's indirect cost rate agreement. A 15% de minimis rate for indirect costs may be included by non-profit organizations that have never held an indirect cost rate agreement. If your institution elects to allow a lower indirect rate than the negotiated rate, include a letter stating this with your application.

Expectations of Applicants

- Documentation of IRB approval, animal protections approval, or both must be provided within 45 days of award, as applicable.
- Successful applicants will provide a written progress report six months after the project start date.
- A final status report will be due 60 days after the project end date.
- The final financial status report, or invoice, will be due 60 days after the end of the approved project budget period.

- Investigators will be required to present their project at the Southwest Centers Occupational Health Research Symposium held annually in July.
- The investigator must acknowledge support from the NIOSH SW Ag Center in all publications and presentations resulting from the award. Language will be provided in the award letter.
- One year after the project end date, the principal investigator will complete a report documenting grant and manuscript submissions using project data.
- Progress of awardees will be tracked for 3 years.

Final Status Report Requirements

- Findings or results in the form of a manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication.
- List of planned grant applications based on pilot study data.
- List of manuscripts based on pilot study data and journals to receive manuscripts.

Contact

Contact Kevin Moore, PhD, at kevin.moore@okstate.edu or 405-744-8423 to indicate your intent to submit an application or ask questions related to the application. For additional information, visit [the SW Ag Center website](#).

Application Instructions

Application requirements are based on those of an NIH research project. The following website may be helpful as you prepare your application: [NIH guidance on writing an application](#).

Required Application Materials

1. **Detailed budget for funding period:** Use the separate R&R Budget form. Awards will be up to \$25,000, inclusive of direct and indirect costs.
2. **Budget justification:** Describe each item of the proposed budget and its relevance to the proposed research. Limit: two pages. Include time and effort percentages for each person listed on the grant.
3. **Biosketches:** Provide a biographical sketch for the principal investigator and key personnel following the NIH format. [NIH biosketch format](#).
4. **Specific Aims:** Limit: one page. Applicants may find the Monte and Libby paper helpful when preparing the Specific Aims section. [Monte and Libby Specific Aims paper](#).
5. **Research Strategy:** Limit: five pages. The review panel will evaluate significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment.
6. **Bibliography and References Cited:** Include sources cited in the application.

Research Strategy Review Criteria

Criterion	Guiding question
Significance	Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?
Investigator(s)	Are the principal investigators, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project?
Innovation	Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
Approach	Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims?
Environment	Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?

Additional Documents

Mentoring Plan

Limit: one-half page. Describe how the mentor will work with the principal investigator to facilitate development of research skills, manuscripts or reports, and additional related grant applications. Contact the SW Ag Center if assistance identifying a mentor is needed.

- Appropriateness of mentor's research qualifications in the area of this application.

- Quality and extent of the mentor's role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate.
- Previous experience fostering the development of junior researchers.
- History of productivity and support.
- Adequacy of support for the research project.

Mentor Letter of Support

- Mentor qualifications in the research area proposed by the candidate.
- Previous experience as a research supervisor.
- Nature and extent of supervision that will occur during the award period.
- An evaluation component describing how mentors will assess progress, such as quarterly meetings.
- Resources the mentor will make available in support of training and/or research.

Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals

If applicable, provide a discussion of how human subjects, vertebrate animals, or both will be addressed in the project. An approved IRB or IACUC plan is not required with the application, but must be provided within 45 days of award.

Other Letters of Support

Include other letters of support, if applicable.

Formatting Requirements

- Use 11-point or larger font.
- Use Arial or Times New Roman.
- Use page margins of at least one-half inch.

Submission Process

Submit the completed application electronically in PDF format to kevin.moore@okstate.edu. Confirmation of receipt will be emailed to the applicant.

Accessibility Features in This Version

- Uses built-in heading styles for screen reader navigation.
- Uses simple tables with header rows for key dates and review criteria.
- Uses descriptive hyperlink text instead of bare URLs.
- Uses readable 11-point Arial text with sufficient spacing and margins.
- Uses plain language alternatives for abbreviations at first use where feasible.
- Removes decorative images from the main content to reduce screen reader burden.