

CPWR SMALL STUDY PROGRAM FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training (cpwr.com) is a non-profit research, development, service and training institution focused on improving construction worker safety and health. Since 1990, CPWR has partnered with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to reduce construction worker injuries, illness, and fatalities, including by serving as the NIOSH-funded National Construction Research Center.

The Small Study Program is a key element of CPWR's collaboration with NIOSH to improve construction worker safety and health. As part of its work, CPWR supports research that identifies causes of and solutions for persistent and emerging hazards construction workers face. A list of previous projects is available at www.cpwr.com/smallstudy.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM NOTE

Because of the uncertainty of funding from NIOSH this year, we have modified the program guidelines. Key changes include:

- **Applicants must submit a letter of intent due by September 22nd, for an 8-month project.**
- **Researchers will be notified if their projects are of interest by October 3; if so, they will need to submit a full proposal by November 1.**
- **Projects, including a final report, must be complete by August 31, 2026.**

More detail on the application process is available in the [Small Study Program Guidelines](#). For questions, contact Patricia Quinn, pquinn@cpwr.com.

AREAS OF INTEREST

The program is most interested in research that:

- Investigates and assesses the potential risks from emerging hazards and changes taking place in the construction industry.
- Explores new approaches for addressing persistent hazards.
- Creates and tests promising methods and interventions to improve construction worker health and safety.
- Uses secondary data to identify and track workplace injuries and illnesses, as well as hazards and exposures construction workers experience. Data must already be accessible to the research team and work cannot duplicate existing [CPWR Data Center](#) published resources.

Note: Research on emerging technologies, including AI, VR, and machine learning, is not a current priority.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GOALS

We prioritize funding for initiatives that:

- **Reach high-risk groups**, including small employers (those with 19 or fewer employees) and those in residential and light commercial construction.
- **Apply actionable interventions** that can be immediately applied on the job.
- **Engage stakeholders** through partnerships to identify and overcome barriers to adopting good practices.
- **Translate research into practice** and ensure widespread dissemination.
- **Promote proven safety practices** to small employers for immediate impact.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Investigators with an interest in improving construction worker health and safety from a wide range of disciplines (public health, applied computer sciences, communication sciences, construction management, consumer marketing, economics, engineering, psychology, and work organization) should apply.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Submit a Letter of Intent (LoI)

Deadline	The letter must be received at CPWR by COB September 22, 2025.
Length of LoI	No more than four (4) pages.
Required Elements	<p>Applicant Organization's Legal Name, Employer Identification Number, and DUNS Number</p> <p>PI's legal name, credentials, and contact information (address, phone, and email)</p> <p>Study title</p> <p>Statement of the health or safety problem the proposed study will address and address at least one of the NIOSH Strategic Goals, National Occupational Research Agenda for Construction objectives, or the 2018 NIOSH Construction Program Expert Panel Review recommendations.</p> <p>Summary of the proposed study—including aims and objectives, methods, research/design, human subject plans, and selected references showing how this study contributes to knowledge in the field.</p> <p>An 8-month timeline (January 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026) and budget estimate (not to exceed \$30,000)</p> <p>Questions to consider when preparing the LOI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the expected outcomes/products?• How will the outcomes be measured?• What does the investigator expect to find? What might be next?• What partnerships and plans will help obtain access to workers/worksites?• What is the dissemination plan?
Submission	Due September 22, 2025. Submit LOI to Patricia Quinn, CPWR, pquinn@cpwr.com

If the Letter of Intent is selected, the investigator will be notified by October 3, 2025, of the opportunity to submit a full PHS 398, as well as instructions for doing so. The full proposal will be due November 1, 2025. These are firm deadlines.

For questions, refer to [CPWR's Small Study webpage](#) or email pquinn@cpwr.com.



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