

NIOSH Priority Research Impact Topics for Construction Safety and Health

Background

The most recent February 2009 Request for Applications (RFA) for the National Construction Center included an objective to provide national leadership and coordination on research-to-practice (r2p) to effectively transfer research findings to construction stakeholders. The RFA described r2p objectives including: (a) translating research recommendations and outputs for use by consensus organizations, regulatory agencies, professional associations, and construction employers, unions, and workers; (b) facilitating the adoption of or hastening the transfer of research recommendations and outputs, technologies, or information into practice or to worksites; and (c) expanding the body of knowledge of r2p in the construction sector. The RFA did not provide additional direction for broader r2p activities that can be considered critical to emerging concepts about meaningful dissemination and marketing of research outputs. This notice announces NIOSH's interest in r2p dissemination, distribution channels, marketing, coordination strategies, and other activities not specifically identified in the previous RFA.

Research Impact Objective and Priority Topics

The primary objective is to ensure that evidence-based research results are marketed to, disseminated to, and implemented by influential intermediate construction organizations and end-users such as construction companies, labor unions, and organizations offering training to construction workers. To engage stakeholders and the extramural research community in helping to meet this objective NIOSH has identified the following priority research impact topics for consideration:

Strategic Research Impact Review

Develop baseline strategies for dissemination of all research project outputs given that earlier NIOSH-funded research projects were designed to contain an r2p element. Develop triage questions and a triage process (e.g., guidance document) for identifying and prioritizing those research projects with impact potential or construction audience interest that merit additional strategic follow-up.

Disseminate and Promote Research-Tested Interventions

Develop strategic dissemination and marketing plans for those research outputs meriting follow-up per triage described above. This includes development of tangible packaged information products targeted to meet the needs of intermediate and final construction users. It could include audience research and additional evaluation and improvement of attributes such as feasibility, cost, ease of use and other dimensions critical to adoption, usability and uptake. It includes information packaging using graphics relevant to the intended audience and strategic promotion using marketing plans based on communication science.

Build Distribution and Support Capacity

Develop and/or expand systems, channels (e.g., web portals, online databases and repositories), inventories, and partnerships to support enhanced dissemination and transfer of information products. This includes providing support and assistance to organizations and others using interventions, and providing support of dedicated partnerships (e.g., intermediate customers) to develop and implement new interventions in response to emerging issues and hazards.

Establish Evaluation Measures and Processes

Measure, evaluate, and enhance all steps in the marketing and dissemination process in a continuous cycle of improvement. Routinely collect and report evidence of all efforts.

Coordinate with Existing Construction Research Programs

The primary focus of these r2p activities is to support and expand existing r2p activities in the area of construction safety and health. A secondary objective is to support coordination and the development of mechanisms and options for collaboration among other NIOSH intramural and extramurally-funded projects.

As with all areas of occupational safety and health, NIOSH is open to receiving applications for efforts that target these priority research impact topics in construction and that will support and expand r2p activities for the benefit and protection of construction workers. Applications for research funding can be submitted through existing NIOSH funding opportunity announcements (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/funding.html#res>). Existing awardees in the construction area (for example, awardees under [RFA-OH-09-001](#)) can consider submitting revised applications.

For additional information contact:

Steve Inserra
Scientific Program Official
Office of Extramural Programs/NIOSH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS E-74
Atlanta, GA 30333
Telephone: (404) 498-2530
Fax: (404) 498-2571
E-mail: SInserra@cdc.gov