

***Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Defense Vision Research Program (VRP)  
Reference Table of Award Mechanisms and Submission Requirements***

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p><b>Clinical Trial Award (CTA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p><b>HT9425-23-VRP-CTA</b></p>	<p>Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Pre-application submission is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></b></li> <li>• Supports the rapid implementation of early-phase clinical trials (i.e., phase 0 through phase 2a) of new interventions to service-connected eye injury and visual dysfunction.</li> <li>• Research must address one or more of the FY23 VRP Focus Areas.</li> <li>• If the intervention requires Investigational New Drug (IND) or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Documentation of IND/IDE application submission is required at the time of full application submission.</li> <li>○ Documentation of IND/IDE approval is required by March 1, 2024, in order for the FY23 VRP CTA application to be considered for funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must demonstrate access to the proposed intervention(s).</li> <li>• Must demonstrate access to the targeted subject population(s).</li> <li>• Preliminary data are required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is <b>\$1,600,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs).</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>3</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 14, 2023 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 8, 2023 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p><b>Focused Translational Team Science Award (FTTSA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p><b>HT9425-23-VRP-FTTSA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overall lead Principal Investigator (PI) must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent) with demonstrated success in leading large collaborative research project(s).</li> <li>• The overall lead PI must devote a minimum of 20% effort.</li> <li>• Leaders of individual projects may be independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent).</li> <li>• Each project leader, including the overall lead PI, may lead no more than one project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></b></li> <li>• Supports a team initiative that leverages the strengths of investigators specializing in different fields to address an overarching scientific challenge or question and fundamentally advance the understanding and treatment of military-relevant vision trauma/dysfunction.</li> <li>• Research must address one or more of the FY23 VRP Focus Areas.</li> <li>• <b>Overarching Challenge</b> Investigators are encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider barrier(s) to and/or gap(s) in the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, and/or treatment of eye injury or visual dysfunction associated with military exposure and envision what may be achievable in 10 to 15 years.</li> <li>○ Identify, based on the long-term expectation, what should and can be achieved in the short term.</li> <li>○ Design projects and research teams around these considerations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Research Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The proposal shall include at least three (3) but no more than five (5) distinct research projects that together form a concerted and synergistic effort that advances a solution beyond what would be possible through individual efforts.</li> <li>○ Preliminary data to support the feasibility of each project are required.</li> <li>○ May include a pilot clinical trial component that collects preliminary data to inform the feasibility, rationale, and design of subsequent clinical trials.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must have a detailed <b>Implementation Plan</b> for participating research groups to coordinate efforts, facilitate collaborations, and create synergy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is <b>\$4,000,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs).</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>4</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 14, 2023 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 8, 2023 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

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<p><b>Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p><b>HT9425-23-VRP-IIRA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></li> <li>• Supports studies that will yield highly impactful discoveries or major advancements in research and/or patient care.</li> <li>• Research must address one or more of the FY23 VRP Focus Areas.</li> <li>• <b>Funding Level 1</b> supports exploratory, high-risk/high-reward research in the earliest stages of development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research must have the potential to yield new avenues of investigation, such as new approaches, new research tools, or new paradigms.</li> <li>○ While preliminary data are not required, applicants must provide solid rationale of the research idea.</li> <li>○ The investigating team must have sufficient expertise to test the idea.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Funding Level 2</b> supports the advancement of more mature research that has the potential to make significant advancements toward clinical translation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preliminary data supporting the readiness and feasibility of the proposed research are required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PI is responsible for selecting the funding level that is most appropriate for the research proposed. The funding level should be selected based on the stage of the research project, rather than the amount of the budget.</li> <li>• Clinical trials are not allowed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding Level 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is <b>\$260,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs).</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is 2 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Level 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is <b>\$750,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs).</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is 3 years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 14, 2023 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 8, 2023 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

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<p><b>Translational Research Award (TRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p><b>HT9425-23-VRP-TRA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></li> <li>• Supports translational research that moves promising laboratory research into clinical applications.</li> <li>• Research must address one or more of the FY23 VRP Focus Areas.</li> <li>• It is expected that an IND or IDE application will be submitted during or by the end of the period of performance.</li> <li>• Preliminary data are required.</li> <li>• May include, as a portion of the proposed research, a pilot clinical trial component that collects preliminary data to inform the feasibility, rationale, and design of subsequent clinical trials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is <b>\$1,000,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs).</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>3</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 14, 2023 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 8, 2023 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p><i>New for FY23:</i></p> <p><b>Mentored Clinical Research Award (MCRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Announcement</li> <li>General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p><b>HT9425-23-VRP-MCRA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PI must be an established clinician or Ph.D. clinical scientist.</li> <li>Mentee must be a physician in training, and at the award start date, have at least 18 months remaining in their training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Submission of a <i>Letter of Intent (LOI)</i> is required prior to full application submission.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions.</li> <li>An invitation to submit a full application is <b>NOT</b> provided after LOI submission and applicants are <b>NOT</b> required to have such an invitation in order to proceed to submitting a full application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Supports clinical research (e.g., research conducted with human subjects or samples, data of human origin) by a physician-in-training under an established mentor.</li> <li>The proposed clinical research can be a stand-alone study of high impact to vision injury care or the collection of clinical research data in preparation for a more expansive study.</li> <li><b>Evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission is required at the time of the application submission.</b></li> <li><b>IRB approval is required by December 1, 2023, for an MCRA application to be considered for funding.</b></li> <li>The award may be used to cover costs of labs/supplies/small equipment and/or to provide salary support for supportive personnel, but not salary support for the PI or the physician mentee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum funding of <b>\$75,000</b> for total costs (direct plus indirect costs)</li> <li>The maximum period of performance is <b>18 months.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Preapplication (<i>Letter of Intent</i>):</b> August 8, 2023 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> August 23, 2023 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>