

I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)

Deployed Warfighter Protection (DWFP) Program for the Protection of Deployed Military Personnel from Threats Posed by Arthropod Disease Vectors

Deployed Warfighter Protection Program Award

Funding Opportunity Number: AFPMB-BAA-25-01

Announcement Type: Initial

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES:

- **Solicitation Release:** NLT 26 August 2024
- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), 4 October 2024
- **Invitations to Submit Full Applications:** NLT 22 November 2024
- **Full Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, 28 January 2025
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, 4 February 2025
- **Peer Review:** February-May 2025
- **Revised Application Submissions & Re-reviews (if applicable):** March-May 2025
- **Programmatic Review:** May-June 2025

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the DWFP General Application Instructions, version 001. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading at from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the “Package” tab, clicking “Preview,” and then selecting “Download Instructions.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------|--|----------|
| I. | OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY | 1 |
| II. | DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY..... | 3 |
| II.A. | Program Description | 3 |
| II.B. | Award Information | 5 |
| II.C. | Eligibility Information | 6 |
| II.D. | Application and Submission Information | 8 |
| II.D.1. | Location of Application Package | 8 |
| II.D.2. | Content and Form of the Application Submission..... | 10 |
| II.D.3. | Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) | 23 |
| II.D.4. | Submission Dates and Times | 23 |
| II.D.5. | Funding Restrictions | 24 |
| II.D.6. | Other Submission Requirements..... | 24 |
| II.E. | Application Review Information | 24 |
| II.E.1. | Criteria | 24 |
| II.E.2. | Application Review and Selection Process..... | 28 |
| II.E.3. | Integrity and Performance Information..... | 29 |
| II.E.4. | Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates..... | 29 |
| II.F. | Federal Award Administration Information | 29 |
| II.F.1. | Federal Award Notices | 29 |
| II.F.2. | Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... | 30 |
| II.F.3. | Reporting | 31 |
| II.G. | Federal Awarding Agency Contacts | 31 |
| II.G.1. | eBRAP Help Desk | 31 |
| II.G.2. | Grants.gov Contact Center..... | 31 |
| II.H. | Other Information | 32 |
| II.H.1. | Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions | 32 |
| II.H.2. | Administrative Actions | 32 |
| II.H.3. | Application Submission Checklist..... | 34 |
| | APPENDIX 1: DOD RDT&E Budget Activities and Technology Readiness Levels..... | 36 |
| | APPENDIX 2: ACRONYM LIST | 38 |

II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Deployed Warfighter Protection (DWFP) Program are being solicited by the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood Contracting Division, Fort Detrick (ACC-APG Edgewood) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the DWFP Program at the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB).

The DWFP Program's mission is to protect deployed military personnel from arthropod vectors of medically relevant disease pathogens, including (but not limited to) arthropod disease vectors of mosquito-borne arboviruses and tick-borne pathogens, and nuisance biting arthropods. The DWFP Program seeks to fund original and innovative research that supports the Advanced Technology Development of new insecticides, or improved formulations of existing insecticides for vector control, new technology or enhanced modalities of personal protection from biting arthropods, or improved efficacy and sustainability of equipment for application of pesticides.

II.A.1. FY25 DWFP Research Areas

To meet the intent of the FY25 DWFP Program Research Award, applications ***must address at least one*** of the five FY25 DWFP Program Research Areas listed below. Bulleted items are provided to indicate additional context regarding programmatic intent but not required to be specifically addressed by applications. Applications consisting solely or primarily of basic research activities may be administratively withdrawn. Selection of the appropriate FY25 DWFP Program Research Area is the responsibility of the applicant.

- 1. Bite Prevention (DWFP-1):** Research will address knowledge gaps in new personal protection tools that prevent contact with medically relevant arthropods.
- 2. Vector Control (DWFP-2):** Research will address new insecticide application techniques, new toxicants or the adaptation of existing toxicants to medically relevant arthropods.
- 3. Decision Support Tools or Software Applications (DWFP-3):** Research will address new tools or software applications that support data-driven decisions (e.g. predictive modeling) for improved arthropod vector surveillance and control strategies, including outbreak responses.
- 4. Vector surveillance and identification (DWFP-4):** Research will address new arthropod vector surveillance tools and technologies that focus on improved vector control outcomes.
- 5. Vector pathogen diagnostics (DWFP-5):** Research will address new vector pathogen diagnostic tools and technologies that focus on rapid detection of multiple arthropod-borne pathogens in a

single assay.

The proposed research **should** include:

- Support for the Advanced Technology Development of new insecticides, or improved formulations of existing insecticides for vector control, new technology or enhanced modalities of personal protection from biting arthropods, or improved efficacy and sustainability of equipment for application of pesticides (for more information, see “Budget Activity 3” in the DOD Financial Management Regulation Volume 2B, Chapter 5 at <https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/fmr/archive/02barch/CHAPTER05.PDF>).
- Product-oriented research, consisting of advanced research related to a particular technology or new capability, field evaluation of products, or research directed towards the development of an existing prototype product for commercialization.
- Semi-field and/or field evaluation of prototype products.
- Research outcomes that are relevant for both military and civilian uses.
- Research outcomes that are designed for operation in the relevant military environment, to include austere military operational environments with limited logistical support as applicable.
- A focus on multiple target arthropod genera and/or species.
- A strategy for subsequent registration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as applicable for end use products releasing a pesticide(s).

The proposed research **may** include:

- Entomological testing of pesticide product performance in accordance with EPA Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) guidelines in anticipation of pesticide product registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 USC 136). Please see the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/> for more information.
- Research Involving Animals. Awards funded by the DOD require a first tier review by your local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) **and** a second tier review and written authorization from the Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO) in the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) prior to beginning research involving animals. Therefore, applications must address all pertinent issues relating to the use of animals in the proposed work effort. An animal protocol submission to ACURO must include all required assurances, approvals, forms and description in the proposal addenda entitled “Research Involving Animals,” as specified on the ACURO website: https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/acuro. Written approval from ACURO to proceed is also required for any subawardee that will use funds from an award to conduct research involving animals. Full applications may be submitted without protocols for research involving animals; however, protocols and required institution approvals must be submitted not later than 60 days after award to ensure continuation of payments. Exceptions may be granted in situations where animal use is not expected to occur until after the first year of the project. In such cases, a time frame for submission of the appropriate protocols should be established during award negotiations.
- Research Involving Humans. For any research involving the use of human subjects, to include research involving the use of human biospecimens and/or human data (including household

questionnaires), awards funded by the DOD require a first tier review by your local Institutional Review Board(s) (IRB) **and** a second tier review by the USAMRDC's Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO). A human protocol submission to OHRO must include all requisite approvals, forms and information requested on the USAMRDC's Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO) website (https://mrdc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/hrpo) in order to obtain written approval from OHRO to proceed with research. Written approval to proceed from the USAMRDC OHRO is **also required for any subawardees and collaborators** that will use funds from an award to conduct research involving human subjects, human biospecimens, and/or human data. Full applications may be submitted without protocols for research involving humans; however, protocols and required institution approvals must be submitted not later than 60 days after award to ensure continuation of payments. Exceptions may be granted in situations where research involving the use of human subjects is not expected to occur until after the first year of the project. In such cases, a time frame for submission of the appropriate protocols should be established during award negotiations.

The proposed research may **not** include:

- Fundamental basic research.
- Vector pathogen research.
- Clinical, diagnostic, therapeutic or vaccine research in humans, to include clinical trials.
- Testing to measure acute oral, dermal and/or inhalation toxicity.
- Costs paid to EPA for the registration of pesticide products.
- Testing and evaluation of products previously registered with the EPA, unless they are being developed for a new use.
- Testing and evaluation of commercial products, unless they are included in the testing of prototype products.
- Manufacturing, packaging and production costs.

II.B. Award Information

This announcement is intended to solicit pre-proposals for those parts of development not related to a specific system or hardware procurement in accordance with Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 CFR. The purpose of this announcement is to identify the best available science, and as such, there are no set-asides associated with any awards resulting from this announcement. Specific areas of interest are described in the DWFP Research Areas. This Announcement provides a general description of project areas, including specific areas of interest, general information, evaluation and selection criteria, and application preparation instructions. All documentation and or attachments that are required with the submission of a full application, if requested, are described in Section II.D.2 of this announcement. Extramural awards are typically made under grants; however, other funding mechanisms may be considered.

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Consistent with statutory authority, funds may be awarded by ACC-APG Edgewood to stimulate or support a public purpose consistent with the broad AFPMB objectives. These efforts should be

intended for scientific study and experimentation directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art or increasing knowledge or understanding, rather than focusing on a specific system or product. By submitting a proposal and accepting an award, the recipient organization is certifying that the Principal Investigator and other investigators' credentials have been examined and verified to ensure that the investigators are qualified to conduct the proposed study, and if applicable, to use humans or animals as research subjects in accordance with all federal and institutional guidelines and regulations. A Cooperative Agreement is used to enter into the same kind of relationship as a grant, except that substantial involvement is expected between the DOD and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement. The term "Cooperative Agreement" does not include "Cooperative Research and Development Agreements" as defined in 15 USC 3710a.

No fee or profit is allowed on Grants or Cooperative Agreements awarded by the Department of Defense. ACC-APG Edgewood provides contracting support to the DWFP Research Program. Offerors may identify the type of instrument that they feel best suits the proposed effort. An Offeror's suggestion regarding suitable type of instrument does not obligate the government to employ the suggested instrument type.

Awards may not be used to support fundamental basic research. For this announcement, basic research is defined as research directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications toward process or products in mind.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: All organizations, including foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and international organizations, are eligible to apply.

To protect the public interest, the Federal Government ensures the integrity of Federal programs by only conducting business with responsible recipients. ACC-APG Edgewood uses the System for Award Management (SAM) to exclude recipients ineligible to receive federal awards. Grant funds are generally awarded via cost-reimbursement or periodic scheduled payments, in accordance with the negotiated payment schedule included in the award document. Funding may be provided incrementally during the life of the award. Under cost-reimbursement type awards, payments are made in response to monthly vouchers or invoices submitted by the awardee.

Recipient organizations should meet certain minimum standards pertaining to institutional support, financial resources, prior record of performance, integrity, organization, experience, operational controls, facilities and conformance with safety and environmental statutes and regulations in accordance with Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 CFR. Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites in order to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

Investigators are cautioned that awards are made to organizations, not individuals. A Project Investigator (PI) must submit a proposal through, and be employed by, an organization in order to

receive support. Should the PI of a funded project leave the recipient institution, both the PI and institution must contact the ACC-APG Edgewood Contracting/Grants Officer as soon as possible to discuss options for continued support of the project. Every effort should be made to notify ACC-APG Edgewood prior to the PI leaving the institution.

Organizations located outside of the U.S. may submit in response to the BAA; however, it is the organizations' responsibility to ensure that project staff are able to complete the work without intercession by the DOD for a J-1 Visa Waiver on behalf of a foreign national in the United States. In addition, the U.S. Government will not provide funds to support scientists from countries which support Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) as defined by the U.S. Department of State.

The primary basis for the selection of applications is based upon evaluation of technical merit, programmatic relevance, and the availability of funds. Detailed information on application evaluation and selection is located in Section II.E below.

Government Agencies Within the United States: Local, state, and federal government agencies are eligible to the extent that applications do not overlap with their fully funded internal programs. Such agencies are required to explain how their applications do not overlap with their internal programs. As applications for this program announcement may be submitted by extramural and intramural organizations, these terms are defined below.

Extramural Organization: An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD, and research institutes.

Intramural DOD Organization: A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. ***Intramural Submission: An application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or other DOD activity.***

ACC-APG Edgewood makes awards to eligible organizations, not to individuals.

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

Independent investigators at all academic/career levels (or equivalent) may be named by organizations as the PI on the application. ***Postdoctoral fellows are not considered independent investigators unless documentation is provided by the applicant's organization.***

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with an eligible organization.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Conflict of Interest

There are certain post-employment restrictions on former Federal officers and employees as defined in 18 USC 207 and FAR 3.104-4(c). If a submitter believes a post-employment restriction or conflict of interest exists, the situation should be discussed with the ACC-APG Edgewood legal staff prior to expending time and effort in preparation of a proposal. Contact can be made through the general mailbox email address.

Disclosure of Information Outside The Government

Proposals may be disclosed outside of the U.S. Government to subject matter experts for the sole purpose of technical and programmatic evaluation. The AFPMB obtains a written agreement from the evaluators that information in the proposal will only be used for evaluation purposes and will not be further disclosed. Proposals for funded projects will be subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act to the extent that they are incorporated into an award document; proposals that are not selected for funding will not be subject to public release.

U.S. Government Obligation

Only a warranted Grants or Agreements Officer may obligate the U.S. Government to the expenditure of funds for awards under this announcement. The U.S. Government does not fund preparation of proposals or support work efforts or tasks that are inferred from discussions with technical project officers.

Information Service

Submitters may use the technical reference facilities of the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) to acquire information of U.S. Government funded projects to avoid duplication of scientific and engineering effort. DTIC is responsible for collecting all scientific or technological observations, findings, recommendations, and results derived from DOD endeavors. Requests for eligibility and registration information should be addressed to DTIC-BC Registration, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-6218, or may be obtained at <https://discover.dtic.mil/>.

II.D. Application and Submission Information

II.D.1. Location of Application Package

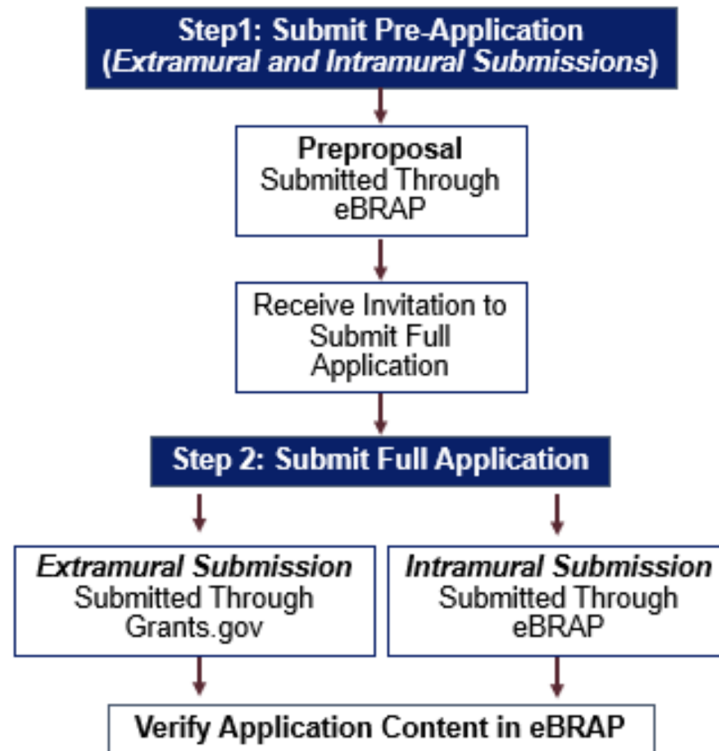
Submission is a two-step process requiring both a ***pre-application*** submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP.org) and a ***full application*** submitted via eBRAP.org (intramural submissions) or Grants.gov (extramural submissions).

DWFP uses two portal systems to accept pre-application and full application submissions.

The electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://ebrap.org>) is a secure web-based system that allows extramural PIs to submit their pre-applications, view and verify extramural full applications submitted to Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov>), receive communications from the DWFP Program, and submit documentation during award negotiations and throughout the period of performance. eBRAP also allows intramural

organizations to submit full applications following pre-application submission.

Grants.gov is a federal system required to be utilized by agencies to receive and process extramural grant applications. Full applications may only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.



Extramural Submission: An application submitted by an extramural organization for an extramural or intramural PI working within an extramural or intramural organization. For example, a research foundation submitting an application for a DOD employee working within a DOD organization would be considered an extramural submission and should follow instructions specific to extramural submissions. Download application package components for this funding opportunity from Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov>). Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through Grants.gov.

Intramural Submission: An application submitted by an intramural DOD organization for an investigator employed by that organization. Intramural DOD organizations must submit full applications to eBRAP. Download application package components for this funding opportunity from eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org>).

Note: *Applications from an intramural DOD organization submitting through a research foundation, or from an extramural federal government organization, may be submitted to Grants.gov.*

The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission type or portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated on the first page of this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. *No allowances*

or exceptions are permitted for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

The application title, eBRAP log number, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization (if applicable) must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission Content

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org>). During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during the full application submission process. The eBRAP log number, application title, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

To begin the pre-application process, first select whether the submitting organization is extramural or intramural, then confirm your selection. If an error has been made in the selection of extramural versus intramural and the pre-application submission deadline has passed, the PI or Business Official must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

II.D.2.a.i. Pre-Application Components

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized into six tabs (Tab 1, Tab 2, etc.) in eBRAP:

Note: All information entered in eBRAP should be consistent with information provided in the Quad chart (see Tab 5, below).

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**

Complete the application information as shown in this Tab, to include the following:

- **Title (100-character limit, including spaces)**

Under “Application Classification”, enter the DWFP Research Area that is most appropriate to the proposed work. Refer to [FY25 DWFP Research Areas](#) for more information.

- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**

- Enter contact information for the PI. This should be consistent with the information populated on the Quad chart.
- Enter contact information for the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration. This will also be the same “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form in a full application. The Business Official must be either selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.
- Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work); the contracting organization (organization receiving the funds) will automatically be assigned as the same. If the organization you need is not listed, please add the organization in eBRAP. The organization(s) must be either selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited.
- It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that timely assistance with the pre-application submission is needed.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel**

Enter the name, organization, phone number, email address, and role of all collaborators and key personnel (including co-investigators) associated with the application.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

List all individuals *other than* collaborators and key personnel who may have a conflict of interest (COI) in the review of the application, including those with whom the PI and/or co-investigator(s) have a personal or professional relationship.

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

- (1) **Preproposal Narrative:** Complete the following data fields to describe the project. Provide responses in the appropriate data fields for the following in eBRAP. **Every data field must contain complete information.** eBRAP will truncate characters exceeding the limit specified for each data field. Enter “None” if there is no information to be included.
 - **Project Start Date:** Enter in MM/DD/YYYY format.
 - **Project End Date:** Enter in MM/DD/YYYY format. The maximum period of performance cannot exceed 36 months (3 years).
 - **Total Budget:** Enter the total costs, including indirect and direct costs. Total costs cannot exceed US \$975,000, i.e. \$325,000 per 12-month period.
 - **Problem to be Studied (4,000 character limit, including spaces):** Briefly describe the problem, question or knowledge gap that is related to the most appropriate [FY25 DWFP Research Area](#). Describe how the proposed study is innovative and represents more than an

incremental advance upon published data.

- **Theoretical Rationale, Scientific Methods and Design (4,000 character limit, including spaces):**
 - o Provide a concise description of the purpose and objectives of the study. State the specific aims, study questions and hypotheses.
 - o Describe the arthropod(s), species and strain(s) for all laboratory-reared and wild populations that will be tested.
 - o Describe the anticipated products (intellectual and/or tangible) that are being proposed.
 - o Describe any active ingredients (a.i.) and/or other chemical(s) tested or developed in your work and include the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) chemical classification based on IRAC mode of action at <http://www.irac-online.org/> for each a.i. and/or other chemicals as appropriate.
- **Significance and/or Uniqueness of the Proposed Effort (4,000 character limit, including spaces):** Describe how the anticipated research outcomes and/or products (intellectual and/or tangible) will (i) improve Force Health Protection by protecting military Service members from arthropod disease vectors, nuisance biting arthropods and/or other arthropods of medical relevance, and (ii) benefit the civilian population.
- **Military Relevance and Impact (1,500 character limit, including spaces):** Describe how the anticipated research outcomes and/or products (intellectual and/or tangible) will protect military Service members and civilians.
- **Brief Description of Research Involving Animals, Human Subjects, and/or Human Data (1,500 character limit, including spaces):** Describe how research with animals and/or human subjects are designed to achieve the study objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used. Enter “None” if there is no information to be included.
- **Plans and Strategy for Translation, Implementation, and/or Commercialization (4,000 character limit, including spaces):** Describe/discuss the methods and strategies proposed to move the intervention to the next phase of development (including EPA registration, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the award.

Upload the following documents as individual PDF files. eBRAP will not allow a file to be uploaded if it is a non-PDF file and/or the number of pages exceeds the limit specified below.

(2) Quad Chart (1-page limit): Upload as “Quad Chart.pdf”

Use the Quad Chart template (PowerPoint file) available on eBRAP and upload as a PDF file. Do not upload a PPT file.

(3) References Cited (1-page limit): Upload as “References.pdf”

List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a

standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., authors, year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate). Upload as a PDF file.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission Content

Full applications are by invitation only. Full applications will not be accepted unless a complete pre-application package has been received, processed and selected for a full application invitation. The DWFP Program cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov/>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/>) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Guidelines

Extramural organizations must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Extramural applicants must create a Grants.gov Workspace for submission, which allows the application components to be completed online and routed through the applicant organization for review prior to submission. Applicants may choose to download and save individual PDF forms rather than filling out webforms in Workspace. A compatible version of Adobe Reader **must** be used to view, complete, and submit an application package consisting of PDF forms. If more than one person is entering text into an application package, the **same version** of Adobe Reader software should be used by each person. Check the version number of the Adobe software on each user's computer to make sure the versions match. Using different versions of Adobe Reader may cause submission and/or save errors – even if each version is individually compatible with Grants.gov. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, and the “Apply For Grants” page of Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications in eBRAP may be withdrawn.

Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.

Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines

| Extramural Submissions | Intramural DOD Submissions |
|---|---|
| Application Package Location | |
| <p>Download application package components for AFPMB-BAA-25-01 from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov) and create a Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows online completion of the application components and routing of the application package through the applicant organization for review prior to submission.</p> | <p>Download application package components for AFPMB-BAA-25-01 from eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).</p> |
| Full Application Package Components | |
| <p>SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.</p> | <p>Tab 1 – Summary: Provide a summary of the application information.</p> <p>Tab 2 – Application Contacts: This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.</p> |
| Extramural Submissions | Intramural DOD Submissions |
| <p>Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachments • Research & Related Personal Data • Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) • Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form • Research & Related Budget • Research & Related Subaward Budget | <p>Tab 3 – Full Application Files: Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachments • Research & Related Personal Data • Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) • Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form • Budget <p>Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data: Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form.</p> |
| Application Package Submission | |
| <p>Create a Grants.gov Workspace. Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.</p> | <p>Submit package components to eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).</p> |

| Application Package Submission (continued) | |
|--|---|
| <p>Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package. An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the “Sign and Submit” button on the “Manage Workspace” page, under the “Forms” tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID <i>prior to</i> the application submission deadline. <i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></p> | <p>Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application: After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to “Enter Your Password Here” and press the “Submit Full Application” button.</p> <p>eBRAP will notify your Business Official by email. <i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></p> |
| Application Verification Period | |
| <p>The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form.</i></p> | <p>After eBRAP has processed the full application, the Business Official and PI(s) will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form.</i></p> <p>Your Business Official should log into eBRAP to <u>review and approve</u> prior to the application verification deadline.</p> |
| Further Information | |
| <p>Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package. After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the “Confirmation” page that is generated after submission. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.</p> | <p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.</p> |

The full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.

II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

- **Extramural Applications Only**

SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

Attachments:

Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4. For extramural applicants, attachments are uploaded to the Attachments form submitted via Grants.gov. For intramural applicants, attachments are uploaded in eBRAP.

For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Attachments will be rejected if the file names are longer than 50 characters or have incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, there are file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 megabytes (MB), and the file size for the entire full application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (12-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Background/Rationale:** Describe in detail the scientific rationale for the study and include a literature review, unpublished data and/or preliminary data that support the development of the proposed project. The background section should clearly support the choice of study variables and should explain the basis for the study questions and/or hypotheses. Establish the relevance and applicability of the proposed research and findings to the intent of the mechanism and address at least one of the five [DWFP Research Areas](#). If applicable, describe any stakeholder engagement that was performed and how it helped to formulate the hypothesis/objective and research strategy.
- **Objectives/Specific Aims/Hypothesis:** Provide a description of the purpose and objectives of the study with detailed specific aims and hypotheses. Specific aims should be independent and not depend on the successful completion of prior aims. If the proposed research project is part of a larger study, present only those tasks that this funding opportunity would fund. The aims should align with the associated tasks

described in the SOW ([Attachment 4](#)).

– **Research Strategy and Feasibility:**

- Identify and describe how the study design, methods, models, and analyses will meet the project’s goals and milestones. Describe how the proposed project is feasible and will be completed within the proposed performance period.
 - Describe how the proposed research aligns with Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 (i.e. component validation in laboratory environment), TRL 5 (i.e. component validation in laboratory environment), and/or TRL 6 (i.e. system/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment). See [Appendix 2](#) for a description of TRLs.
 - Describe the statistical model(s) and data analysis plan (i.e. how results will be analyzed) with respect to the study objectives. Include a complete power analysis (including method by which it was derived) to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study and all proposed correlative studies.
 - Address potential problem areas and pitfalls in the proposed research. Describe alternative methods and approaches to mitigate potential problem areas and pitfalls.
 - If the proposed research involves the use of animals, justify how the animal study is (or studies are) designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used. In addition, describe IACUC and ACURO review as appropriate.
 - If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, describe the population(s) of interest, access to these populations, and a viable plan for recruitment, consent, screening, and retention of appropriate subjects. If applicable, describe the degree to which data collection instruments are appropriate to the proposed research. In addition, describe ethical and OHRO review as appropriate.
 - If the research will support the development of pesticide products, describe how the data will be appropriately reported and documented to support a regulatory filing with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – and international equivalent agency as applicable. **Note: This award may not be used to fund EPA registration costs and associated pesticide testing, except entomological testing of pesticide product performance in accordance with EPA Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) guidelines.**
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf”.** Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures,

tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

There are no page limits for any of the components listed below unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

- **References Cited:** List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
- **Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
- **Publications and/or Patents:** Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
- **Letters of Organizational Support (2-page limit per letter):** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.
- **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable) (2-page limit per letter):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that demonstrates that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (1-page limit): Upload as "TechAbs.pdf".** The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly on the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) website for public viewing. ***Do not include proprietary or confidential information.*** Use only

characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. The technical abstract should provide an appropriate description of the project's key aspects; clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important. Describe the proposed research project, including the following elements:

- **Background/Rationale:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed research project, including sufficient scientific evidence to support the proposed stage of research.
- **Objective/Hypothesis:** State the objective(s) to be reached or the hypothesis(es) to be tested.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the proposed research project.
- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the experimental design, including model system(s) and appropriate controls.
- **Impact:** Describe how the proposed research outcome represents a novel approach that will significantly impact at least one of the five [DWFP Research Areas](#) and, if successful, how the anticipated research outcomes and/or products (intellectual and/or tangible) will not only improve Force Health Protection by protecting military Service members from arthropod disease vectors and/or nuisance biting arthropods, but also benefit the civilian population.
- **Attachment 4: Statement of Work (5-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>).

Refer to the “*Suggested SOW Strategy Generic Research*” and use the blank SOW format titled “Suggested SOW Format”. The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

The SOW should state the specific aims described in the Project Narrative and include a list of major tasks and subtasks that support the completion of the stated aims, including milestones for completing the aims during the period of performance. The SOW should describe only the work for which funding is being requested by this application.

- **Attachment 5: Study Personnel and Organization (1-page limit): Upload as “Personnel.pdf”.**
 - Discuss the qualifications and experience/expertise of the research team and each individual's specific contributions to the project, including how the appropriate experience is incorporated to address the research question and enable the success of the proposed project.

- Clearly state if key personnel are not receiving salary from the award. If applicable, provide assurances that the unpaid personnel will contribute the required level of effort to complete the project.
 - Describe the PI's record of accomplishment and their ability to lead the research team to accomplish the proposed research project. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this project.
 - If applicable, describe how the study team composition is able to provide military-relevant subject matter expertise to the proposed research.
 - For intramural applicants only: If applicable, describe a research continuation plan for active duty military PIs who might receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders during the project and how it will be transitioned to a new PI.
- **Attachment 6: Transition Plan (3-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf"**. Describe/discuss the methods and strategies proposed to move the intervention to the next phase of development (including EPA registration, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the award. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan. PIs are encouraged to explore developing relationships with industry and/or other funding agencies to facilitate moving the product into the next phase of development. The transition plan should include the components listed below.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity Regulatory Agency refers to the EPA or other relevant international regulatory agency unless otherwise noted.

- Details of the funding strategy to transition to the next level of development and/or commercialization (e.g., specific industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be applied for). Include a description of collaborations, specific industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be applied for, and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development after the proposed research ends.
- For knowledge products, a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development, including proposed development or modification of vector control guidelines and recommendations, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and software applications. (A "knowledge product" is a non-materiel product that addresses an identified need, topic area, or capability gap; is based on current evidence and research; aims to transition into training, or tools or to support materiel solutions [systems to develop, acquire, provide, and sustain entomological solutions and capabilities].) For knowledge products, include proposed development or modification of vector control guidelines and recommendations, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and applications.
- A brief schedule and milestones for transitioning the intervention after the proposed research ends, including an EPA registration strategy (or documentation and/or relevant policy citations that the product is exempt from EPA regulation), commercialization, delivery to military and civilian users, etc.

- A risk analysis (including anticipated issues) for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.
- **Attachment 7 (extramural submissions only) (if applicable): Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf”**. If a military facility (DOD research laboratory or other DOD agency) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using “**Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form**”, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>), **including a budget justification**, for each military facility. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681[a] et seq.), the DOD is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must also include the following forms completed as indicated.

Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4. For intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- PI Biographical Sketch (6-page limit): Upload as “**Biosketch_LastName.pdf**”. The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The NIH Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in uneditable PDF format.
- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “**Support_LastName.pdf**”.
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (6-page limit each): Upload as “**Biosketch_LastName.pdf**”.

- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “**Support_LastName.pdf**”.
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Applications Only**

Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

Budget Justification (no page limit) (extramural submissions only): Upload as “**BudgetJustification.pdf**”. The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1. At the top of the Budget Justification, include an estimated total budget (direct + indirect costs) for the proposed research broken out by the U.S. Government fiscal year (October 1 to September 30).

Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Subaward**: Complete the **Research & Related Subaward Budget Form** through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s)**: Complete the “**Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form**” and upload to Grants.gov **Attachment form** as Attachment 7. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) The Intramural DOD Collaborator costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Attach a budget justification.

- **Intramural Applications Only**

- **Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form**: Complete this form for the applicant organization budget to show all direct and indirect costs in eBRAP. Also

complete this form for all collaborators (intramural and extramural) to show all direct and indirect costs in eBRAP. Attach a budget justification for the applicant organization and all collaborators. The form is available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page [<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>]. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.)

II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

The extramural applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. ***All federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI generated through SAM.gov.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants: eBRAP allows an organization’s representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the “**Full Application Files**” tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

Extramural Submission: The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project***

Narrative and Budget Form, may be modified.

Intramural DOD Submission: After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official and PI(s) will receive email notification of the status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified. The Resource Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve the application package prior to the application verification deadline.

For All Submissions: Verify that subaward budget(s) with budget justification are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

- The maximum period of performance is **3** years (36 months).
- The anticipated costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed total costs of **\$975,000 for 3 years (i.e. \$325,000 per year)**, including all indirect and overhead costs. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate.

All direct and indirect costs of any subaward or contract must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.

- The applicant may not request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years (36 months).

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for detailed formatting guidelines.

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**: Research Strategy and Feasibility, Transition Plan, Statistical Plan, Impact Background/Rationale, and Personnel. For determining the overall score, Research Strategy and Feasibility counts for significantly more than the remaining scored criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance.

In addition, applications will be evaluated according to the following **unscored criteria**: Budget, Environment, and Application Presentation.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Rating Scale: 1.0 (highest merit) to 5.0 (lowest merit)

SCORED CRITERIA

Rating Scale: 10 (highest merit) to 1 (lowest merit) for each scored criterion

1. Research Strategy and Feasibility

- How well the application states appropriate hypotheses/study questions and overall objective(s) to be reached, along with specific aims in support of the hypothesis/objectives.
- How well the application describes the experimental design and methods, including appropriate controls in sufficient detail for evaluation of the test device, vector intervention or other product being developed in the proposed research.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problems and provides approaches to mitigate those concerns, including interdependency of aims or dependency on successful outcomes, products, or samples from other ongoing research efforts.
- To what extent the proposed research aligns with Technology Readiness Levels (TRL 4 (i.e. component validation in laboratory environment), TRL 5 (i.e. component validation in laboratory environment), and/or TRL 6 (i.e. system/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment) as described in [Appendix 2](#).
- To what extent the research can be completed within the proposed period of performance.

Additional criteria for research involving animals (if applicable):

- Whether the application includes the review of the study protocol(s) by the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record, in addition to regulatory review and approval by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO), Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO).
- How well the animal study is (or studies are) designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.

Additional criteria for research involving human subjects (if applicable):

- Whether the application includes the review of the study protocol(s) by the appropriate local Inquiry Review Board(s) (IRB) and/or Ethics Committee(s) (EC), in addition to regulatory review and approval by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO), Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO).

- How well the application describes the population(s) of interest, demonstrates access to these populations, and has a viable plan for recruitment, consent, screening, and retention of appropriate subjects.
- If applicable, to what degree the data collection instruments (e.g., surveys, questionnaires) are appropriate to the proposed research.

2. Transition Plan

- Whether the application describes anticipated invention disclosures, patent applications and/or issued patents.
- Whether the identified next level of development and/or plan for commercialization, if applicable, is realistic.
- Whether the funding strategy described to bring the product(s) to the next level of development (e.g., specific potential industry partners, specific funding opportunities to be applied for) is reasonable and realistic.
- Whether the collaborations and other resources described are sufficient to provide continuity of development.
- Whether the application appropriately addresses available opportunities and potential barriers that could impact the progress of advancing the product(s) to the next level of development.
- To what extent the proposed research outcome has relevance for civilian and military users.

Additional criteria for pesticide end use products:

- If applicable, whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration strategy is appropriate and well-described.
- If applicable, whether the application includes documentation and/or relevant policy citations that the product is exempt from EPA regulation.

3. Statistical Plan

- How well the statistical plan, including power analysis for sample size projections (e.g. numbers of arthropods tested) and data analysis, is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
- If applicable, for research involving animals, how well the sample size projections and appropriate power analysis demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
- If applicable, for research involving human subjects, how well the sample size projections and appropriate power analysis demonstrate that the number of subjects required for recruitment is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.

4. Impact

Assuming the objectives/goals of the proposal are successfully achieved,

- How well the proposed research outcome represents a novel approach that will significantly impact at least one of the [DWFP Focus Areas](#).
- To what extent the anticipated research outcomes and/or products (intellectual and/or tangible) will significantly improve Force Health Protection by protecting military Service members from arthropod disease vectors, nuisance biting arthropods and/or other arthropods of medical relevance.
- To what extent the anticipated research outcomes and/or products will benefit the civilian population.

5. Background/Rationale

- How well the rationale describes a problem, question, or knowledge gap that is related to at least one of the [DWFP Focus Areas](#).
- How well the rationale for the proposed research is supported by relevant literature citations, unpublished data and/or preliminary data to support the study's feasibility.
- How well the rationale supports the proposed research.

6. Personnel

- Based on PI and Key Personnel Biographical Sketches, to what degree the research team's background is appropriate with respect to its ability to perform the proposed work, including whether there is evidence of sufficient expertise (as applicable).
- If applicable (intramural applications only), whether the application includes a plan for continuation for active duty military PIs who might receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders and transition the proposed research to a new PI.
- How well the specific contributions of collaborators will complement the PI's ability to perform the proposed work.

UNSCORED CRITERIA

7. Budget

- Whether the **annual** costs and **total** costs exceed the allowable costs as published in the program announcement.
- Whether the indirect cost basis is appropriate to calculate indirect costs.
- Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

8. Environment

- To what extent the quality and level of institutional support are appropriate for the proposed research project.

- How well the research requirements are supported by the availability and accessibility to facilities and resources, including collaborative arrangements.
- If applicable, to what extent the proposed research in locations outside the United States is appropriate to ensure successful conduct of the proposed work.

9. Application Presentation

- To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components (including figures and tables) influence the review.

II.E.1.b. Programmatic Review

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the FY25 DWFP Program, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Program portfolio composition
 - Relative impact and military benefit

II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Director, AFPMB. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#).***

All DWFP Program review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise

the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

II.E.3. Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

An applicant organization may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available in FAPIIS.

The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient's qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DODGARs), Section 22.415.

II.E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#).

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

Extramural awards supported with FY23 funds in Year 1 of the proposed research are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2024. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

After email notification of application review results through eBRAP, and if selected for funding, a representative from ACC-APG Edgewood will contact the Business Official authorized to negotiate on behalf of the PI's organization.

Pre-Award Costs: An institution of higher education, non-profit or for-profit organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

Only an appointed Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds.

No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. **The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document.**

Federal Government Organizations: Funding made to federal government organizations (to include intramural DOD organizations) will be executed via an interagency agreement (IAA) using a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate administrative approvals. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

II.F.1.a. PI Changes and Award Transfers

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in PI or organization will be allowed at the discretion of the Grants Officer, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met.

An organizational transfer of an award supporting the Initiating PI is discouraged and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only allowed at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section B, for general information on organization or PI changes.

II.F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DODGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest [DOD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) for further information.

Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources. The proposing entity must comply with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which requires that the PI and all key personnel:

- Certify that the current and pending support provided on the application is current, accurate, and complete;
- Agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and

- Have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act.

False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (18 USC 1001).

II.F.3. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements. ***If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing DOD-sponsored awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.***

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report will be required.

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify if additional and/or more frequent reporting is required.

Annual quad charts will be required.

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10M are required to provide information to FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable **Representations** (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

Questions related to program announcement content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the pre-application or intramural application submission through eBRAP should be directed to the eBRAP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET (closed on most U.S. federal holidays). Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to extramural application submission through Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. federal holidays). Note that the eBRAP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submissions.

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for “send me change notification emails” by following the link on the “Synopsis” page for the program announcement or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

II.H. Other Information

II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement code. The program announcement numeric version code will match the DWFP General Application Instructions version code 001.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of applications, the following administrative actions may occur:

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative is missing or exceeds page limit.
- Transition Plan is missing.
- Budget is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An AFPMB or DWFP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm). Do not format using A4 size.

To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the DWFP Program discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. Applications that include names of personnel from these companies may be administratively withdrawn.

- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.
- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.
- Application includes classified research information and/or proposing research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security.
- Submission of the same research project to different DOD funding opportunities within the same program and/or fiscal year.
- Application consists solely or primarily of planning, manufacturing, or commercialization activities.
- Basic research is proposed.
- The PI(s) do not meet eligibility criteria.
- Application fails to address at least one of the five [FY25 DWFP Research Areas](#).

II.H.2.d. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

| Application Components | Extra mural | Intra mural | Action | PI Completed |
|---|-------------|-------------|---|--------------|
| SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance | X | | Complete form as instructed | |
| Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) | | X | Complete tabs as instructed | |
| Attachments Form | X | X | Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name “ ProjectNarrative.pdf ” | |
| | X | X | Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name “ Support.pdf ” | |
| | X | X | Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name “ TechAbs.pdf ” | |
| | X | X | Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name “ SOW.pdf ” | |
| | X | X | Study Personnel and Organization: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name “ Personnel.pdf ” if applicable | |
| | X | X | Transition Plan: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name “ Transition.pdf ” | |
| | X | | Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as Attachment 7 as “ MFBudget.pdf ” | |
| Research & Related Personal Data | X | X | Complete form as instructed | |

| Application Components | Extra mural | Intra mural | Action | PI Completed |
|--|-------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) | X | X | Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field | |
| | X | X | Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field | |
| | X | X | Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field | |
| | X | X | Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field | |
| Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form | X | X | Complete form as instructed | |
| Research & Related Budget | X | | Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field at end of Budget Period 1 | |
| Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable | X | | Complete form as instructed (only for non-DOD collaborators) | |
| Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form | X | | Complete form in eBRAP (only for DOD collaborators). | |
| Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form | | X | Complete form in eBRAP for submitting organization and for intramural and extramural collaborators. Attach budget justification | |

APPENDIX 1: DOD RDT&E Budget Activities and Technology Readiness Levels

DOD allocates funds for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) for various budget activities (BA) that are associated with different Technology Readiness Levels (TRL). The figure on the next page illustrates the relationship between DOD RDT&E budget activities and TRL.

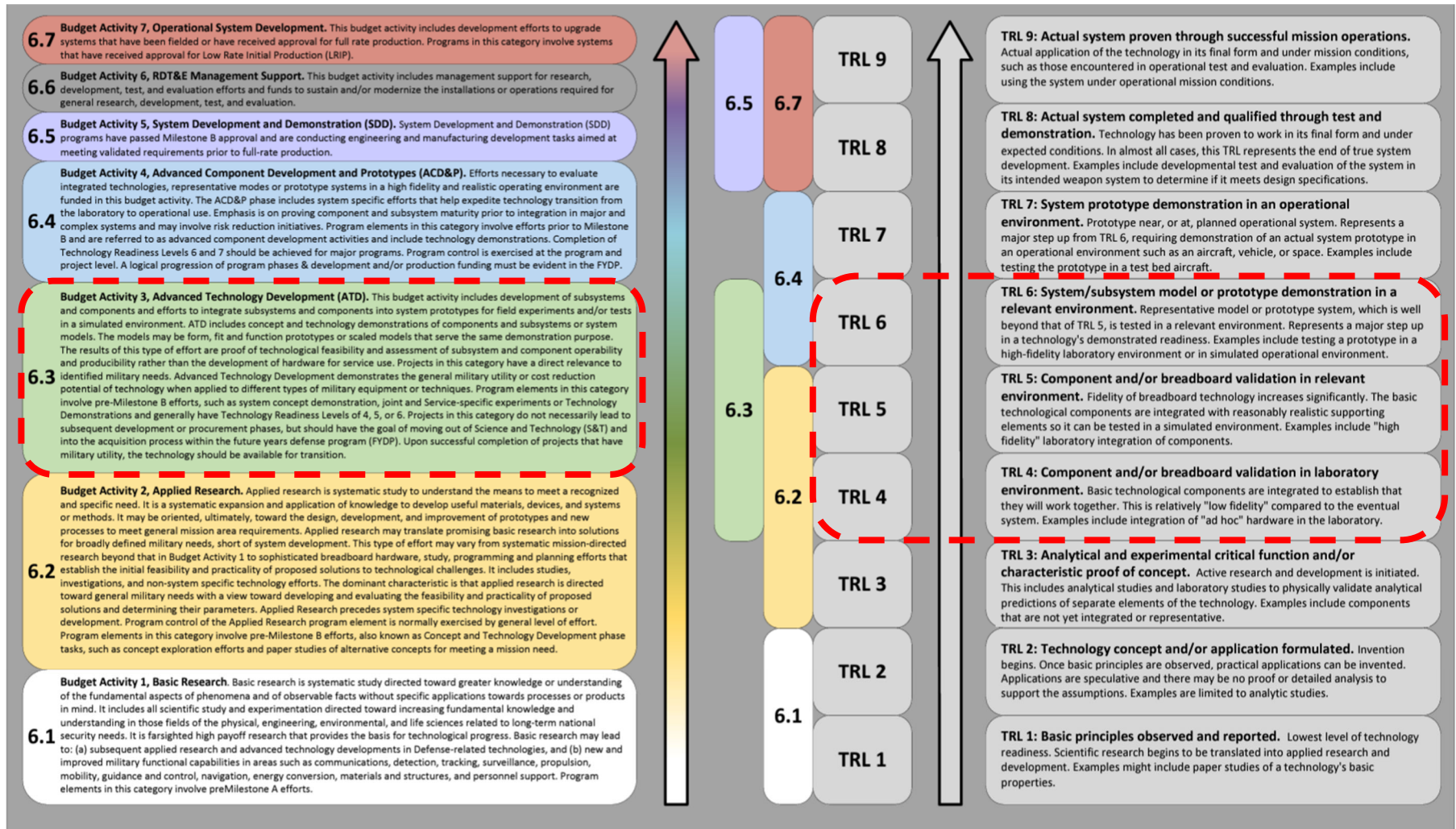
Research performed under this funding announcement should align closely with Advanced Technology Development (i.e. Budget Activity 3, also termed “BA-3” or “6.3”) and product development at TRL 4 (i.e. component validation in a laboratory environment), TRL 5 (i.e. component validation in a relevant environment) and/or TRL 6 (i.e. prototype demonstration in a relevant environment). These are bounded by red dashes in the figure on the next page. **Note:** TRL 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 are not appropriate for research performed under this funding announcement.

See the following references for more information:

- RDT&E budget activities:
 - [DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 2B, Chapter 5](#)
 - [DoD RDT&E: Appropriations Structure](#) (Congressional Research Service, 2022)
- Technology Readiness Levels:
 - [Technology Readiness Assessment Guidebook](#) (DOD, 2023)

DOD RDT&E Budget Activity

Technology Readiness Level



APPENDIX 2: ACRONYM LIST

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACC-APG | U.S. Army Contracting Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood Contracting Division |
| ACURO | Animal Care and Use Review Office, USAMRDC |
| AFPMB | Armed Forces Pest Management Board |
| CDE | Common Data Element |
| CDMRP | Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| COI | Conflict of interest |
| DOD | U.S. Department of Defense |
| DODGARs | Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations |
| DTIC | Defense Technical Information Center |
| DWFP | Deployed Warfighter Protection Program |
| eBRAP | Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal |
| EC | Ethics Committee |
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| ET | U.S. Eastern Time |
| FAD | Funding Authorization Document |
| FAPIIS | Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System |
| FDA | U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| FIFRA | Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act |
| FTO | Foreign Terrorist Organization |
| FY | Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30) |
| GLP | Good Laboratory Practice |
| GUID | Global Unique Identifier |
| IACUC | Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee |
| IRB | Institutional Review Board |
| LAR | Legally Authorized Representative |
| M | Million |

| | |
|---------|--|
| MB | Megabyte |
| MIPR | Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request |
| NSF | National Science Foundation |
| NPC | Non-Profit Corporation |
| OHARO | Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (formerly Office of Research Protections), USAMRDC |
| OHRO | Office of Human Research Oversight (formerly Human Research Protection Office), USAMRDC |
| OMB | Office of Management and Budget |
| PI | Principal Investigator |
| PII | Personally Identifiable Information |
| RDT&E | Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation |
| SAM | System for Award Management |
| SF | Standard Form |
| SOW | Statement of Work |
| STEM | Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics |
| TRL | Technology Readiness Level |
| UDE | Unique Data Element |
| UEI | Unique Entity Identifier |
| URL | Uniform Resource Locator |
| USAMRDC | U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command |
| USC | United States Code |