



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Pancreatic Cancer Research Program Focused Pilot Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526PCARPFPTA

Pre-Application Due: September 16, 2026

Application Due: October 7, 2026

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version [CD26_01](#).

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Before You Begin

- **Active [SAM.gov](#), [eBRAP.org](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations are required for application submission.** User registration for each of these websites can take several weeks or longer. Each applicant must ensure their registrations are active and up to date prior to application preparation.
- **Read this funding opportunity announcement in the order it is written before beginning to prepare application materials.** It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether the proposed research meets the intent of this funding opportunity and that all parties meet eligibility requirements.
- **To support application preparation, additional resources are available** including an application process [FAQ](#), a [Guide for Intragovernmental & Intramural Applicants](#) and a [CDMRP Video Series](#) detailing the application process.

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507
help@eBRAP.org

*Questions regarding
funding opportunity submission
requirements,
as well as technical assistance
related to pre-application or
intramural application submission.*

Grants.gov Support Center

800-518-4726
International: 1-606-545-5035
support@grants.gov

*Questions regarding
Grants.gov registration
and Workspace.*

This document uses internal links; you can go back to where you were by pressing the Alt + left arrow keys (Windows) or command + left arrow keys (Macintosh) on your keyboard.

Click  to be taken to additional guidance and instructions within the *General Application Instructions (GAI)*.

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1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Pancreatic Cancer Research Program (PCARP) Focused Pilot Award supports the exploration and development of impactful and innovative concepts under [a patient-centered focus area](#) of pancreatic cancer research that could ultimately lead to major advancements that will have a profound effect on patients' overall quality of life. The research this award supports should strive to produce robust preliminary data that can serve as a foundation for future clinical or real-world research application.

Distinctive Features: This award mechanism allows, but does not require, preliminary data. Applications can support clinical research studies; however, this mechanism does not allow clinical trials. Preclinical animal studies do not meet the intent of this mechanism.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$1.2 million (M) to fund approximately four Focused Pilot Award applications with total cost caps of \$0.3M per award. The maximum period of performance is 2 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY26 funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. Awards supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), September 16, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 7, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 13, 2026
- **Peer Review:** December 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** January 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526PCARPFPTA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

[Extramural](#) and [intramural U.S. Department of War \(DOW\)](#) organizations are eligible to apply, ***including foreign and domestic organizations, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and public or private entities.***

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

Investigators at any career level affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named Principal Investigator (PI) on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

Postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows and equivalent are eligible to be named PI on the application.

An investigator may be named on only one FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award application as PI.

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

Awards are made to eligible ***organizations***, not to individuals. Refer to the GAI for additional [recipient qualification requirements](#).

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3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the PCARP. The CDMRP is located within the Defense Health Agency Research and Development (DHA R&D), which is a part of the Department of Defense, DOD, herein referred to using the secondary title Department of War, DOW. Congress initiated the PCARP in 2020 to provide support for pancreatic cancer research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the PCARP from FY20 through FY24 totaled \$66M. The FY26 appropriation is \$20M.

The vision of the PCARP is to reduce the burden of pancreatic cancer among Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and the American public. The mission of the PCARP is to promote rigorous, innovative, high-impact pancreatic cancer research that leads to prevention, earlier diagnosis, new therapeutic tools, and improved outcomes.

3.1. Award History

The PCARP Focused Pilot Award mechanism was first offered in FY23. Since then, 33 Focused Pilot Award applications were received, and eight were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Focused Pilot Award

The PCARP Focused Pilot Award supports the exploration and development of impactful and innovative concepts under [a patient-centered focus area](#) of pancreatic cancer research that could ultimately lead to major advancements that will have a profound effect on patients' overall quality of life. ***The research this award supports should strive to produce robust preliminary data that can serve as a foundation for future clinical or real-world research application.*** This mechanism will not support clinical trials evaluating the effects of an intervention on biomedical or other health-related outcomes. Projects that meet the intent of this opportunity include clinical studies that are observational in nature and do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention. Additionally, studies that analyze data generated from previously conducted clinical trial(s) are permitted.

Examples of studies appropriate for the PCARP Focused Pilot Award include, but are not limited to:

- Correlations between mental health and/or cancer-related outcomes and quality of life.
- Behavioral studies that examine quality of life, decision-making and/or cognitive function.
- Development and pilot studies examining nutritional approaches, educational strategies, and methods for managing symptoms.

3.2.1. Focus Area for the Focused Pilot Award

- Supportive care, quality of life and survivorship research.

3.2.2. Key Elements for the Focused Pilot Award

Impact: The proposed research should provide the scientific foundation that will ultimately lead to improved outcomes and quality of life for individuals with pancreatic cancer. The application

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should articulate the project's impact on both pancreatic cancer patient-centered research and care, even if clinical impact is not an immediate outcome.

Innovation: Innovative research may represent a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other highly creative qualities. The research may demonstrate innovation through study concepts, research methods or technologies, or adaptations of existing methods or technologies. For this mechanism, innovative research does not include incremental advances on previously published work.

Preliminary Data: To foster advancement in this understudied area of research, this award mechanism ***allows preliminary data but does not require it***. All projects should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis based on strong scientific rationale.

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the Focused Pilot Award

This mechanism allows [clinical research](#) studies; however, it does not allow [clinical trials](#).

Preclinical animal studies do not meet the intent of the Focused Pilot Award mechanism.

PIs seeking funding for this type of research should utilize one of the other FY26 PCARP mechanisms.

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of research, such as those described in the [STROBE](#), [CONSORT](#), [SPIRIT](#) and [ARRIVE 2.0](#) guidelines.

Applications from investigators within the DOW and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the DOW, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American Public. If the proposed research relies on access to unique resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, CDMRP encourages applicants to review the [recommendations](#) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY26 PCARP priorities.

3.3. Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for awards made under the program announcement will be grants (31 USC 6304).

3.4. Funding Details

[Period of Performance](#): The maximum period of performance is **2** years.

[Cost Cap](#): The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$0.3M**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in

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accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **2** years.

The appropriateness of the budget for the proposed research will be assessed during peer review.

Direct Cost Restrictions: For this award mechanism, direct costs:

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the PCARP Focused Pilot Award.
- If applicable, research subject compensation and reimbursement for study-related out-of-pocket costs (e.g., travel, lodging, parking, costs associated with caregiving, and resources/equipment to enable participation).

Must not be requested for:

- Tuition.
- Clinical trial costs.
- Preclinical animal study costs.

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

Application submission is a two-step process requiring both a **pre-application** submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal ([eBRAP](#)) and a **full application** submitted through eBRAP or Grants.gov. Depending on the submission portal, certain aspects of the application will differ.

Intramural DOW organizations submitting a full application should follow instructions for submission through eBRAP.



Extramural organizations submitting a full application must follow instructions for submission through Grants.gov.



4.2. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the proposed research. Describe how the proposed research addresses the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#).

4.3. Full Application Components

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. See [Appendix 1](#) for a checklist of the full application components.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form (Grants.gov submissions only):



IMPORTANT: When completing the SF424 R&R, enter the **eBRAP log number** assigned during pre-application submission into **Block 4a – Federal Identifier**.

(b) Attachments:

Each attachment of the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the [formatting guidelines](#) in the GAI.

○ **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (five-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.**




Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

The Project Narrative should demonstrate logical reasoning and a sound scientific rationale that is established through a critical review and analysis of the literature. In addition, the Project Narrative should demonstrate the innovation of the proposed research and its potential to make an impact on pancreatic cancer.

- **Background:** Present the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed research and include relevant literature citations.
- **Hypothesis(es)/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis the project will test.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility:**

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- Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for an assessment of overall project feasibility. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches. **The Project Narrative may include preliminary data, but it is not required.** Consult appropriate [guidelines](#) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
 - Describe the statistical plan including power analysis, if applicable, demonstrating the appropriateness of the sample size. Describe the data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives.
 - Describe the study population and include a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples. Provide information to support the availability of and access to the appropriate resources, patient population(s), and/or samples. If applicable, provide appropriate letters of support as part of the application's Supporting Documentation ([Attachment 2](#)). **The mechanism allows clinical research studies; however, it does not allow [clinical trials](#).**
 - If applicable, describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial, and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement. Anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race, and ethnicity should be provided as part of the application's Supporting Documentation ([Attachment 2](#)).
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf"** 

There are no page limits for these components unless otherwise noted. Include only 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 in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format (include URLs, if available).

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; include 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 the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is not a standardized 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.

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Letters of Support (one-page limit per letter is recommended): Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI meets the [eligibility criteria](#). If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOW collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOW resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.

Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV) Strategy (two-page limit is recommended): Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable. This strategy should include a brief discussion of what is currently known regarding sex differences in the applicable research area. Clearly articulate how sex as a biological variable will be factored into the data analysis plan and how data will be collected and disaggregated by sex. If needed, provide a strong rationale for proposing a single-sex study, based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations. Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research](#) for additional information.

Inclusion Enrollment Report (only required if clinical research is proposed): Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the "[Public Health Service \(PHS\) Inclusion Enrollment Report](#)", a three-page fillable PDF form, that can be downloaded from eBRAP. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race, and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.

Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.


Research Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resources to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, including clinical research participants if applicable. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived, if applicable. Identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources that will not be shared (e.g., for intellectual property, feasibility, cost, or other considerations). The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer/third-party intellectual property. Provide a milestone plan for disseminating data/results including when data and resources will be made available to other users. In cases where the study participant could potentially derive medical or other benefit from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with the participant or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

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Do not submit a copy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing Plan or duplicate the Data Management Plan which will be requested only after a recommendation for funding is made.

Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on Sharing Data and Research Resources](#) for more information about the CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** 

Write the technical abstract using the outline below. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.

Background: Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project addressing the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#).

Hypothesis/Objective(s): State the hypothesis the project will test and/or objective(s) it will reach.

Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.

Study Design: Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

Innovation: Briefly describe how the proposed research is innovative in the pancreatic cancer field.

Impact: Summarize how the proposed project is relevant to and will have an impact on the outcomes of individuals with pancreatic cancer and their families/caregivers.

Military Relevance: Explain briefly how the proposed research is relevant to the health of Service Members, Veterans and/or their Families.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”.** 

The lay abstract should address the points outlined below ***in a manner that is readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine***. Avoid overuse of scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations. ***Do not duplicate the technical abstract.***



- Summarize the objectives and scientific rationale for the proposed research addressing the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#).
- Describe the innovative aspects of the proposed research project.
- Explain the impact that the proposed research project's results might have on the field of pancreatic cancer research and/or patient care/survivorship/quality of life.
- Describe the impact, in the short-term and long-term, on individuals living with pancreatic cancer and their families/caregivers.
- Explain briefly how the proposed research is relevant to the health of Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families.

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** 
Refer to eBRAP for the [Suggested SOW Format](#).

For guidance on preparing the SOW, refer to either the [Example: Assembling a Clinical Research and/or Clinical Trial Statement of Work](#) or [Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work](#), whichever is most appropriate for the proposed effort. Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.

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- **Attachment 6: Innovation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Innovation.pdf”.** Summarize the innovation of the proposed research. State how the research challenges existing paradigms or presents new paradigms, technologies and/or applications in this understudied area of patient-centered research. Describe how the proposed research represents more than the next logical step or an incremental advance on published data.
- **Attachment 7: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** Describe how the project addresses the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#). Describe how the anticipated short-term outcomes of the project will advance the field and may impact those with pancreatic cancer. Describe how the project has the potential to lead to advancements in the quality of life for the individuals living with pancreatic cancer and their families/caregivers both in the short-term and long-term. If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Attachment 8: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 
- **Attachment 9: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (*if applicable*): Upload as “IGBudget.pdf”.** If an [intramural DOW organization](#) will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the [Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget](#) form available on eBRAP. 

(c) Additional Application Materials:

The following are additional forms for application submission. Follow the instructions specific to the submission portal, as found within the GAI.



Grants.gov



eBRAP.org

i. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

- **Biographical Sketch**
- **Current/Pending Support**

Intragovernmental applicants must include their internally supported research and development programs.

ii. Research & Related Budget

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

iv. Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) (*if applicable, Grants.gov submissions only*)

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4.4. Other Application Elements

If recommended for funding, a data management plan compliant with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instructions 3200.12](#) will be requested.



The government reserves the right to request a revised budget, budget justification and/or additional information for applications recommended for funding.

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526PCARPFPTA from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

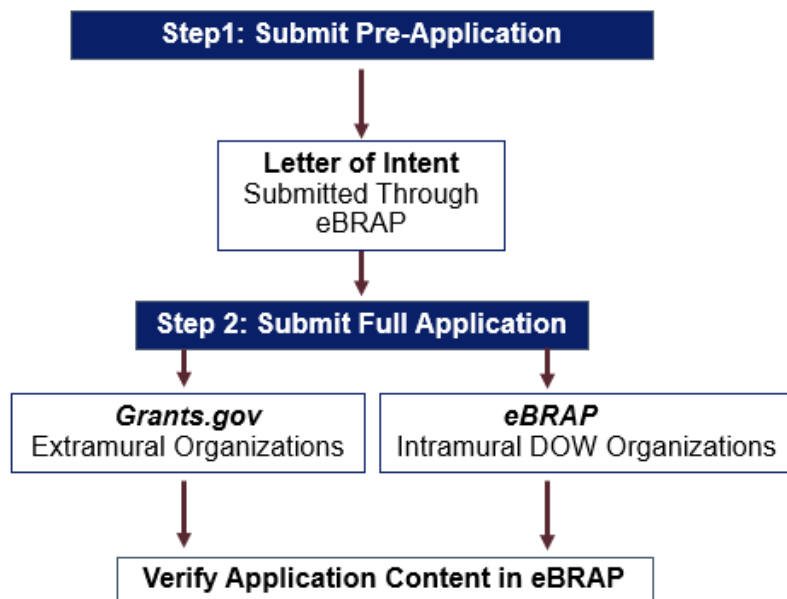
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in the System for Award Management (SAM), [SAM.gov](#), and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the unique entity identifier (UEI) generated by the SAM in applications to this funding opportunity and maintain an active registration in the SAM at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration. i

5.3. Submission Instructions

The CDMRP uses two portal systems to accept pre- and full application submissions. The workflow below shows which portal system to use for pre- and full application submissions, respectively.

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through [eBRAP](#). i


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),

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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. Contact the [eBRAP Help Desk](#) if any changes need to be made.

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

Grants.gov Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through the Grants.gov Workspace. 

eBRAP Submissions: Only [intramural DOW organizations](#) may submit full applications through eBRAP. 

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of the submission portal, once the full application is submitted, it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP; the transmission to eBRAP may take up to 48 hours. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log in to eBRAP to review, modify and verify the full application submission. 
The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the [application verification period](#) ends. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and full application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated in this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. ***The DHACA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant.***

Submission dates and times are specified in [Section 1, Basic Information](#).

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

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6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

Submitting applications that propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

While it is allowable to propose similar research projects to different programs within the CDMRP or to other organizations, duplication of funding or accepting funding from more than one source for the same research is prohibited. See the [CDMRP's Directive on Research Duplication](#).

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal.



Members of the FY26 PCARP Programmatic Panel must not be involved in any pre-application or full application including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation and the development of any supporting documentation, including personal letters of support/recommendation for the research and/or PI. Programmatic panel members **may** provide [letters](#) to confirm [PI eligibility](#) and access to laboratory space, equipment and other resources necessary for the project if that is part of their regular roles and responsibilities (e.g., as Department Chair). ***A list of the [FY26 PCARP Programmatic Panel members](#) can be found on the CDMRP website.***

Additional restrictions and associated administrative responses are outlined in [Section 9.2, Administrative Actions](#).

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

Pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be screened.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated individually according to the following **scored criteria**, which are of equal importance:

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
 - To what extent the scientific rationale supports the hypothesis and feasibility of this pilot project, as demonstrated by a review and analysis of the literature.
 - If the application includes preliminary data, how well the data support the proposed research.
 - How well the experimental design, methods and analyses support achieving reproducible and rigorous results.
 - How well the application identifies potential problem areas and addresses alternative methods and approaches.

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- How well the application describes an appropriate statistical plan including power analysis, if applicable, and data analysis plan.
- If applicable, how well the application describes the study population and an appropriate plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples.
- If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.
- Whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objectives of the study or whether the justification for a single-sex study is sufficiently strong.
- To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate and reasonable and includes dissemination to affected communities, study participants and/or the scientific community. If applicable, whether specific repository(ies) are named where data and research resources arising from the project will be stored.
- **Innovation**
 - To what extent the proposed research will challenge existing paradigms or present new paradigms, technologies and/or applications in this understudied area of patient-centered research.
 - To what extent the proposed research represents more than the next logical step or an incremental advance on published data.
- **Impact**
 - Whether the application stated explicitly how the proposed work addresses a component of the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#).
 - How well the proposed research addresses a critical need in the field of pancreatic cancer supportive care, quality of life and survivorship.
 - To what extent the anticipated outcomes from the proposed research have the potential to lead to advancements in the quality of life for the individuals living with pancreatic cancer and their families/caregivers in both the short-term and long-term.
 - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

In addition, the following criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application, but will not be individually scored and are therefore termed **unscored criteria**:

- **Personnel**
 - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.
- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Environment**
 - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project.

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- How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.
- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. 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 peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 PCARP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
 - Program portfolio balance
 - Relative impact
 - Relative innovation

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

There is no review and selection process for pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity. ***CDMRP will NOT provide an invitation to submit a full application after pre-application submission.*** Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full application components concurrently and submit a full application AFTER successful submission of the pre-application.

6.3.2. Full Application

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 subject to review and approval by a designated official. ***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 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#).*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the [CDMRP website](#).

Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program, the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by peer and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a [limited time period](#) based on the fiscal year of the funds.

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6.4. Risk, 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 the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.1 (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 SAM.

An applicant organization may review the SAM and submit comments on any information currently available about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered. 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.

In accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DOW must be evaluated for affiliations with foreign entities. All applicant organizations must disclose foreign affiliations of all key personnel named on applications. Failure to disclose foreign affiliations of key personnel shall lead to withdrawal of recommendations to fund applications. Applicant organizations may be presented with an opportunity to mitigate identified risks, particularly those pertaining to influence from foreign entities specified in law. Implementation of mitigation discussions and utilization of the [DOD Component Decision Matrix](#) must decrease risk of foreign influence in accordance with the above-mentioned laws and guidance prior to award.

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7. Federal Award Notices

For each compliant full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within 6 weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the PCARP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website. After all awards are made, the CDMRP includes individual award information in a searchable [database](#).

If an application is recommended for funding, after the email notification is posted to eBRAP, a government representative will contact the person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the recipient organization.

Only an appointed DHACA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds to an extramural organization. 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 (i.e., assistance agreement).***

Intragovernmental obligations of funding will be made according to the terms of a negotiated Inter-Agency Agreement and managed by a CDMRP Science Officer.

Funding obligated to ***intragovernmental and intramural DOW organizations*** will be sent through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), Funding Authorization Document (FAD) or Direct Charge Work Breakdown Structure processes. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intragovernmental and intramural DOW investigators and collaborators must coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official. 

An 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.

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8. Post-Award Requirements


8.1. 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.

The GAI contain information regarding [administrative requirements](#) and [national policy requirements](#).

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

If there are delinquencies in technical reporting requirements for any existing DHA or U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command awards at the applicant organization, DHACA will not issue any new awards to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and must be approved by the DHA R&D Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance (ORRC), prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review. 

8.2. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports as well as a final technical progress report will be required. Annual and final technical progress reports must be prepared in accordance with the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting (***Required for research proposing clinical research***): Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The [PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report](#) is available on eBRAP.

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


[Award Expiration Transition Plan](#): An Award Expiration Transition Plan, using the template available on eBRAP, must be submitted with the final progress report.

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 the SAM about certain civil, criminal and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with their 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](#).

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8.3. Additional Requirements

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in the PI will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met. 

An organizational transfer of an award supporting the PI is discouraged and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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

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9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name and the program announcement version code CD26_01d.

9.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of full applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

9.2.1. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the full application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.

9.2.2. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to reviewing all documents.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

9.2.3. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the full application:

- A member of the FY26 PCARP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes.
- The application includes the name(s) of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For FY26, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found on the [CDMRP website](#).
- 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.
- The application from an extramural organization, including non-DOW federal agencies, is received through eBRAP.
- The federal government recipient organization (including an intramural DOW organization):
(a) cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY26 funds; and/or (b) cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

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- The application includes URLs, with the exception of links in the References Cited and Publication and/or Patent sections.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- If an investigator is named in multiple FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award applications as PI, only the first application received will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.
- Application does not address the [FY26 PCARP Focused Pilot Award Focus Area](#).
- Application proposes a [clinical trial](#).
- Application proposes preclinical animal research.

9.2.4. 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 DHACA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

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Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance <i>(Grants.gov submissions only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) <i>(eBRAP submissions only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as “Support.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as “TechAbs.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as “LayAbs.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as “SOW.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Innovation Statement – Attachment 6, upload as “Innovation.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact Statement – Attachment 7, upload as “Impact.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representations <i>(Grants.gov submissions only)</i> – Attachment 8, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form <i>(if applicable)</i> – Attachment 9, upload as “IGBudget.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Application Materials	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & Related Budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	U.S. Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FPTA	Focused Pilot Award
FY	Fiscal Year
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PCARP	Pancreatic Cancer Research Program
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SABV	Sex as a Biological Variable
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code

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VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs