Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Tick-Borne Disease Research Program

Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526TBDRPTDRA

Pre-Application Due: July 22, 2026

Application Due: October 22, 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).

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The intent of the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Tick-Borne Disease Research Program (TBDRP) Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award (TDRA) is to support product-driven therapeutic and diagnostic development research aimed at reducing the burden of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases and conditions, and improving patient care and/or quality of life. Treatment-focused applications should be therapeutic evaluation studies designed to advance new ideas aimed at drug or treatment discovery that are still in the early/preclinical stages of development. Diagnosis-focused applications should propose diagnostic approaches that will be readily integrated into clinical settings.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $2.65M to fund approximately two Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award applications with total cost caps of $1.325M per award. The maximum period of performance is 3 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 (Preproposal) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), July 22, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** September 3, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 22, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 27, 2026
- **Peer Review:** December 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** February 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526TBDRPTDRA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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

Independent investigators at all career levels may be named by their organizations as the Principal Investigator (PI) on the application.

Individuals in a mentored position (e.g., postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows) are not considered independent investigators.

Independent investigators affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named PI on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

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.

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 Tick-Borne Disease Research Program (TBDRP). 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 TBDRP in 2016 to support innovative and impactful research that addresses fundamental issues and gaps in knowledge of tick-borne diseases. Appropriations for the TBDRP from FY16 through FY24 totaled $55 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is $7M.

The TBDRP's vision is to eliminate the health burden of tick-borne diseases. The TBDRP's mission is to fund innovative research to understand and provide solutions to prevent, detect, and resolve Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and conditions for the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American public.

3.1. Award History

The TBDRP Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award (TDRA) mechanism was first offered in FY22. Since then, 50 TDRA applications were received, and 10 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award

The intent of the FY26 TBDRP TDRA is to support product-driven therapeutic and diagnostic development research aimed at reducing the burden of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases and conditions and improving patient care and/or quality of life. Treatment-focused applications should be therapeutic evaluation studies designed to advance new ideas aimed at drug or treatment discovery that are still in the early/preclinical stages of development. Diagnosis-focused applications should propose diagnostic approaches that will be readily integrated into clinical settings.

All research projects must have translational potential and aim to improve patient care and/or quality of life for military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, as well as the American public living with Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases and conditions.

3.2.1. Focus Areas for the TDRA

TDRA applications must be focused on Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases with emphasis on reducing the public health burden of these illnesses.

Applications focused on persistent Lyme disease, and other tick-borne diseases and conditions endemic to the United States are particularly encouraged.

TDRA applications must respond to at least one of the following specific focus areas:

- **Treatment**
  - Evaluation of novel therapeutics or repurposed compounds for treatment of tick-borne diseases

- Extensive refinement of therapeutic candidates in a drug development program, including, but not limited to, structure/activity relationships, and pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic and toxicologic studies

- **Diagnosis**
  - Evaluation/validation of approaches that provide diagnostic advantages for single or multiple tick-borne pathogens, with priority given to direct detection of Borrelia burgdorferi or tests that detect multiple tick-borne pathogens or diseases
  - Evaluation/validation of more accurate or novel approaches capable of distinguishing active Lyme infection from previous exposure and/or resolution of infection
  - Evaluation/validation of approaches for the detection/diagnosis of maternal-to-fetal transmission of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne infections

Applications proposing screening of publicly available compound libraries for Lyme disease therapeutics will be considered non-responsive to this mechanism.

Applications proposing studies focused on tick-borne disease pathogenesis and discovery/initial development of relevant therapeutics and diagnostics are not within the scope of this funding opportunity; applicants should consider submitting to the TBDRP Idea Development Award under funding opportunity number ***HT942526TBDRPIDA****.*

3.2.2. Key Elements for the TDRA

Impact: Applications should address how the successful completion of the proposed research will significantly impact a critical problem or question in the field of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne disease research and/or patient care. Applications should explain how both the anticipated immediate and long-range outcomes of the proposed research will advance knowledge and/or technology toward improved patient care and/or the quality of life for individuals with Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions. Applications should describe how the proposed research will advance the potential evidence-based treatment, therapeutic or diagnostic toward dissemination and clinical implementation for Service Members, their Families and the American public.

Preliminary data are *required:* Applications must include preliminary data (e.g., published works by the investigators, pilot data, peer-reviewed literature) to support the rationale for and feasibility of the study. Any unpublished preliminary data provided should originate from the laboratory of the PI and/or a member(s) of the research team.

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the TDRA

Applicants with limited tick-borne disease experience are strongly encouraged to collaborate with experienced tick-borne disease investigators. Applicants with substantial tick-borne disease experience are strongly encouraged to partner with experts in therapeutic and diagnostic assay development and transition, particularly those from the commercial sector.

The proposed studies are expected to be experimental in nature and product-driven. Examples of the types of research that may be supported by this award include, but are not limited to:

- Testing new therapeutic modalities (agents, delivery mechanisms) using established and accepted preclinical models

- Optimization and improvement of potential treatments or therapeutics for easy administration outside of a clinical setting
- Investigational New Drug application-enabling studies leading to the development of pharmacologic agents, including compound characterization, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion studies, and dose/response and toxicology studies to demonstrate safety and efficacy in relevant model systems
- Evaluation of potential diagnostic assays or devices using in vitro or ex vivo samples
- Studies aimed at improving diagnostic assay sensitivity, specificity, and/or implementation in standard clinical settings

Leveraging existing resources, maximizing statistical power, and using validated biospecimens and data from Lyme and other tick-borne disease biorepositories and databases are encouraged, but not required. Investigators are strongly encouraged to incorporate the following components into their study design where appropriate: authentication of proposed cell lines; statistical rigor of in vitro cellular studies and preclinical animal experiments; and validation in well-characterized cohorts of patients. Studies utilizing data derived from large patient studies that include long-term health records, biospecimen repositories, pre-existing research and/or studies that apply state-of-the art genomic and/or proteomic analysis, bioinformatics, and/or mathematical models to such data are also encouraged. The criteria defining the inclusion/exclusion of curated biospecimens or data in biorepositories or databases must be described to demonstrate the validity of their use in the proposed studies.

Preclinical studies (including research involving animals) and/or clinical research (involving human subjects, human anatomical substances and human datasets, including correlative studies associated with an existing clinical trial) are permitted; ***however, clinical trials are not allowed within this funding opportunity.***

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, CDMRP does not support the conduct of painful research (U.S. Department of Agriculture pain category D or E) involving domestic cats or dogs, except for studies relating to military or service animals.

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of clinical and preclinical research, such as those described in the STROBE 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.

PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOW and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with the DOW and/or VA is also encouraged. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOW and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in Appendix 10 of the GAI.

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 **3** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$1,325,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in 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 **3** 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 TBDRP TDRA.

Must not be requested for:

- Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
- Clinical trial costs.

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.

Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. Files must comply with the formatting guidelines listed in the GAI.

- **Preproposal Narrative (two-page limit):** The Preproposal Narrative page limit 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 that provide additional information to expand the Preproposal Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application.

  The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

  - **Research:** State a clear hypothesis for the project that is supported through a strong scientific rationale, referenced literature, and preliminary data. Describe the study type (e.g., concept development, animal validation, human validation), project specific aims, and scientific approach.
  - **Relevance:** Summarize the relevance of the proposed project to the TDRA Focus Areas.
  - **Impact:** Describe the immediate and long-range outcomes of the proposed study and their impact on Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne disease research, patient care, and morbidity and/or mortality for military Service Members, their Families and the American public. Describe how the proposed research will advance the potential evidence-based treatment, therapeutic, or diagnostic toward dissemination and clinical implementation.

- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application ***must be uploaded as individual files*** and are limited to the following:

  - **References Cited (one-page limit):** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.

- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches:** ***All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.*** Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications and previous work accomplished.

4.3. Full Application Components

Applicants must receive an invitation to submit a full application. Uninvited full application submissions will be rejected.

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 (12-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".**

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Background/Rationale:** Describe the problem, question, or gap in an area of patient care that is related to at least one of the TDRA Focus Areas and that will be addressed by the proposed research. Present a strong scientific rationale behind the proposed work. Describe previous experience most pertinent to the proposed research. ***Preliminary data are required.*** Include relevant literature citations and/or preliminary data to support the study's feasibility. Any unpublished preliminary data provided should be from the laboratory of the PI or member(s) of the collaborating team.
  - **Hypotheses/Objectives:** State the hypotheses/study questions and/or overall objective(s) to be reached.
  - **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project's specific aims in support of the hypothesis/objectives. If this application is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund. ***Avoid interdependency of specific aims.*** Proposed studies should not be dependent upon the successful outcomes, products, or samples from other ongoing research efforts.
  - **Research Strategy and Feasibility:**
    - Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, blinding/masking, and randomization. Provide sufficient detail so that the appropriateness and feasibility of the research strategy can be fully evaluated.
    - Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. Details of the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable will be required in Attachment 2.

- Describe the features of any novel screening assay, experimental model, or other tools that will be used to evaluate the putative therapeutic or diagnostic, describing appropriate controls and providing justification for why this is the most appropriate approach/model to support the proposed studies.
  - If cell lines or animals are to be used, describe how the choice of proposed cell line(s) or animal model(s) is justified and relevant to human biology and natural tick-borne disease transmission. Include relevant preliminary data to support testing the study hypothesis using this approach/model. Include information about authentication of proposed cell lines. ***For animal studies, full details will be required in Attachment 8.***
  - ***For research involving human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets, full details will be required in Attachment 9.*** Clearly state if studies will utilize human specimens or data that cannot be linked to a living individual and meet the requirements for exemption under 45 CFR 46.104(d)(4) of the Common Rule, Secondary Research for Which Consent is Not Required.
- Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan, as applicable:
  - Provide a statistical sample size estimate and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations, to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
  - Explain the statistical methods/model that will be used for data analysis.
  - Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, and how outliers will be defined and managed, if applicable.
  - Describe the randomization and blinding/masking procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias, if applicable.
- Address potential challenges/pitfalls and provide alternative methods/approaches to mitigate these concerns, including interdependency of aims or dependency on successful outcomes, products, or samples from other ongoing research efforts.
- Explain how the research can be completed within the proposed period of performance.
- If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOW or VA resources or databases, describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Also include a plan for obtaining any required data sharing, memorandum of understanding or other agreements required to access and publish data. Refer to the GAI, Appendix 4, for additional considerations.

- **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.
- **Letters of Support (two-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(s) meet 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 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.
- **Intellectual and Material Property Plan:** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) 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. 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.

Do not submit a copy of the National Institutes of Health 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.

– **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 Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.

- **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 ideas and logical reasoning behind the proposed research project as it relates to the TDRA Focus Areas.

– **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the hypothesis/objective.

– **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.

– **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls, and describe how it is novel and/or an improvement over current approaches.

– **Impact:** Describe the impact of the proposed study on Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions research, and on patient care and quality of life for military Service Members and the American public.

- **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.***

– State the TDRA Focus Area(s) the project addresses.

- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research:
  - What is the project's potential impact on reducing the public health burden of tick-borne diseases/conditions, including the potential effect of the proposed research on the health and welfare of military Service Members and the American public?
  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
  - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?
  - If the research is not yet ready for immediate clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes.
  - What are the likely contributions of the study to advancing the field of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne disease research?

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (six-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.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (two-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".**

  Explain in detail how the proposed project will address a critical problem in Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions and/or will impact the TDRA Focus Area(s) being addressed as follows:

  - **Public Health Burden:** Describe the burden of illness for the disease(s) or condition(s) to be studied, including current evidence-based public health information on mortality, morbidity, and economic impact. Describe in detail how the proposed research will ultimately reduce the burden of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne illnesses and their effect on public health. If the study is focused on a tick-borne disease with low incidence or on a subpopulation affected by tick-borne diseases, then provide details on how the proposed research will have an impact on that disease and subpopulation. Describe how the research is focused on tick-borne diseases and conditions endemic to the United States, and/or involves persistent Lyme disease.
  - **Military Relevance:** Describe how the proposed research is relevant to and will specifically impact the health care needs and welfare of military Service Members, Veterans and their Families in a way that is consistent with the program's goals.

    The following resources include data on tick-borne diseases in the military and can be used in developing the Impact Statement:

    - Medical Surveillance Monthly Report Feb 2021 (Vol 28, No. 2)
    - Medical Surveillance Monthly Report May 2022 (Vol 29, No. 5)
    - Medical Surveillance Monthly Report Jan 2024 (Vol 31, No. 1)
    - Medical Surveillance Monthly Report Mar 2025 (Vol 32, No. 3)
    - Medical Surveillance Monthly Report Nov 2025 (Vol 32, No.11)
  - **Short-Term Impact:** Detail the anticipated short-term outcome(s)/product(s) (intellectual and/or tangible) that can be directly attributed to the proposed research.

- **Long-Term Impact:** Explain the anticipated long-term advancements over current knowledge, technology, and/or practice, ultimately contributing to the field of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions research, patient care, and morbidity and/or mortality. Describe how the proposed treatment/therapeutic offers advancement beyond the current standard of care or provides a potential treatment/ therapy where one does not currently exist (if applicable). Describe how the proposed diagnostic approach offers more sensitivity and specificity than current assays, helps define patient populations, differentiates disease states, and/or assesses efficacy of potential therapeutics (if applicable). Describe how the proposed research will advance the potential evidence-based treatment, therapeutic, or diagnostic toward dissemination and clinical implementation.
- If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

○ **Attachment 7: Post-Award Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".** Describe the methods and strategies proposed to advance the anticipated research outcomes/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible materiel) to the next phase of development (clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the proposed effort. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the post-award transition plan.

The post-award transition plan should include the components listed below, as appropriate and applicable to the research proposed.

- A description of the anticipated outcomes/products expected upon completion of the proposed research efforts. Outcomes should be relevant, measurable and include the intended end-user.
- Provide a description of how the anticipated outcomes/products of the proposed research will be disseminated to both the scientific and consumer/stakeholder communities.
- Details of the funding strategy that will be used to advance the outcomes to the next phase of development, commercialization (e.g., partners, funding opportunities to be applied for), and/or incorporation into patient care.
- Provide a brief schedule and milestones for bringing the outcomes/products to the next phase of development (e.g., further research, clinical trials, commercialization/ transition to industry, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, clearance/approval by a Regulatory Agency).
- For knowledge products, include the development or modification of clinical practice guidelines/recommendations, provider training materials, patient brochures, clinical support tools, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and other applications. (A "knowledge product" is a non-materiel product that aims to transition into medical practice, training, tools or to support materiel solutions; and educates or impacts behavior throughout the continuum of care, including primary prevention of negative outcomes.)
- As appropriate, discuss ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award. Include a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations. If the intellectual property rights

are not owned by the applicant, PI or a member of the study team, describe the planned next steps necessary to make the product available to the target population.

- **Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf".** ***(Attachment 8 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)***

  If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application.

  Proposed studies should not rely on samples, reagents, or tools that are contingent upon completion of other ongoing efforts outside the scope of this proposal.

  Consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve rigorous and reproducible results for each proposed animal study:

  - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study.
  - Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and, where appropriate, the study's relevance to human biology and natural tick-borne disease transmission.
  - Include relevant preliminary data to support testing the study hypothesis in this animal model.
  - Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.

- **Attachment 9: Human Subjects/Samples/Data Acquisition Plan (no page limit): Upload as "HumSubProc.pdf".** ***(Attachment 9 is only applicable and required for applications proposing research involving human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets)***

  If the proposed study involves human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets, a summary describing the research that will be conducted must be included in the application.

  Proposed studies should not rely on samples, reagents, or tools that are contingent upon completion of other ongoing efforts outside the scope of this proposal.

  The Human Subjects/Samples/Data Acquisition Plan should address the following points:

  - Clearly state if the proposed study will utilize human samples or data that cannot be linked to a living individual and meet the requirements for exemption under 45 CFR 46.104(d)(4) of the Common Rule, Secondary Research for Which Consent is Not Required (typically classified as exempt from IRB review).
  - Describe the study population and explain how well it is designed to achieve the study objectives, including relevance of the population to the endpoints/outcome measures. Describe how the study will be controlled.

  - Describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the study objectives, including the distribution of the proposed enrollment in terms of sex, racial, and ethnic group, and accompanying rationale (not applicable for IRB-exempt studies). Corresponding anticipated enrollment table(s) are required in Attachment 2.
  - Provide an overview of the recruitment of human subjects and/or the acquisition of samples/datasets (i.e., the nature, methods, approximate number, pertinent demographic characteristics, inclusion/exclusion criteria).
  - Describe the informed consent process, screening procedures, and risk/benefit considerations (not applicable for IRB-exempt studies).
  - Describe the types of samples/datasets to be collected and evaluated. Include information about sample storage and maintenance (i.e., location, duration, special handling conditions), if applicable.
  - Describe the availability of and feasibility of accessing the proposed study populations/samples/datasets, as well as past successes in recruiting and/or accessing similar populations/samples/datasets and plans to maintain access throughout the entire proposed research study.
  - Address any potential barriers to subject retention and/or sample/data accrual, including access to the proposed study populations/samples, and provide mitigation plans for addressing unanticipated delays, including other ongoing studies competing for the same samples/populations, slow or low enrollment, or poor retention, as applicable.

- **Attachment 10: Study Personnel (one-page limit): Upload as "Personnel.pdf".**
  - 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.
  - Discuss the qualifications and experience/expertise of the PI and other key personnel and each team member'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.
  - Describe how the specific contributions of collaborators will complement the PI's ability to perform the proposed work, enhance the project's innovation or impact in the tick-borne disease research field, and/or promote collaboration among fields or with commercial partners, if applicable.

- **Attachment 11: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.

- **Attachment 12: 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)*	

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.

5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526TBDRPTDRA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

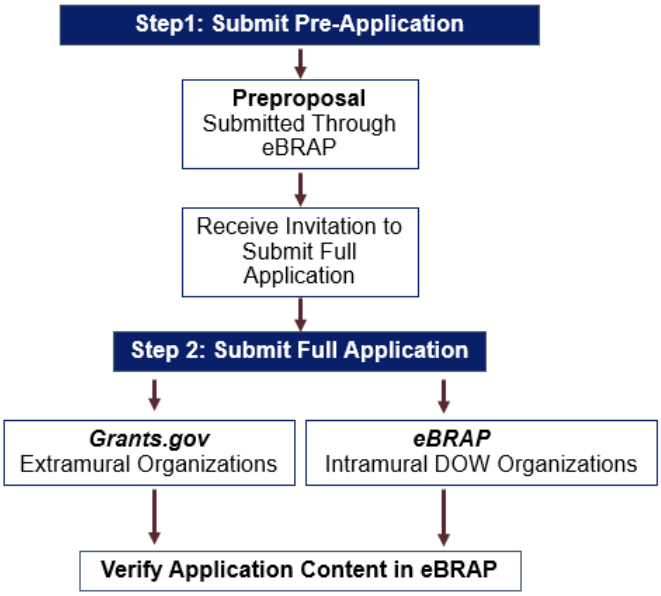
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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.

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.

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. 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.

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 TBDRP 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 TBDRP 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

To determine the merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the TBDRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Research:** How well a clear hypothesis for the project is stated with support from a strong scientific rationale, referenced literature, and preliminary data; and how well the study type, specific aims, and scientific approach are described.
- **Relevance:** To what degree the proposed project is relevant to the TDRA Focus Area(s) being addressed.
- **Impact:** The extent to which the anticipated research outcomes will advance knowledge and/or technology toward improved patient care and/or quality of life for individuals with Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions. The extent to which the proposed research will advance the potential evidence-based treatment, therapeutic, or diagnostic toward dissemination and clinical implementation.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated individually according to the following **scored criteria**, of which **Research Strategy and Feasibility** and **Impact** are equally of most importance, with the remaining criteria of equal, but lesser importance:

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - How well the background/rationale describes a problem, question, or knowledge gap that will be addressed by the proposed research.
  - How well the application presents a strong scientific rationale behind the proposed work and includes relevant literature citations and/or preliminary data to support the study's 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, methods, and analyses in sufficient detail for evaluation of feasibility.
  - How well the novel screening assay, experimental model, or other tools for evaluating the putative therapeutic or diagnostic are justified and appropriate to support the proposed studies.
  - 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.
  - How well the application acknowledges potential challenges/pitfalls and provides alternative methods/approaches to mitigate those concerns, including interdependency of aims or dependency on successful outcomes, products, or samples from other ongoing research efforts.

  Applicable to research involving cell line(s) and/or animals:

  - To what extent the proposed cell line(s) and/or animal model(s), including species and strain, are appropriate to address the scientific objectives; and whether preliminary data supports testing the study hypothesis in the proposed model.
  - How well the choice of proposed cell line(s) and/or animal model(s) is justified and relevant to human biology and natural tick-borne disease transmission.

  Applicable to research involving human subjects/samples/datasets:

  - The degree to which the study population and associated endpoints/outcome measures are relevant to achieve the study objectives.
  - Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the study objectives; not applicable for IRB-exempt studies.
  - The degree to which the methods for human subject recruitment and/or sample/data acquisition are described, including the informed consent process and screening procedures, if applicable.
  - How well the types of samples/datasets to be collected and evaluated, as well as sample storage and maintenance, are described.
  - Whether there is sufficient evidence provided to support availability of and access to populations/samples/datasets required for the study and documentation of past successes in recruiting and/or accessing similar populations/samples/datasets.
  - How well the application identifies any potential barriers to subject retention and/or sample/data accrual, and provides mitigation plans for addressing unanticipated delays.

- **Impact**
  - To what extent the proposed project will address a critical problem in Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions, and/or will impact the TDRA Focus Areas.
  - To what extent the proposed research will ultimately reduce the burden of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne illnesses, and their effect on public health.
  - How the research is focused on tick-borne diseases and conditions endemic to the United States, and/or involves persistent Lyme disease.
  - To what extent the proposed research is relevant to and will specifically impact the health care needs and welfare of military Service Members, Veterans and their Families in a way that is consistent with the program's goals.
  - How the anticipated short-term outcome(s)/products(s) (intellectual and/or tangible) can be directly attributed to the proposed research.
  - How the anticipated long-term advancement over current knowledge, technology, and/or practice that would ultimately contribute to the field of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases/conditions research, patient care and morbidity and/or mortality can be directly attributed to the proposed research.
  - How the proposed treatment/therapeutic will provide advancement beyond the current standard of care or provide a potential treatment/therapy where one does not currently exist, if applicable.
  - How the proposed diagnostic approach will be more sensitive and specific than current assays, help define patient populations, differentiate disease states, and/or assess the efficacy of potential therapeutics, if applicable.
  - To what extent the proposed research will advance the potential evidence-based treatment, therapeutic, or diagnostic toward dissemination and clinical implementation.
  - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis**
  - To what extent the statistical sample size estimate, including power analysis, is appropriate for the proposed study objectives.
  - How well the application explains the statistical methods/model that will be used for data analysis, and whether it is appropriate for the proposed study objectives.
  - If applicable, whether the application identifies rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, and how outliers will be defined and handled.
  - If applicable, whether the randomization, blinding/masking procedures, and any other measures to minimize the effects of subjective bias are appropriate.
- **Post-Award Transition Plan**
  - How well the application describes the methods and strategies that will be used to advance the anticipated research outcomes/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible materiel) to the next phase of development (clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) following the completion of the proposed effort.

- Whether the outcomes/products expected following the completion of the proposed research are well described, relevant, measurable, and discuss the intended end-user.
- How well the application describes the manner by which anticipated outcomes/products of the proposed research will be disseminated to both the scientific and consumer/ stakeholder communities.
- How well the funding strategy that will be used to advance the outcomes to the next phase of development, commercialization (e.g., partners, funding opportunities to applied for), and/or incorporated into patient care is described.
- To what extent the milestones for bringing the outcomes/products to the next phase of development (further research, clinical trials, commercialization/transition to industry, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, clearance/approval by a Regulatory Agency) are described.
- To what degree ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award are considered and addressed in planning.

- **Personnel**
  - Whether the PIs' records of accomplishment and their ability to lead the research team to accomplish the proposed research project is clearly described, and to what degree their previous experience most pertinent to this project is sufficient to achieve the project's goals.
  - To what degree the qualifications and experience/expertise of the PI and other key personnel, including each individual's role, will contribute to the success of the proposed project.
  - How well the specific contributions of collaborators will complement the PI's ability to perform the proposed work, enhance the project's innovation, or impact in the tick-borne disease research field, and/or promote collaboration among fields or with commercial partners, if applicable.

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**:

- **Research Sharing Plan**
  - 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.
- **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.
  - 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 TBDRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
  - Programmatic relevance in relation to the TDRA Focus Areas
  - Relative likelihood for impact, including impact on reducing public health burden and burden on military Service Members and their Families
  - Program portfolio composition

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit full applications. The estimated date when PIs can expect to receive notification of an invitation to submit a full application is indicated in Section 1, Basic Information about the Funding Opportunity. No feedback (e.g., a critique of the pre-application's strengths and weaknesses) is provided at this stage. Because the invitation to submit a full application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

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.

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.

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 TBDRP 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.

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 IACUC, IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review.

8.2. Reporting

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

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.

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting *(only 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.

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.

8.3. Additional Requirements

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

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

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 pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not issued.
- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Impact Statement (Attachment 6) is missing.
- Post-Award Transition Plan (Attachment 7) is missing.
- Study Personnel (Attachment 10) 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 TBDRP 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.
- 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 invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

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.

Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance ***(Grants.gov submissions only)***	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) ***(eBRAP submissions only)***	☐
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	☐
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	☐
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	☐
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	☐
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐
Post-Award Transition Plan – Attachment 7, upload as "Transition.pdf"	☐
Animal Research Plan ***(if applicable)*** **– Attachment 8, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"**	☐
Human Subjects/Samples/Data Acquisition Plan ***(if applicable)*** **– Attachment 9, upload as "HumSubProc.pdf"**	☐
Study Personnel – Attachment 10, upload as "Personnel.pdf"	☐
Representations ***(Grants.gov submissions only)*** **– Attachment 11, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"**	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form ***(if applicable)*** **– Attachment 12, upload as "IGBudget.pdf"**	☐
Additional Application Materials	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐
Research & Related Budget	☐
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) ***(if applicable)***	☐

Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
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
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
TBDRP	Tick-Borne Disease Research Program
TDRA	Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs .