

**Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
Tick-Borne Disease Research Program (TBDRP)
Reference Table of Award Mechanisms and Submission Requirements**

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Idea Development Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526TBDRPIDA</p>	<p>Idea Development Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent investigators at all career levels. • Individuals in a mentored position, e.g., postdoctoral fellows or clinical fellows, are not considered independent investigators. <p>Idea Development Award – Career Development Option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Principal Investigator:</u> Investigators within 10 years of completing their terminal degree at the time of application submission deadline with a strong desire to pursue a career in tick-borne diseases research. • <u>Mentor:</u> Independent investigators at or above the level of associate professor, or equivalent. Mentors must demonstrate experience as a tick-borne disease researcher by providing a 5-year history of funding and publications in tick-borne disease research. • The Principle Investigator and Mentor may originate from different organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports research that could lead to impactful discoveries or significant advancements toward reducing the burden of Lyme disease and/or other tick-borne diseases and conditions. • <i>Mechanism-specific pathogenesis, treatment and diagnosis focus areas only.</i> • Conceptually innovative, non-incremental research exhibiting high levels of creativity, or research challenging existing paradigms. • Career Development Option: Supports early-career investigators conducting impactful research under the mentorship of an experienced tick-borne disease researcher. Invited pre-applications require a career development plan describing planned coordination between the PI and mentor. A separate, dedicated peer review panel will review applications submitted under this option using career development-specific evaluation criteria described in the funding opportunity. • Applications must include either preliminary data or a strong rationale for achieving interpretable results. • Applications cannot support clinical trials; human studies/clinical research permitted. • <i>The TBDRP requires submission of a preproposal; application submission is by invitation only.</i> 	<p>Idea Development Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum period of performance is 3 years. • Maximum funding of \$800,000 for total costs. * <p>Idea Development Award – Career Development Option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum period of performance is 3 years. • Maximum funding of \$550,000 for total costs. * 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): July 22, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 22, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526TBDRPTDRA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent investigators at all career levels. • Individuals in a mentored position, e.g., postdoctoral fellows or clinical fellows, are not considered independent investigators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports hypothesis-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. • <i>Mechanism-specific treatment and diagnosis focus areas only.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatment-focused applications should include therapeutic evaluation studies designed to advance early/preclinical drug or treatment discoveries. ○ Diagnosis-focused applications should propose diagnostic approaches readily integrated into clinical settings. • Research should demonstrate translational potential. • Strongly encourages applicants with limited tick-borne disease experience to collaborate with experienced tick-borne disease investigators. • Strongly encourages applicants with substantial tick-borne disease experience to partner with experts in therapeutic and diagnostic assay development and transition, particularly those from the commercial sector. • Applications require preliminary data. • Applications cannot support clinical trials; human studies/clinical research permitted. • <i>The TBDRP requires submission of a preproposal; application submission is by invitation only.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum period of performance is 3 years. • Maximum funding of \$1,325,000 for total costs. * 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): July 22, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: October 22, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

*Total costs include direct and indirect costs.