



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Vision Research Program Clinical Trial Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526VRPCTA

Pre-Application Due: July 28, 2026

Application Due: November 12, 2026

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

Content

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| | Before You Begin | 3 |
| ① | Basic Information Summarizes the <u>funding opportunity</u> , <u>funding details</u> , <u>submission deadlines and review dates</u> | 4 |
| ② | Eligibility Details eligibility factors for the <u>applicant organization</u> and <u>Principal Investigator</u> | 5 |
| ③ | Program Description Describes the <u>program mission and intent of the Clinical Trial Award</u> ; provides <u>key award information</u> and <u>considerations</u> ; and outlines <u>funding details</u> | 6 |
| ④ | Application Contents Presents the two-step <u>application process</u> and instructions for preparing a <u>pre-application</u> and <u>full application</u> | 9 |
| ⑤ | Submission Requirements Provides <u>locations for application packages</u> , instructions for submitting <u>pre-applications</u> and <u>full applications</u> , and describes <u>application verification</u> | 21 |
| ⑥ | Application Review Information Outlines the processes for application <u>compliance review</u> , <u>pre-application</u> and <u>full application</u> selection/notification, and <u>risk assessment</u> . Also, details the review criteria for <u>pre-application screening</u> and both tiers of the CDMRP application review process – <u>Peer Review</u> and <u>Programmatic Review</u> | 23 |
| ⑦ | Federal Award Notices Outlines what a successful applicant can expect <u>if recommended for funding</u> | 28 |
| ⑧ | Post-Award Requirements References <u>policy requirements</u> for funded research; outlines <u>reporting requirements</u> and restrictions related to <u>Principal Investigator changes</u> and <u>institutional award transfers</u> | 29 |
| ⑨ | Other Information Outlines criteria for administrative actions including application <u>rejection</u> , <u>modification</u> , <u>withdrawal</u> and <u>withhold</u> | 31 |
| | Appendix 1 Includes a checklist for all full application components to facilitate application submission | 33 |
| | Appendix 2 Acronym List | 34 |

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).

Section Shortcuts

[Basic Information](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Program Description](#) | [Application Contents and Format](#) | [Submission Requirements](#) | [Application Review Information](#) | [Federal Award Notices](#) | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | [Other Information](#)

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Vision Research Program (VRP) Clinical Trial Award (CTA) supports the rapid implementation of [clinical trials](#) with the potential to have a significant impact on the treatment or management of service-connected eye injury and visual dysfunction. Research must align with at least one of the [FY26 VRP Focus Areas](#).

Distinctive Features:

- For interventions that require Investigational New Drug (IND)/Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) or equivalent regulatory authorizations for clinical testing, the IND/IDE application or equivalent **must be submitted to the relevant [Regulatory Agency](#) by the CTA application submission deadline**. In addition, **applicants must provide documentation of communication from the Regulatory Agency indicating that the IND/IDE or equivalent is active/safe to proceed by March 1, 2027, in order for the CTA application to be considered for funding**. Refer to [Attachment 7: Regulatory Strategy](#) for further details.
- Scored [peer review criteria](#) include Clinical Impact; Research Strategy and Feasibility; Recruitment, Accrual, Retention; Regulatory Strategy and Transition Plan; Statistical Plan and Data Analysis; Ethical Considerations; Personnel and Communication.
- [Programmatic review criteria](#) include adherence to the intent of the CTA, contribution to program portfolio, relative impact and relevance to military health.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$2.6 million (M) to fund approximately one Clinical Trial Award application with total cost caps of \$2.6M. 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 28, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** September 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, November 12, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, November 17, 2026
- **Peer Review:** January 2027
- **Programmatic Review:** March 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526VRPCTA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | [Eligibility](#) | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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 affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named as Principal Investigator (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](#).

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | [Program Description](#) | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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 Vision Research Program (VRP). 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 VRP in 2009 to target the various causes, effects and treatment of visual injury resulting from exposures to the elements during combat operations and damage from explosive devices. Appropriations for the VRP from FY09 through FY24 totaled \$204.95 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is \$10M.

The goal of the VRP is to transform visual system trauma care for our Armed Forces and the nation. Visual system trauma includes both injury of the ocular system and vision dysfunction as a result of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The FY26 VRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will significantly advance understanding, prevention, diagnosis, mitigation and/or treatment of eye injury or visual dysfunction associated with military exposure.

3.1. Award History

The VRP Clinical Trial Award (CTA) mechanism was first offered in FY17. Since then, 25 CTA applications were received, and 6 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Clinical Trial Award

The VRP CTA supports the rapid implementation of [clinical trials](#) with the potential to have a significant impact on the treatment or management of service-connected eye injury and visual dysfunction. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate promising new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs, biologics or medical devices), clinical guidance and/or emerging approaches and technologies. Proposed projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials (i.e., pilot, first-in-human, phase 0) to demonstrate the feasibility or inform the design of more advanced trials through large-scale trials to determine efficacy in relevant patient populations.

3.2.1. Focus Areas for the CTA

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, applications to the FY26 VRP CTA must address research in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Understand and treat eye injury or visual dysfunction as related to military exposure
- Diagnose, stabilize and treat eye injuries in austere environments and prolonged care settings
- Restore visual function after military exposure-related vision loss or severe visual impairment

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | [Program Description](#) | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

3.2.2. Key Elements for the CTA

- **Regulatory Agency:** For the purposes of this funding opportunity, Regulatory Agency refers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or any relevant international Regulatory Agency unless otherwise noted.
- If an IND/IDE or equivalent, is required, a regulatory application ***must be submitted to the relevant Regulatory Agency by the CTA application submission deadline.*** The regulatory application should be specific to the product and indication to be tested in the proposed clinical trial.
- Applicants must provide documentation of communication from the Regulatory Agency indicating that the IND/IDE or equivalent, is active/safe to proceed by **March 1, 2027**, in order for the CTA application to be considered for funding. Refer to [Attachment 7: Regulatory Strategy](#) for further details.
- The proposed clinical trial is expected to begin no later than six months after the award date.
- When developing applications for the CTA, the VRP strongly encourages applicants to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate the following key considerations:
 - The availability of and access to the study population are sufficient.
 - Intervention access and availability.
 - The study team composition is appropriate for the proposed research.
 - Statistical considerations, data management and analysis plans are appropriate for the proposed research.

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the CTA

Funding from this award mechanism must support a [clinical trial](#). Preclinical research or non-trial [clinical research](#) is not supported in this funding opportunity.

Applicants seeking funding for research that does not meet the definition of a clinical trial should consider other FY26 VRP funding opportunities that may be more appropriate for such research.

An informational resource for preparing an application, the [Human Subject Research Resource](#), is available on the CDMRP website.

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.

3.3. Funding Instrument

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

Section Shortcuts

[Basic Information](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Program Description](#) | [Application Contents and Format](#) | [Submission Requirements](#)
[Application Review Information](#) | [Federal Award Notices](#) | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | [Other Information](#)

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 **\$2.6M**. 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:

Must be requested for:

- Travel costs for up to two investigators to present project information or disseminate results at one DOW-sponsored meeting to be specified by the program office during award negotiations (e.g., the Military Health System Research Symposium). For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meeting will be held in the Central Florida Area. Costs associated with travel to this meeting should be included in year 2 or 3 of the budget. This is in addition to the scientific/technical meeting described below.

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 in addition to the required meeting described above to present project information or disseminate project results from the VRP CTA.
- Research subject compensation and reimbursement for trial-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:

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

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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:

- **Objective/Rationale:** Describe the objective and rationale of the proposed clinical trial, including background and key preliminary data. Specify the intervention to be investigated, the phase of the clinical trial and the primary and secondary outcomes. Briefly describe the overall trial design. Clearly demonstrate that the proposed trial should be conducted, is ready to be initiated and is feasible.
- **Impact:** Explain the potential of the proposed clinical trial to improve outcomes after vision injury. Be brief but as specific as possible.
- **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.



Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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.

o **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (20-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.**



Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. It should be evident that the proposed study meets the definition of a [clinical trial](#).

- **Background:** Describe in detail the scientific rationale for the study. Provide a review and analysis of the available literature and completed/ongoing studies relevant to the proposed clinical trial.
 - Describe the preliminary studies and/or preclinical data that support the proposed clinical trial.
 - Summarize key preclinical pharmacological findings, dosage studies and other clinical studies (if applicable) that examine the safety and stability (as appropriate) of the intervention.
 - Provide a summary of other relevant ongoing, planned or completed clinical trials, and describe how the proposed study differs.

If the proposed clinical trial was initiated using other funding prior to this application, explain the history and background of the clinical trial and declare the source(s) of prior funding. Identify the specific portions of the study that will be supported with funds from this award.

- **Intervention:** Identify the intervention to be tested. Include the following components, as applicable: intervention type (drug, device, behavioral, surgical, etc.), complete name and composition, source, general concept of design, administration route.
 - Describe how the intervention addresses current clinical needs, improves upon available interventions and/or standards of care, or addresses controversies and treatment issues within the field.
 - Indicate who holds the intellectual property rights to the intervention, if applicable, and how the PI has obtained access to those rights, along with access to the intervention itself, for conduct of the clinical trial.


Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- As applicable, appropriate letters of commitment should be provided in [Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation](#), demonstrating the study team's access to the intervention(s) for the duration of the clinical trial.
- **Objectives, Specific Aims and Hypotheses:** Describe the purpose of the proposed study with detailed objectives. State the hypothesis/research question to be tested in the proposed clinical trial and detail the specific aims that will address the hypothesis/research question.
- **Study Design:** Describe the proposed clinical trial in sufficient detail to evaluate its appropriateness and feasibility, relating to both the scientific success of the study and setting reasonable expectations of what study participants will experience. 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 trials, such as those described in the [CONSORT](#) and [SPIRIT](#) guidelines.
 - Describe the type of study to be performed. Outline the proposed clinical trial methodology and study variables in sufficient detail to demonstrate a clear course of action and justification. Describe the interaction with the human subject, including the study intervention that they will experience, and include the dose and administration route. Provide sufficient detail in chronological order for a person not involved in the study to understand what the study participant will experience.
 - Provide a schedule (e.g., flowchart or diagram) of study intervention(s), evaluation(s), and follow-up procedures, including, if applicable, the biospecimen that will be collected, the collection schedule and amount. Describe measures to ensure consistency of dosing (e.g., active ingredients for nutritional supplements, rehabilitation interventions). Define each arm/study group of the proposed trial, if applicable, and describe how group assignment will occur. Include a description of controls, as appropriate. Specify the approximate number of study participants to be enrolled. Indicate whether subjects, clinicians, data analysts and/or others will be blinded during the study. Describe any other measures to be taken to reduce bias.
 - Define all endpoints/outcome measures relevant to the objectives of the study; explain why they were chosen, and describe how, when and where they will be measured. Include all evaluations that will be made for study purposes. If questionnaires or other research data collection instruments will be used, include a copy of them in [Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation](#). Describe the reliability and validity of the selected endpoints/outcome measures and evaluations, along with the applicable quality standards. Explain how the results of evaluations and/or data collection instruments will be used to meet the objectives of the study (or to monitor safety of human subjects).
 - Briefly describe the study population and the inclusion and exclusion criteria that will be used to meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial. Additional details should be provided in [Attachment 6: Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan](#).
- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis:** Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. Ensure sufficient information is provided to allow for a thorough evaluation of statistical calculations during review of the application.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the proposed clinical trial's anticipated sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study. Describe all clinical and statistical justifications and assumptions that support the sample size calculations. Explain any anticipated subgroup analyses and demonstrate that such analyses will be appropriately powered.
- 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. Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research](#) for additional information.
- For phase 3 clinical trials, describe plans for the valid and sufficiently powered analysis of group differences on the basis on sex, race and/or ethnicity as appropriate for the scientific goals of the study. Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research](#) for additional information on the requirements for phase 3 studies.
- **Pitfalls and Mitigation Strategy:** Describe potential challenges and discuss alternative methods/approaches that may be employed to overcome them.
- **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 for the duration of the proposed clinical trial. 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

Section Shortcuts


Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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.

- **Commercial Entity Letters of Commitment (if applicable) (two-page limit per letter is recommended):** If the proposed study involves use of a commercially produced investigational drug, device or biologic, provide a letter of commitment from the commercial entity indicating the availability of the product for the duration of the proposed clinical trial, support for the proposed phase of research and support for the indication to be tested.
- **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 trial participants. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed clinical trial 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 (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.


- **Questionnaires and Other Research Data Collection Instruments (if applicable):** Include a copy of the most recent version of questionnaires, data collection forms, rating scales, interview guides or other instruments. This should include any drafts that are currently in use or underdevelopment.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** 

Write the technical abstract using the outline below. Programmatic Reviewers rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project's key aspects. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.


- **Background:** Present the ideas and rationale behind the proposed clinical trial.
- **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the objective of the proposed clinical trial and the hypothesis/research question to be addressed.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls.
- **Expected Outcome:** Describe the expected outcome(s) of the proposed research.
- **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 rationale for the proposed clinical trial. Why is it needed?
 - Describe the intervention(s).
 - Describe the phase of the trial and the projected timeline for achieving clinical applications.
 - Explain the expected outcome.
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (five-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** 

Refer to eBRAP for the [Suggested SOW Format](#).

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

If conducting TBI-related research: The VRP requires that all TBI-related clinical research with at least 50 subjects funded by this program be shared through the jointly supported [DOW-NIH Federal Interagency TBI Research Information System \(FITBIR\)](#). FITBIR-eligible research should include the following subtasks:

 - FITBIR investigator and study registration within the first 30 days of the award
 - Sharing of draft data collection forms with FITBIR
 - Annual FITBIR data submission
- **Attachment 6: Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan (no page limit): Upload as “StudyPopPlan.pdf”.** Include the components listed below.
 - **Enrollment Distribution:** Provide anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity using the [Public Health Service \(PHS\) Inclusion Enrollment Report](#). The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study.
 - **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:** List the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the proposed clinical trial. If limiting inclusion by age, race, ethnicity or sex, provide strong rationale based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations. List and describe any evaluations (e.g., laboratory procedures, history or physical examination) that are required to determine eligibility/suitability for study participation and the diagnostic criteria for entry. Describe how the study population represents the population anticipated to benefit from the intervention.
 - **Study Population Availability:** Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population at each site. Describe the approximate number, pertinent demographic information and other relevant characteristics of the study

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

population at each enrollment site. Indicate whether the actual size of available study population may be affected by ongoing clinical trials that compete for the same population. 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 General Application Instructions, [Appendix 4](#), for additional considerations.

- **Recruitment and Retention Process:** Explain methods for identification of potential study participants (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, health care provider identification). Describe the recruitment process in detail; address who will identify potential study participants, who will recruit them, and what methods will be used to recruit them. Describe any special care (e.g., wound dressing assistance, transportation due to side effects of study intervention impairing ability to drive) or equipment (e.g., thermometers, telemedicine equipment) needed for human subjects enrolled in the study. If study participants will be compensated, include a detailed description of and justification for the compensation plan. Describe the methods that will be employed to retain participants within the study. Discuss past efforts in recruiting and retaining study participants for previous clinical trials (if applicable). Address any potential barriers to accrual and plans for addressing unanticipated delays, including a mitigation plan for slow or low enrollment or poor retention. Estimate the potential for participant loss to follow up and how such loss will be handled/mitigated. Indicate whether the study team has considered barriers to clinical trial participation and, if applicable, how the team aims to mitigate or overcome these barriers.
- **Women and Minorities Recruitment/Retention Strategy:** Describe the strategy for recruitment, enrollment and retention specific to women and minorities in the clinical trial appropriate to the objectives of the study.
- **Informed Consent Process:** Specifically describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from study participants; include information regarding the timing and location of the consent process. If minors or other populations that cannot provide informed consent are included in the proposed clinical trial, describe the plan to obtain assent (agreement) from those with capacity to provide it, or a justification for a waiver of assent. [Appendix 6](#) of the General Application Instructions contains additional considerations unique to DOW-sponsored research.
- **Risks/Benefits Assessment:**
 - **Foreseeable risks:** Clearly identify all study risks, including potential safety concerns and adverse events. Address special precautions to be taken by the human subjects before, during and after the study (e.g., medication washout periods, dietary restrictions, hydration, fasting, pregnancy prevention). If applicable, identify any potential risk to the study personnel.
 - **Risk management and emergency response:** Appropriate to the study's level of risk, describe how safety monitoring and reporting to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Regulatory Agency (if applicable) will be managed and conducted. Describe all safety measures to minimize and/or eliminate risks to human subjects and study personnel or to manage unpreventable risks. Discuss the overall plan for provision of emergency care or treatment for an adverse

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

event for study-related injuries, including who will be responsible for the costs of such care.

- **Potential benefits:** Describe known and potential benefits of the study to the human subjects who will participate in the study. Articulate the importance of the knowledge to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the potential risks to human subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to the human subjects and others that may be expected to result.
- **Attachment 7: Regulatory Strategy (no page limit): If submitting multiple documents, start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named “Regulatory.pdf”.** Answer the following questions and provide supporting documentation as applicable.
 - State the product/intervention name.

For products/interventions that do not require regulation by a Regulatory Agency:

- Provide evidence that the clinical trial does not require regulation by a Regulatory Agency. Submissions providing “not applicable,” “none,” or similar responses do not satisfy this request. No further information about this attachment is required.

For products that require regulation by a Regulatory Agency:

- Describe the overall regulatory strategy and product development plan that will be performed during the project’s period of performance to support the planned product indication/label. Include, as appropriate, a description of the numbers and types of studies proposed to reach approval, licensure, or clearance, the types of Regulatory Agency meetings that will be held/planned and the submission filing strategy.
- State whether the product is FDA-approved, -licensed or -cleared, and marketed in the United States.
- If the product is marketed in the United States, state the product label indication. State whether the proposed research involves a change to the approved label indication. Indicate whether the proposed research involves a change that increases the risks associated with using the product. State whether the product is being promoted for off-label use (where promotion involves the sale of a marketed product).
- If the product is not currently FDA-approved, -licensed, or -cleared, state the planned indication/use. Indicate whether the product would be classified as a drug, device, biologic or combination product. Indicate whether the FDA has confirmed the proposed classification. **Identify the regulatory sponsor. Include a signed sponsor commitment letter** acknowledging the regulatory sponsor’s understanding of all sponsor responsibilities and commitment to oversee execution of the study.
- ***If an IND or IDE is required, the application must be submitted to the FDA prior to the FY26 VRP CTA application submission deadline.*** The IND or IDE should be specific for the investigational product (i.e., not a derivative or alternate version of the product) and include an indication to be tested in the proposed clinical trial. Provide the date of submission, the application number and a copy of the FDA letter acknowledging the submission. If there are any existing cross-references in place, provide the application number(s) and associated sponsor(s). Provide an explanation of the status of the application (e.g., past the critical 30-day period, pending response to questions raised by the FDA, on clinical hold, on partial clinical hold). If

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- the IND or IDE application has been placed on clinical hold or partial hold, explain the conditions that must be met for release of the hold. Provide a summary of any previous meetings with the FDA on development of this product. A copy of the FDA meeting minutes should be included if available. Provide copies of communications from the FDA relevant to the most recent status of the IND or IDE application.
- If available, provide a copy of the **communication from the FDA indicating the IND or IDE application is active/safe to proceed**. If not available at the time of application submission, applicants must submit it to the CDMRP Help Desk (help@eBRAP.org) **by March 1, 2027, in order for the CTA application to be considered for funding**.
 - If an active IND or IDE for the investigational product is in effect but an amendment is needed to include the proposed trial, describe the type and nature of the amendment(s) and the timeline for submission. Indicate whether the amendment increases the risk of the intervention.
 - If the clinical trial will be conducted at international sites, provide equivalent information and supporting documentation relevant to the product indication/label and regulatory approval and/or filings in the host country(ies).
 - **Attachment 8: Study Personnel and Organization (no page limit): Start each document on a new page. Combine into one document and upload as “Personnel.pdf”.** The Study Personnel and Organization attachment should include the components listed below.
 - **Organizational Chart:** Provide an organizational chart that identifies key members of the study team and an outline of the governing structure for multi-institutional studies. Identify collaborating organizations, centers, and/or departments, and name each person’s position on the project; include any separate laboratory or testing centers. Identify the data and clinical coordinating center(s) and note any involvement from Contract Research Organizations, as appropriate, including the location of the organization. If applicable, identify the Regulatory Agency sponsor and any external consultants or other experts who will assist with Regulatory Agency sponsor applications. While there is no specified format for this information, a table(s) or diagram is recommended.
 - **Study Personnel Description:** Describe the composition of the study team in enough detail to determine whether the team includes relevant subject matter expertise to accomplish the proposed work. Include the roles of individuals named in the organizational chart along with any external consultants or advisors who will provide critical guidance and input to the study team (e.g., statistician, regulatory expert, commercialization consultant, clinical ethicist, patient advocate). Study coordinator(s) should be included. Describe how the levels of effort for each individual are appropriate to successfully support the proposed clinical trial.
 - **Study Management Plan:** Describe the day-to-day management of the proposed clinical trial. Provide a plan for ensuring the standardization of procedures among staff and across sites (if applicable). If the proposed clinical trial involves more than one institution, clearly describe the multi-institutional structure governing the research protocol(s) across all participating institutions. If applicable, describe how communication and data transfer between/among the collaborating institutions will occur, as well as how data, specimens and/or imaging products obtained during the

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

study will be handled and shared. Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.

- **Attachment 9: Post-Award Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as “Transition.pdf”.** Discuss the anticipated methods and strategies necessary to move the anticipated research outcome to the next phase of development. Investigators are encouraged to work with their organization’s Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan and to explore developing relationships with industry and/or other funding agencies or investors to facilitate moving the product through the next phase of development. ***The post-award transition plan should:***
 - Name the project’s anticipated research outcomes.
 - Describe the next phase of development to advance the research outcome **after this project’s period of performance ends.**
 - As appropriate, describe a timeline with defined milestones and steps regarding Regulatory Agency approval.
 - Describe the methods and strategies to move the anticipated research outcomes through the next phase of development, including a brief schedule and feasible milestone, collaborations and other resources that will facilitate the transition, and funding strategy.
 - Describe 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.
 - Assess opportunities available and potential barriers that would impact the next phase of development and/or the eventual clinical application.
- **Attachment 10: Impact Statement (two-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** The impact statement summarizes the potential short- and long-term impact of the proposed clinical trial. The statement should address the points outlined below written ***in a manner that is readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.***
 - Detail the anticipated research outcome(s) that will be directly attributed to the results of the proposed clinical trial. Explain who will benefit from the proposed clinical trial and, if successful, how the trial will improve outcomes after vision injury for the targeted population.
 - If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
 - Describe any potential challenges that might limit the impact of the proposed clinical trial, including barriers to implementation or acceptance by users.
- **Attachment 11: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Military.pdf”.** Explain how the proposed research and anticipated outcomes will benefit Service Members, Veterans and/or their Families. Discuss how the proposed research is applicable to operational performance, medical readiness and/or quality of life.



As applicable, include the elements below:

 - If active-duty military, Veteran or military Family Member population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

population(s) for the proposed research and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population.

- If applicable, provide a description of how the knowledge, information, products or technologies gained from the research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to both benefit the civilian population and address a military need.
- If the ultimate outcome of the research is intended to be applicable in the military operational environment (e.g., battlefield, Battalion Aid Stations, Forward Support Medical Battalions), identify any element(s) or special consideration(s) related to the intended applicability. Applicants may consult [A Beginner's Guide to Military Healthcare System](#) for descriptions of the range of military operational environment and types of care provided.
- **Attachment 12: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 
- **Attachment 13: 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) Form

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

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | [Application Contents and Format](#) | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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.



If recommended for funding, a Quad Chart will be requested. The format for the quad chart is available on the eBRAP [“Funding Opportunities & Forms”](#) web page.

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

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | [Submission Requirements](#)
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526VRPCTA from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

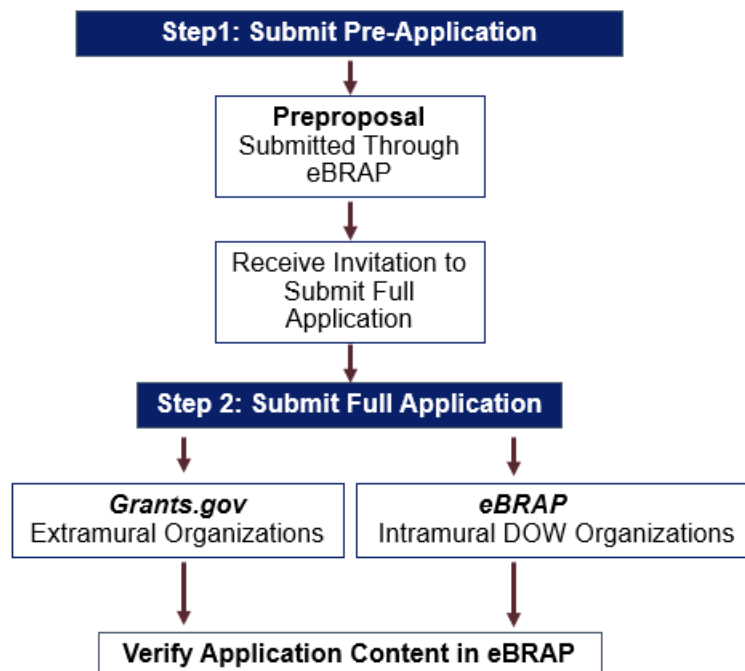
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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



Section Shortcuts


Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | [Submission Requirements](#)
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information


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.

Section Shortcuts


Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
[Application Review Information](#) | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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 VRP 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 VRP 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 VRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Background/Rationale:** To what extent has it been demonstrated that the proposed clinical trial should be conducted, is ready to be initiated and is feasible.
- **Impact:** If successful, to what extent the proposed clinical trial will improve outcomes after vision injury.

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:

- **Clinical Impact**
 - To what extent the proposed clinical trial will benefit the intended population(s) and improve outcomes after vision injury.
 - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
[Application Review Information](#) | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

- How well the scientific rationale for the proposed clinical trial is supported by the review and analysis of the available literature and completed/ongoing studies.
- To what degree the application includes preclinical and/or clinical evidence to support the safety and stability (as appropriate) of the intervention.
- How well the specific aims/hypotheses/research question, study design, experimental methods, data collection procedures and evaluations are designed to address the clinical objective and purpose of the study.
- How well studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the endpoints/outcomes to be measured.
- How well the intervention addresses current clinical need(s), improves upon available interventions and/or standards of care, or addresses controversies and treatment issues within the field.
- To what degree the planned route and schedule of study intervention(s), evaluations(s) and follow-up procedures are reasonable for study participants to experience.
- How well potential challenges and alternative strategies are discussed.
- Whether there is evidence indicating availability of the intervention from its source, for the duration of the proposed clinical trial (if applicable).
- If applicable, whether measures are described to ensure the consistency of dosing (e.g., active ingredients for nutritional supplements, rehabilitation interventions).

- **Recruitment, Accrual, Retention**

- To what degree the plan for recruiting, enrolling and retaining study participants is reasonable to meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.
- How well the application identifies possible delays (e.g., slow/low enrollment, poor retention) and presents adequate mitigation plans to resolve them.
- To what degree the number of study participants to be enrolled is reasonable based upon the proposed timeline, study procedures, available study population, inclusion/exclusion criteria and planned efforts to achieve accrual goals.
- Whether the distribution of the proposed enrollment on the basis of age, sex race and/or ethnicity is appropriate for the proposed research.
- If applicable, whether the justification for limiting inclusion of any demographic group, including sex, is sufficiently strong.
- To what extent the strategy for recruitment and retention of women and minorities in the clinical trial is appropriate to the objectives of the study.

- **Regulatory Strategy and Transition Plan**

- Whether the application includes documentation that the study is exempt from regulatory agency oversight, or that the IND or IDE application (and/or international equivalent) has been submitted to the Regulatory Agency, as appropriate.
- To what extent the regulatory strategy and product development plan are well described and appropriate to support the product indication or product label change, if applicable.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
[Application Review Information](#) | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- To what degree the next logical steps to be taken upon successful completion of the proposed clinical trial are realistic and appropriate to bring the research outcome(s) to the next stage of clinical development/implementation/dissemination.
- To what degree the collaborations and other resources intended to help advance the research outcome(s) are established and/or achievable.
- 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 planned for.
- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis**
 - To what degree the statistical model and data analysis plan are suitable for the planned study objectives.
 - To what degree the sample size projections are adequate to ensure proper power for the study, and as applicable, any subgroup analysis.
 - 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.
 - If a phase 3 trial is proposed, whether the plans for the valid analysis of group differences on the basis of sex, race and/or ethnicity are appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Ethical Considerations**
 - Whether the population selected to participate in the trial stands to benefit from the knowledge gained.
 - How the level of risk to human subjects is minimized and how the safety monitoring and reporting plan is appropriate for the level of risk.
 - To what degree the process of seeking informed consent is appropriate and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.
 - To what extent the proposed clinical trial might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study.
 - If applicable, to what degree barriers to clinical trial participation have been considered and/or addressed.
- **Personnel and Communication**
 - To what degree the composition of the study team, including any external consultants or advisors (e.g., statistician, regulatory expert, commercialization consultant, clinical ethicist, patient advocate), is appropriate to accomplish the proposed work.
 - Whether the levels of effort of the study team members are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed trial.
 - How well the logistical aspects of the proposed clinical trial (e.g., communication plan, data transfer and management, standardization of procedures, multi-institutional structure governing the research protocol(s)) are appropriate and meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

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**:

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
[Application Review Information](#) | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

- **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 degree the scientific environment, clinical setting and the accessibility of institutional resources support the clinical trial at each participating center or institution (including collaborative arrangements).
- Whether there is evidence for appropriate institutional commitment from each participating institution.

- **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 VRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity, including alignment with at least one of the [FY26 VRP Focus Areas](#)
 - Contribution to the VRP portfolio
 - Relative impact
 - Relevance to military health

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.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
[Application Review Information](#) | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | [Federal Award Notices](#) | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information


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 VRP 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.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | Other Information

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.

Funded trials are required to post a copy of the informed consent form used to enroll subjects on a publicly available federal website in accordance with federal requirements described in 32 CFR 219. Additionally, the CDMRP requires all funded clinical trials to register and submit study results on [ClinicalTrials.gov](#). 

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, IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review. 

The VRP requires that all TBI-related clinical research with at least 50 subjects funded by this program be shared through FITBIR. Recipients will be required to upload study data annually and in accordance with the FITBIR data submission policies. There is no fee to use FITBIR, and detailed guidance and policies, including a cost estimator tool for budgeting considerations, can be found on the [FITBIR](#) website.

8.2. Reporting

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

Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The [PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report](#) is available in 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

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | Other Information

\$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

Up to two investigators are expected to present project information and/or results at one DOW-sponsored meeting (e.g., the Military Health System Research Symposium) during the period of performance in year 2 or 3. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meeting will be held in the Central Florida Area.

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.

The organizational transfer of an award supporting a clinical trial is strongly discouraged and, in most cases, will not be allowed. Approval of a transfer request will be 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.



Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | [Other Information](#)

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_01Td.

9.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of pre-applications or 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 exceeds page limit.
- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not issued.
- Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan ([Attachment 6](#)) is missing.
- Regulatory Strategy ([Attachment 7](#)) is missing.
- Study Personnel and Organization ([Attachment 8](#)) 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 VRP 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.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | [Other Information](#)

- 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 proposed research is not a clinical trial.
- The proposed project includes preclinical research.
- The invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- If the product/intervention is regulated by a Regulatory Agency:
 - *The following may result in administrative withdrawal before peer review:* An IND or IDE application (or its international equivalent) has not been submitted prior to the FY26 VRP CTA application submission deadline.
 - *The following may result in administrative withdrawal after completion of peer review, but prior to programmatic review:* The applicant fails to provide documentation of communication from the Regulatory Agency indicating the IND or IDE application (or its international equivalent) is active/safe to proceed by March 1, 2027.

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.

Section Shortcuts

Basic Information | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements
Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

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"/> |
| Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan – Attachment 6, upload as “StudyPopPlan.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regulatory Strategy – Attachment 7, upload as “Regulatory.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Study Personnel and Organization – Attachment 8, upload as “Personnel.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Post-Award Transition Plan – Attachment 9, upload as “Transition.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Impact Statement – Attachment 10, upload as “Impact.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 11, Upload as “Military.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Representations (<i>Grants.gov submissions only</i>) – Attachment 12, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf” | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (<i>if applicable</i>) – Attachment 13, 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"/> |

Section Shortcuts

[Basic Information](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Program Description](#) | [Application Contents and Format](#) | [Submission Requirements](#)
[Application Review Information](#) | [Federal Award Notices](#) | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | [Other Information](#)

Appendix 2. Acronym List

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CDMRP | Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CONSORT | Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials |
| CTA | Clinical Trial Award |
| 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 |
| FDA | U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| FITBIR | Federal Interagency TBI Research Information System |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| GAI | General Application Instructions |
| IDE | Investigational Device Exemption |
| IND | Investigational New Drug |
| IRB | Institutional Review Board |
| M | Million |
| MIPR | Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request |
| NIH | National Institutes of Health |
| 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 |
| SPIRIT | Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials |

Section Shortcuts

[Basic Information](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Program Description](#) | [Application Contents and Format](#) | [Submission Requirements](#)
[Application Review Information](#) | [Federal Award Notices](#) | [Post-Award Requirements](#) | [Other Information](#)

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| TBI | Traumatic Brain Injury |
| UEI | Unique Entity Identifier |
| URL | Uniform Resource Locator |
| USC | United States Code |
| VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs |
| VRP | Vision Research Program |