Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Vision Research Program
Translational Research Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526VRPTRA

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

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

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507
help@eBRAP.org

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

Grants.gov Support Center

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

Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace.

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

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

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Vision Research Program (VRP) Translational Research Award (TRA) supports translational research that transforms a promising discovery into new drugs, devices or clinical practice guidelines that are ready for definitive testing in clinical trials during or by the end of the period of performance. The TRA may be used to support preclinical studies, clinical research or a pilot clinical trial, but **not** a full-scale clinical trial. Research must align with at least one of the FY26 VRP Focus Areas.

Distinctive Features:

- If developing new drugs or device(s), the research team must include expertise in the regulatory approval process.
- The TRA includes a **Partnering Principal Investigator (PI) Option (PPIO)** for **two PIs,** an Initiating PI and a Partnering PI.
- Scored **peer review criteria** include Research Idea/Rationale, Research Strategy and Feasibility, Impact, Personnel and Post-Award Transition Plan.
- **Programmatic review criteria** include adherence to the intent of the TRA, contribution to the VRP portfolio, relative impact and relevance to military health.
- The VRP may share FY26 TRA applications and reviews with the National Eye Institute (NEI) for independent funding consideration.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $1.6 million (M) to fund approximately one Translational Research Award application with a total cost cap of $1.6M. 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: HT942526VRPTRA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

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

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

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

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

Awards are made to eligible ***organizations***, not to individuals. Refer to the GAI for additional recipient qualification requirements.

3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the 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 $204.95M. 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 Translational Research Award (TRA) mechanism was first offered in FY13. Since then, 125 TRA applications were received, and 30 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Translational Research Award

The VRP TRA supports translational research that transforms a promising discovery into new drugs, devices or clinical practice guidelines that are ready for definitive testing in clinical trials during or by the end of the period of performance.

The TRA may be used to support preclinical studies, clinical research or a **pilot** clinical trial (PCT). Applications proposing a PCT must also include non-PCT, translational research component(s) (e.g., preclinical studies, clinical research).

The TRA may not be used to support full-scale clinical trials.

3.2.1. Focus Areas for the TRA

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, applications to the FY26 VRP TRA 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

3.2.2. Key Elements for the TRA

- If developing new drugs or device(s), the research team must include expertise in the regulatory approval process.
- If applicable, the proposed research should enable the submission of an Investigational New Drug (IND)/Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) application or international equivalent to a Regulatory Agency **during or by the end of the period of performance**. 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.
- **Pilot Clinical Trial:** The VRP defines a PCT as a limited clinical testing of a novel intervention that is **designed to inform the feasibility, rationale and design of full-scale clinical trials**. Applications that propose PCTs will have additional submission requirements and review criteria.
- **PPIO:** The FY26 VRP TRA includes an **option for two Principal Investigators (PIs)**. One PI will be identified as the **Initiating PI** and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The other PI will be identified as a **Partnering PI**. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). Each award will be subject to separate reporting, regulatory and administrative requirements. For individual submission requirements for the Initiating PI and Partnering PI, refer to Section 5.3, Submission Instructions.

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the TRA

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

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).

3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$1.6M**. 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.

If choosing the PPIO, the cost cap applies to the **combined** total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI. A separate award will be made to each PI's organization. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the research, and funding should be divided accordingly unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

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 or, if choosing the PPIO, up to one investigator per award, 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 or, if choosing the PPIO, one investigator per award, to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year to present project information or disseminate project results from the VRP TRA.
- Research subject compensation and reimbursement for study-related out-of-pocket costs (e.g., travel, lodging, parking, costs associated with caregiving and resources/equipment to enable participation).

Must not be requested for:

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

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

The PI, or Initiating PI, if choosing the PPIO, must submit the following pre-application components.

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

- **Preproposal Narrative (one-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 rationale of the proposed research including key preliminary data if applicable. Concisely state the project's objective(s)/hypothesis(es) and specific aims. ***Do not go into details of experimental design.***
  - **Impact:** Explain the anticipated impact of the proposed research on vision injury research or patient care. Be brief but as specific as possible.
  - **Adherence to the Intent of the TRA:** Explain how the proposed research transforms a promising discovery into new drugs, devices or clinical practice guidelines that are ready for definitive testing in clinical trials. As applicable, explain how the proposed research will support the submission of an IND/IDE application during or by the end of the period of performance.
- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application ***must be uploaded as individual files*** and are limited to the following:
  - **References Cited (one-page limit):** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.

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

4.3. Full Application Components

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

4.3.1. Full Application Components for the PI or (if choosing the PPIO) Initiating PI

Note: If choosing the PPIO, the CDMRP requires ***separate*** full application package submissions by the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. The application submission process for the Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package.

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

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

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

(b) Attachments:

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

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (12-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".**

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Research Idea/Rationale:** Explain the research idea. Clearly state the objective(s) to be reached and/or the hypothesis(es) to be tested. Explain how the proposed research transforms a promising discovery into new drugs, devices or clinical practice guidelines that are ready for definitive testing in clinical trials during or by the end of the period of performance. Explain how the proposed research is supported by rationale, critical analysis of the literature and preliminary data. Describe any element(s) of the proposed research that is innovative or offers significant improvement over existing ideas or solutions.
  - **Specific Aims:** Describe the project's specific aims. As applicable, clearly identify which aim involves a PCT. Applications proposing a PCT ***must also have non-PCT translational research component(s)*** (e.g., preclinical studies, clinical research).
  - **Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, methods and analyses, including controls, in sufficient detail so that the appropriateness and feasibility of the research strategy can be fully evaluated. Demonstrate sufficient understanding and consideration of regulatory approval requirements and process. All projects should adhere to a core set of **standards for rigorous study design and reporting** to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of clinical and preclinical research, such as those described in the STROBE, CONSORT, SPIRIT and ARRIVE

guidelines 2.0. As applicable, include measures to be taken to reduce bias and achieve reproducible and rigorous results to facilitate evaluation.

- **Research involving in vivo or in vitro models, including but not limited to cell lines, animals, organoids and other New Approach Methodologies**: Justify the selection of the proposed model(s). Explain why it was chosen over other models, how it is appropriate for addressing the study aims. For research involving animals, further details will be required in Attachment 8, Animal Research Plan.
- **If proposing clinical research:**
  - Describe the study population. Describe the rationale for the selection of subjects/samples/data. Explain how the selection is appropriate for addressing the study aims. Provide a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples, including evidence that the research team has access to subjects, samples and/or data.
  - Describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial and ethnic group. If limiting inclusion of any group by sex, race or ethnicity, provide justification related to the scientific goals. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement. Anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity should be provided as part of Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation.
- **If proposing a PCT:**
  - Describe the design of the PCT and outline the proposed methodology in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action. Explain how the PCT will inform the feasibility, rationale and design of full-scale clinical trials. Identify the intervention(s) to be tested, projected outcomes, study variables, controls and endpoints. Demonstrate the availability of, and access to, the intervention to be tested.
  - Applications proposing a PCT must also submit Attachment 9, Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures and Attachment 10, Regulatory Strategy. Do not duplicate information from Attachments 9 and 10 in the Project Narrative.
  - The Project Narrative is not the formal clinical trial protocol. If recommended for funding, the clinical trial protocol will be requested during award negotiations.
- **Statistical Plan**: Describe the statistical plan, including power analysis, and the rationale for the statistical methodology.
- Address potential pitfalls and problem areas, and present alternative methods and approaches.
- Explain how the research can be completed within the proposed period of performance.

- **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.

- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf".**

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

  - **References Cited:** List the references cited in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format (include URLs, if available).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols.
  - **Facilities, Existing Equipment and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project; include any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is not a standardized form for this information.
  - **Publications and/or Patents:** Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
  - **Letters of Support (two-page limit per letter is recommended):** Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI meets the eligibility criteria. If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOW collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOW resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.
  - **Sex as a Biological Variable Strategy (two-page limit is recommended):** Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable. This strategy should include a brief discussion of what is currently known regarding sex differences in the applicable research area. Clearly articulate how sex as a biological variable will be factored into the data analysis plan and how data will be collected and disaggregated by sex. If needed, provide a strong rationale for proposing a single-sex study, based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations. Refer to the CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research for additional information.

- **Inclusion Enrollment Report *(only required if clinical research or a pilot clinical trial is proposed)*:** Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the "Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report", a three-page fillable PDF form, that can be downloaded from eBRAP. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, including clinical research participants. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived, if applicable. Identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources that will not be shared (e.g., for intellectual property, feasibility, cost or other considerations). The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer/third-party intellectual property. Provide a milestone plan for disseminating data/results including when data and resources will be made available to other users. In cases where the study participant could potentially derive medical or other benefit from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with the participant or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

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

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

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

  Write the technical abstract using the outline below. 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.

  - **Research Idea/Rationale:** Present the idea and scientific rationale behind the proposed research. Clearly explain what promising discovery is being translated and how the proposed research will ready the discovery for definitive clinical testing.
  - **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached.
  - **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study. As applicable, clearly identify which aim involves a PCT.
  - **Study Design:** Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

- **Expected Outcome:** Describe the expected outcome(s) of the proposed research. Be as specific as possible.

- **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 ideas and rationale for the proposed research. Why is it needed?
  - Explain the objective(s) and study design of the proposed research. What questions will it answer, and how will it answer them?
  - Explain the expected outcome. At the end of the project, what new knowledge or new capability will have been gained?

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

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

  - **If choosing the PPIO**, each PI must submit an **identical** copy of a jointly created SOW. The specific contributions of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should be clearly noted for each task.
  - **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: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".** Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed work on vision injury research and/or patient care. Be as specific as possible. Write with a broad audience in mind, including readers without a background in science or medicine.

  - Explain who will benefit from the proposed research and how they will benefit.
  - If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

- **Attachment 7: 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

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 8: Animal Research Plan (no page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf".** ***(Attachment 8 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)*** If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. Consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study; do not duplicate information from the Project Narrative:
  - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study.
  - Summarize the animal species, strains and model(s) to be used. Identify the ages, sex and total number of animals by species to be used.
  - Summarize the procedures to be conducted, the endpoints and outcome measures.
  - Describe how the study will be controlled.
  - Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
  - Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.
  - Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- **Attachment 9: Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures (no page limit): Upload as "HumProc.pdf".** ***(Attachment 9 is only applicable and required for applications proposing a PCT.)***

  Include the components listed below as applicable. Do not duplicate information from the Project Narrative.

- **Study Population and Recruitment Process:** Describe the study population, criteria for inclusion/exclusion and the methods that will be used for recruitment/accrual/retention of human subjects.
  - Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population. If applicable, discuss past efforts in recruiting human subjects from the target population for previous clinical studies. Address any potential barriers to accrual and plans for addressing unanticipated delays.
  - Describe how the subject-to-group assignments process will be conducted (e.g., randomization, block randomization, stratified randomization, age-matched controls, alternating group or other procedures), if applicable.
  - Include a detailed description of and justification for the compensation plan if the human subjects will be compensated for participation in the study.
  - For clinical studies proposing to recruit military or VA personnel, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for more information on recruitment process and considerations, payment and confidentiality. If a non-military non-VA population will be used for the proposed clinical study, explain how results obtained will be applicable to military or VA personnel.
- **Informed Consent Process:** Describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from human subjects. Include relevant draft process documents. **Provide a draft, in English, of the Informed Consent Form.**
- **Screening Procedures:** List and describe any evaluations that are required to determine eligibility/suitability for study participation and the diagnostic criteria for entry.
- **Risks/Benefits Assessment:** Identify all foreseeable study risks (physical, psychological, social, legal and other). Discuss the importance of the knowledge to be gained in relation to the risks to subjects. Clearly describe measures of risk management and plans for emergency response. Describe known and potential benefits, which may or may not be direct to subjects, in relation to risks.

  Note: Payment and/or other compensation for participation are not considered benefits and must be addressed in Study Population and Recruitment Process.
- **Human Samples:** Describe the types and source(s) of specimens, records or data to be collected and evaluated. Include information about specimen storage (i.e., location, duration, special handling conditions). Describe the identifiers that will be associated with the human specimens and data and provide a list of who has access to subjects' identities. Describe how individually identifiable private information will be protected.

- **Attachment 10: Regulatory Strategy (no page limit): Upload as "Regulatory.pdf".** ***(Attachment 10 is only applicable and required for applications proposing a PCT)*** If submitting multiple documents, start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file. 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:

- 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 or a change that increases the risks associated with using the product. State whether the product is being promoted for an off-label use of a marketed product.
- If the product is not currently FDA-approved, -licensed, or -cleared, state the planned indication/use. State whether the product would be classified as a drug, device, biologic or combination product. State 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 application is required, provide documentation of submission (e.g., a copy of the FDA acknowledgment letter to include submission date and receipt date, status of the application) or a timeline for planned submission.
- The IND or IDE application should be specific for the investigational product (i.e., not a derivative or alternate version of the product) and indication to be tested in the proposed PCT.
- Provide summaries of meetings with the FDA and recommendations by the FDA. If available, provide a copy of the communication from the FDA indicating the IND or IDE application is active/safe to proceed.
- If a technical or a protocol amendment to an IND/IDE application is necessary to conduct the PCT, provide a copy of the FDA acknowledgment letter and meeting minutes (pre-IND/IDE application and/or Type C) that confirm the FDA's concurrence to the proposed regulatory approach. Documents must demonstrate clear evidence that the proposed investigational drug or device will not require new IND/IDE application submission pertaining to the indication and formulation to be used in the PCT.
- If the PCT 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).
- Provide the current status for manufacturing development (e.g., manufacturer's name, Good Manufacturing Practice [GMP]-compliant lots available, status of stability testing), nonclinical development (e.g., test facility name, status of pivotal Good Laboratory Practice [GLP] toxicology studies to support phase 1 testing, etc.), and clinical development (e.g., clinical site name, safety profile, status of any completed or ongoing clinical trials).

- Describe the overall regulatory strategy and product development plan that will support the planned product indication/label. Include considerations for compliance with current GMP, GLP and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines.

- **Attachment 11: Post-Award Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".** Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan. Applicants are encouraged to explore developing relationships with industry and/or other funding agencies to facilitate moving the product into the next phase of development. Include the following components in the Post-Award Transition Plan:
  - The project's anticipated research outcomes.
  - A description of the next phase of development to advance the research outcome **after this project's period of performance ends**.
    - If applicable, describe the planned indication for the product label and an outline of the development plan required to support that indication (e.g., Target Product Profile). Describe the regulatory strategy, including the number and types of studies proposed to reach approval, licensure or clearance, the types of Regulatory Agency meetings to be held, the submission filing strategy and considerations for compliance with GMP, GLP and GCP guidelines.
  - The methods and strategies to move the anticipated research outcomes to the next phase of development, including a brief schedule and feasible milestones, collaborations and other resources that will facilitate the transition and funding strategy.
  - Ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award, including a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations, if applicable.
  - An assessment of the opportunities available and potential barriers that would impact the next phase of development and/or the eventual clinical translation of the research outcome.

- **Attachment 12: Partnership Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Partnership.pdf".** ***(Attachment 12 is only applicable and required for applications choosing the PPIO.)*** Describe how the partners' combined experience will better address the research question and explain why the work should be done together rather than through separate efforts.

- **Attachment 13: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.

- **Attachment 14: 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 *Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.4, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.*	
iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)	
iv. Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) *(if applicable, Grants.gov submissions only)*	

4.3.2. Full Application Components for the Partnering PI

Refer to the equivalent attachment above for details specific to each of the following application components. See Appendix 1 for a checklist of the full application components required for the Partnering PI.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form *(Grants.gov Submissions Only)*:

(b) Attachments:

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW.
- **Attachment 13: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".**
- **Attachment 14: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".**

(c) Additional Application Materials:

The following are additional application materials for application submission. Follow the instructions specific to the submission portal 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

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.4, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form

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

4.4. Other Application Elements

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

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.

5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526VRPTRA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

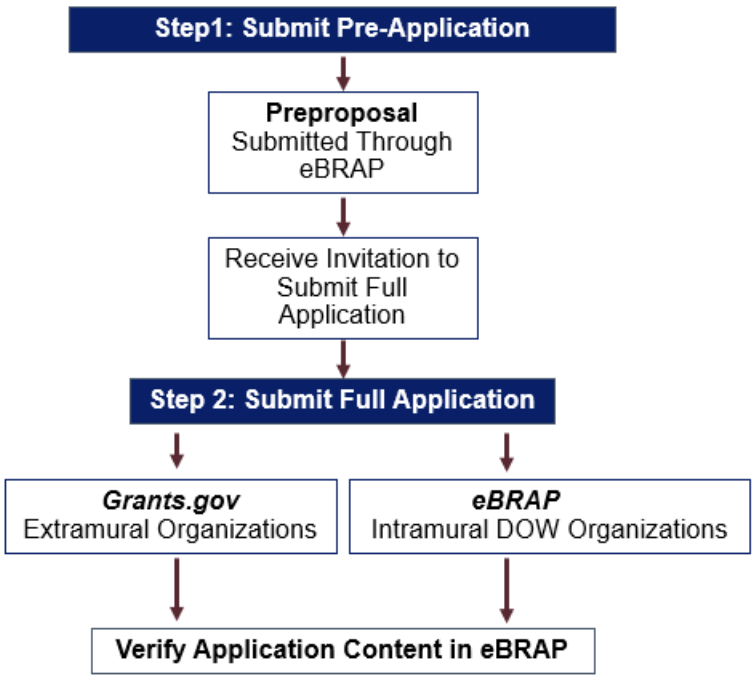
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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

5.3. Submission Instructions

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

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI or Initiating PI through eBRAP, including the submission of contact information for the Partnering PI if selecting the PPIO.

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.

If choosing the PPIO: After the Initiating PI confirms submission of the pre-application, the Partnering PI will be notified of the pre-application submission via an email from eBRAP. ***The Partnering PI must follow the instructions provided in the email to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account.*** If not previously registered, the Partnering PI must register in eBRAP.

Partnering PIs should not initiate a new pre-application based on the same research project submitted by the Initiating PI. Partnering PIs are urged to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account as soon as possible. If this is not completed by the full application deadline:

- An intramural Partnering PI will not be able to submit their full application package components to eBRAP.
- The Partnering PI will not be able to view and modify their full application during the verification period in eBRAP.

When starting the pre-application, applicants should select a Mechanism Option appropriate to their pre-application:

Application Includes:	Select Mechanism Option:
Single PI, not proposing PCT	TRA
Single PI, proposing a PCT	TRA-PCT
Partnering PIs, not proposing PCT	TRA-PPIO
Partnering PIs, proposing a PCT	TRA-PPIO-PCT

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

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

eBRAP Submissions: Only intramural DOW organizations may submit full applications through eBRAP.

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of the submission portal, once the full application is submitted, it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP; the transmission to eBRAP may take up to 48

hours. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log in to eBRAP to review, modify and verify the full application submission. ***The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the application verification period ends. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

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

Submission dates and times are specified in Section 1, Basic Information.

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

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

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

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

Members of the FY26 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:

- **Intent:** How well the proposed research meets the intent of the TRA.
- **Rationale:** To what extent the proposed research is supported by strong rationale and key preliminary data.
- **Impact:** If successful, to what extent the proposed research will impact vision injury research or patient care.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Research Idea/Rationale**
  - To what extent the proposed research transforms a promising discovery into new drugs, devices or clinical practice guidelines that are ready for definitive testing in clinical trials during or by the end of the period of performance.
  - To what extent the proposed research is supported by rationale, critical analysis of the literature and preliminary data.
  - To what extent the proposed research is innovative or offers significant improvements over existing ideas or solutions.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - To what extent are the specific aims, experimental design and statistical plan appropriate to address the objective(s) and/or hypothesis(es) of the proposed research?
  - To what extent the proposed research demonstrates sufficient understanding and consideration of regulatory approval requirements and process.
  - How appropriate is the choice of model(s) or human subject population(s)?
  - How well are studies designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results?
  - How well does the application acknowledge potential problems and address alternative approaches?
  - Whether the research is feasible and can be completed within the proposed period of performance.
  - 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.
  - For applications proposing a PCT:
    - If an IND/IDE application is required but has not yet been submitted, to what extent has the application demonstrated adequate understanding, sufficient regulatory expertise, and a feasible plan for IND/IDE submission?
    - How well is the PCT designed to inform the feasibility, rationale and design of full-scale clinical trials?
    - To what extent the design of the PCT demonstrates a clear course of action, including intervention to be tested, projected outcomes, study variables, controls and endpoints.
    - To what extent the application demonstrates the availability of and access to the intervention to be tested.
    - To what extent the application demonstrates access to the patient population to be recruited.
    - To what extent the application provides sufficient evidence that regulatory approval/exemption has been obtained or will be obtained in time to support the planned PCT.

- **Impact**
  - To what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact on vision injury research or patient care.
  - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Personnel**
  - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.
  - If developing new drugs or device(s): Whether the research team includes expertise in the regulatory approval process.
  - **For applications choosing the PPIO:** How the combined expertise of the Initiating and Partnering PIs will better address the research question.
- **Post-Award Transition Plan**
  - Whether the identified next phase of development is realistic.
  - As applicable, to what extent the development plan and regulatory strategy are appropriate to support a regulatory filing with a Regulatory Agency.
  - To what extent the transition is supported by appropriate methods and strategies, schedule and milestones, collaborations and other resources and funding strategy.
  - As applicable, whether the applicant has identified intellectual property ownership, demonstrated appropriate access to all intellectual property rights necessary for development and/or commercialization, and described an appropriate plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
  - Whether the assessment of opportunities and potential barriers is realistic and reasonable.

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

- **Research Sharing Plan**
  - To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate and reasonable and includes dissemination to affected communities, study participants and/or the scientific community. If applicable, whether specific repository(ies) are named where data and research resources arising from the project will be stored.
- **Budget**
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Environment**
  - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project.
  - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.

- **Application Presentation**
  - To what extent the writing, clarity and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

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

- Ratings and evaluations of peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 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, or Initiating PIs if choosing the PPIO, will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit full applications. The estimated date when PIs can expect to receive notification of an invitation to submit a full application is indicated in Section 1, Basic Information about the Funding Opportunity. No feedback (e.g., a critique of the pre-application's strengths and weaknesses) is provided at this stage. Because the invitation to submit a full application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

6.3.2. Full Application

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are subject to review and approval by a designated official. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review.*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the CDMRP website.

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

Following selection of projects for VRP funding, the VRP may share FY26 TRA applications and reviews with NEI for independent funding consideration. Additional or separate application information may be required by NEI. The number of applications to be considered for funding by NEI is indeterminate and contingent upon NEI's determination of the quality of applications and funding availability.

6.4. Risk, Integrity and Performance Information

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

An applicant organization may review the SAM and submit comments on any information currently available about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered. The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient's qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARs), Section 22.415.

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

7. Federal Award Notices

For each compliant full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within 6 weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the 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.

8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

The GAI contain information regarding administrative requirements and national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest DoD R&D Terms and Conditions and the DHACA Terms and Conditions for further information.

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

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

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

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting ***(Required if conducting clinical research or a pilot clinical trial)***: Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex, race and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on eBRAP. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race are exempt from this requirement.)

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

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than $10M are required to provide information to the SAM about certain civil, criminal and

administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with their performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Representations.

8.3. Additional Requirements

Up to two investigators or, if choosing the PPIO, up to one investigator per award, 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 or organization will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met.

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

9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

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

9.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of 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.
- **For applications proposing a PCT:** Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures (Attachment 9) is missing.
- **For applications proposing a PCT:** Regulatory Strategy (Attachment 10) is missing.

9.2.2. Modification

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

9.2.3. Withdrawal

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

- A member of the FY26 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.

- The application from an extramural organization, including non-DOW federal agencies, is received through eBRAP.
- The federal government recipient organization (including an intramural DOW organization): (a) cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY26 funds; and/or (b) cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- The application includes URLs, with the exception of links in the References Cited and Publication and/or Patent sections.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- **If choosing the PPIO:** Failure to submit all associated (Initiating PI and Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.

9.2.4. Withhold

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

Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded	
	PI/Initiating PI	Partnering PI
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance *(Grants.gov submissions only)*	☐	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) *(eBRAP submissions only)*	☐	☐
Attachments		
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	☐	
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	☐	
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	☐	
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	☐	
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	☐	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐	
Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 7, upload as "Military.pdf"	☐	
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 8, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"	☐	
Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures – Attachment 9, upload as "HumProc.pdf"	☐	
Regulatory Strategy – Attachment 10, upload as "Regulatory.pdf"	☐	
Post-Award Transition Plan – Attachment 11, upload as "Transition.pdf"	☐	
Partnership Statement – Attachment 12, upload as "Partnership.pdf"	☐	
Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)* – Attachment 13, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)* – Attachment 14, upload as "IGBudget.pdf"	☐	☐
Additional Application Materials		
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐	☐
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐	☐
Research & Related Budget	☐	☐

Project/Performance Site Location(s)	☐	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) (*if applicable)*	☐	☐

Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
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 Traumatic Brain Injury Research
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
GCP	Good Clinical Practice
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NEI	National Eye Institute
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PCT	Pilot Clinical Trial
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
STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
TRA	Translational Research Award
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VRP	Vision Research Program