



**Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency**

# **Melanoma Research Program Idea Award**

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526MRPIA

Pre-Application Due: July 13, 2026

Application Due: October 14, 2026

***This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version [CD26\\_01](#).***

# Content

	<b>Before You Begin</b>	<b>3</b>
①	<b>Basic Information</b> Summarizes the <u>funding opportunity</u> , <u>funding details</u> , <u>submission deadlines and review dates</u>	<b>4</b>
②	<b>Eligibility</b> Details eligibility factors for the <u>applicant organization</u> and <u>Principal Investigator</u>	<b>5</b>
③	<b>Program Description</b> Describes the <u>program mission</u> and <u>intent of the Idea Award</u> ; provides <u>key award information</u> and <u>considerations</u> ; and outlines <u>funding details</u>	<b>6</b>
④	<b>Application Contents</b> Presents the two-step <u>application process</u> and instructions for preparing a <u>pre-application</u> and <u>full application</u>	<b>12</b>
⑤	<b>Submission Requirements</b> 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>	<b>19</b>
⑥	<b>Application Review Information</b> 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>	<b>21</b>
⑦	<b>Federal Award Notices</b> Outlines what a successful applicant can expect <u>if recommended for funding</u>	<b>26</b>
⑧	<b>Post-Award Requirements</b> 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>	<b>27</b>
⑨	<b>Other Information</b> Outlines criteria for administrative actions including application <u>rejection</u> , <u>modification</u> , <u>withdrawal</u> and <u>withhold</u>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Appendix 1</b> Includes a checklist for all full application components to facilitate application submission	<b>31</b>
	<b>Appendix 2</b> Acronym List	<b>32</b>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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) Melanoma Research Program (MRP) Idea Award supports innovative, exploratory, high-risk/potentially high-reward research. Novelty and innovation are expected to be key aspects of the proposed project. By the end of the Idea Award funding period, the anticipated outcomes of successful efforts should establish proof of principle and obtain preliminary data to secure follow-on funding.

### Distinctive Features:

- Preliminary data are *discouraged*.
- After submitting the required pre-application, *investigators must receive an invitation to submit a full application*.

**Funding Details:** The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs expects to allot roughly \$5.6M to fund approximately 10 Idea Award applications with total cost caps of \$0.56M per award. The maximum period of performance is 2 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY26 funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. Awards supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

### Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Preproposal) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), July 13, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** August 19, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 14, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 20, 2026
- **Peer Review:** December 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** March 2027

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** HT942526MRPIA

**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

To be named as the Principal Investigator (PI) on the application, the investigator must be at or above the level of Postdoctoral Fellow, or equivalent. The investigator does not have to be at an academic organization.

An investigator may be named on only one FY26 MRP full application as a PI.

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](#).

## 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 Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) is the program office managing this fiscal year 2026 (FY26) funding opportunity as part of the Melanoma Research Program (MRP). 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 MRP in 2019 to provide support for research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the MRP from FY19 through FY25 totaled \$220 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is \$40M.

The vision of the MRP is to prevent melanoma initiation and progression, and reduce hardship. The mission is to support development of earlier interventions to enhance mission readiness, diminish melanoma burden, and improve quality of life for Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and the American public.

#### ***Studies involving non-melanoma skin cancers are not allowed under the FY26 MRP.***

The MRP identified three strategic priorities to ensure that funded research addresses unmet needs and/or underfunded areas of melanoma research and patient care. The three priorities are:

**Prevention and Interception:** Individuals diagnosed with melanoma have significantly improved prognoses when the disease is diagnosed and treated before it metastasizes. Although primary prevention (use of sunscreen, sun avoidance, etc.) is critical, the MRP seeks to fund research that will lead to improved detection and monitoring capabilities (particularly for individuals at highest risk) as well as inhibition of melanoma initiation, early dissemination, emergence from tumor dormancy and metastases (i.e., interception).

***With the exception of studies investigating rare melanomas, the FY26 MRP is not requesting research into established macrometastatic disease or developing treatments for macrometastatic disease.***

**Rare Melanomas:** Rare melanoma subtypes can have distinct characteristics compared to cutaneous melanoma, which makes up the majority of melanoma diagnoses. Rare melanoma subtypes are typically less well-studied, and this has led to a variety of prevention, diagnosis and treatment challenges. The MRP seeks to fund research across the entire cancer research spectrum addressing unmet needs and knowledge gaps associated with rare melanomas. Although the FY26 MRP accepts applications addressing topics relevant to uveal melanoma, the MRP is particularly interested in receiving applications that address other uncommon presentations of melanoma, including but not limited to:

- Genetic (molecular subtypes).
- Histologic (desmoplastic and acral lentiginous).
- Tissue of origin (mucosal, acral).
- Clinical presentation (pediatric, leptomeningeal disease).

**Survivorship:** The widely accepted definition of cancer, and therefore melanoma, survivorship spans ***the time from an individual receiving their initial diagnosis through the balance of their life. Under this definition, an individual is considered a melanoma survivor beginning at the time they receive their initial diagnosis.*** For the purposes of the MRP, the needs and impact of a melanoma diagnosis on family members, friends, and care partners of

## Section Shortcuts

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

melanoma survivors are also included within the purview of “melanoma survivorship.” With the increasing incidence of melanoma and the increased availability of effective treatment options for patients with melanoma, the number of melanoma survivors is also increasing. Melanoma survivorship research covers a broad range of research areas that have the goal of improving the health and well-being of melanoma survivors and their families/care partners. The MRP seeks to fund innovative and impactful research that advances studies in preservation of function (physical ability), quality of life improvement, symptom management, treatment outcomes, and support for psychological and social issues related to melanoma diagnosis, treatment and life post-treatment.

### 3.1. Award History

The MRP Idea Award mechanism was first offered in FY19. Since then, 656 Idea Award applications were received and 80 were recommended for funding.

### 3.2. Intent of the Idea Award

The FY26 MRP Idea Award supports innovative, untested, exploratory, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms or methods that address at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#).

***The intent of the Idea Award is to generate new research avenues for investigation; therefore, novelty and innovation should be key aspects of the proposed project.***

Research supported by the Idea Award must introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other highly creative qualities. The proposed project must be exploratory, hypothesis-driven or hypothesis-generating research, where the proposed experiments are well-designed to test the hypothesis or explore the stated objective and generate interpretable results. Principal Investigators (PIs) new to the melanoma field are encouraged to apply.

***The Idea Award is NOT intended to expand or extend previously published findings nor to continue a line of research already established or funded in the PI's laboratory.***

Incremental advances, the next logical step or merely switching the object or method of inquiry from one cancer to melanoma are not considered innovative. The expected outcomes of research supported by this award are to establish proof of principle and to generate robust preliminary data to be used as a foundation for future melanoma-focused research projects.

#### 3.2.1. Focus Areas for the Idea Award

***All applications to the FY26 MRP Idea Award must address at least one of the following FY26 MRP Focus Areas that support the MRP strategic priorities:***

##### **Prevention and Interception:**

- Identify, understand and mitigate risk factor determinants and develop biomarkers for melanoma.
- Develop new technology for the detection, diagnosis and monitoring of melanoma that can distinguish lesions and/or individuals at higher risk for progression from lesions and/or individuals requiring only surveillance.
- Define the ***mechanisms*** of:
  - Melanoma initiation

## Section Shortcuts

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

- Response and/or resistance to adjuvant and/or neoadjuvant therapy, including cellular-based therapies
- Progression
- Recurrence
- Emergence from tumor dormancy
- Metastatic spread

Mechanism-focus studies may include the role of the tumor microenvironment and/or microbiome in these processes.

- Develop new preclinical models that faithfully represent disease evolution observed in humans, from melanomagenesis through progression. New models may represent cutaneous melanoma or any rare melanoma subtype.

### Rare Melanomas:

- Address unmet needs across the entire cancer research spectrum for rare melanomas, as defined [above](#), which includes studies of biology, etiology, prevention, early diagnosis and detection, prognosis, treatment or survivorship.

### Survivorship:

- Address the psychological and social impacts of a melanoma diagnosis, symptom trajectories, adverse effects of treatment and other outcomes affecting melanoma survivors and their family members/care partners.
- Address the physical impacts of symptom trajectories; acute and late-occurring adverse effects of treatment, including lymphedema, toxicities, reproductive and sexual health issues, and side effects that may not manifest until after treatment ends; role of diet, exercise and other lifestyle factors on treatment outcomes and/or quality of life; etc.

### 3.2.2. Key Elements for the Idea Award

***Inclusion of preliminary data is discouraged.*** PIs proposing projects already supported by significant preliminary data and/or other funding sources should consider applying to other [FY26 MRP Funding Opportunities](#) for which the inclusion of preliminary data is more appropriate or required. Presenting preliminary data other than serendipitous findings is not consistent with the exploratory/innovative nature of this award. If preliminary data are included, they should be unanticipated outcomes or results from an unrelated project or study.

### 3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the Idea Award

**Melanoma Resources:** When appropriate and feasible, PIs are encouraged to utilize existing, well-characterized data and specimens. Examples of such resources are listed below. PIs are encouraged to explore the utility of these and/or other resources to ensure the use of the most appropriate data and/or models to conduct impactful melanoma research. The list is not all-inclusive, and the information provided below, including external links and references, is not to be construed as endorsement by the DOW, CDMRP or MRP.

- [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\) Patient-Derived Models Repository \(PDMR\)](#). The PDMR is a national repository of patient-derived models (PDMs) comprised of patient-derived xenografts (PDXs), *in vitro* patient-derived tumor cell cultures (PDCs), and cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs), as well as patient-derived organoids. In addition to model

## Section Shortcuts

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

generation, NextGen sequencing data are available for all models, as well as DNA, RNA and flash-frozen fragments for protein extraction from early-passage PDXs. The PDMR's catalog currently contains numerous melanoma PDXs, PDCs, organoids and CAF cultures, including some for rare melanoma subtypes.

- [Human Cancer Models Initiative \(HCMI\)](#). The goal of the HCMI is to create up to 1,000 patient-derived next-generation cancer models such as organoids, conditionally reprogrammed cells, neurospheres or optimal growth condition models as a community resource. The HCMI aims to provide the models' case-associated data which include quality-checked clinical, biospecimen and molecular characterization data from the models, the tissues from which they were derived, and normal tissues, when available. Available harmonized data are accessible through NCI's Genomic Data Commons.
- [NCI-Funded Skin Specialized Programs of Research Excellence \(SPOREs\)](#). There are currently three skin SPOREs whose programs focus predominantly on melanoma. Historically, each SPORE site includes a biospecimen core.
- [VA Science and Health Initiative to Combat Infectious and Emerging Life-Threatening Diseases \(VA SHIELD\)](#). The VA SHIELD is a comprehensive, secure biorepository of specimens and associated data that provides researchers and clinicians with high-quality biosamples and comprehensive associated medical and sample data to accelerate the discovery-to-therapy pipeline for the benefit of Veterans. **NOTE:** These specimens and data are available ONLY to authorized U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators.
- [Million Veteran Program](#). The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is the nation's largest genomic biorepository of Veteran data and is one of the most diverse cohorts of any genetic research program in the world. **NOTE:** Access to MVP data is currently limited to ONLY VA-affiliated researchers.
- [American Association for Cancer Research Project Genomics Evidence Neoplasia Information Exchange \(GENIE®\)](#). Project GENIE is a publicly accessible cancer registry of real-world clinico-genomic data assembled through data sharing between 19 international cancer centers. As of the January 2024 release there were over 198,000 sequenced samples from more than 172,000 patients, with melanoma samples, including uveal melanoma, being well-represented.
- [Patient-Derived Cancer Models](#). CancerModels.Org provides harmonized and integrated model attributes to support consistent searching for PDX, organoid and cell line models and to facilitate researchers' search for models and associated data across multiple commercial and academic resources.
- [The Community United for Research and Education of Ocular Melanoma \(CURE OM\) Virtual Information System to Improve Outcomes and Networks \(VISION\) Platform](#). The CURE OM VISION Platform is a patient-powered OM research project funded and sponsored by the Melanoma Research Foundation's CURE OM initiative. The registry launched in the United States in May 2021 and was made available to participants worldwide soon thereafter. The CURE OM initiative's patient community and collaborators are now actively participating, sharing data and joining researchers in the work toward more effective treatments and, one day, a cure.
- [INSIGHT: A Global Ocular Melanoma Patient Registry](#). The ocular melanoma INSIGHT patient registry is a collaborative effort between A Cure In Sight, the University of California San Francisco Beckman Vision Center and the National Organization for Rare Disorders. This participant-driven registry launched in 2019 to enhance the understanding of ocular

## Section Shortcuts

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

melanoma, collect data for medical research and facilitate the development of new diagnostic and treatment options.

- [The RARE® Registry](#). The RARE Registry is an initiative led by the Melanoma Research Alliance primarily for patients with acral and mucosal melanoma. It provides a free, interactive, web- and mobile-friendly tool to share information, experiences, and disease history; advance research and awareness; and get potential matches to clinical trials.

**Relevance to Military Health:** Advancing knowledge in melanoma research, patient care, and/or treatment options in the Military Health System is critical. Therefore, the MRP seeks to support research that is relevant to the health care needs of Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families. The MRP encourages investigators to consider the following examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:

- Use of military or Veteran populations, biospecimens, data, databases, or programs in the proposed research.
- Applications from investigators within the DOW and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, DOW, 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, and/or their Families.
- Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of melanoma that has relevance or is unique to Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families.

If the proposed research involves access to active-duty military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOW or VA resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission, provide appropriate letters of support, and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Refer to the [Full Application Submission Components](#), for detailed information. Refer to the GAI, [Appendix 4](#), for additional information.

A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOW and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in [Appendix 10](#) of the GAI.

**Preclinical Research:** 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](#).

**For Research Involving Animals:** 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.

The MRP acknowledges that domestic dogs can spontaneously develop mucosal melanoma. FY26 applications proposing mucosal melanoma studies involving pets that are voluntarily enrolled in studies at the owner's discretion may be considered (e.g., a pet owner enrolling their domestic dog in a clinical trial administered in a veterinary hospital setting). Such studies, if recommended for funding, must obtain a waiver of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732 before initiating. Receipt of such a waiver is not guaranteed.

## Section Shortcuts

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

### For Research Involving Human Data, Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers:

[Clinical trials](#) are not allowed within this funding opportunity.

*For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from [clinical research](#).*

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

### 3.3. Funding Instrument

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

### 3.4. Funding Details

**Period of Performance:** The maximum period of performance is **2** years.

**Cost Cap:** The application's [total costs](#) budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$560,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

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

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

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

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the MRP Idea Award.

Must not be requested for:

- Clinical trial costs.

## 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:** Provide responses in the appropriate text fields in eBRAP for the following questions. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the response and that could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application.
  - What is the hypothesis to be tested/objective to be obtained? Describe the specific aims of the proposed research and how the scope of the proposed research is appropriate for the intent of an Idea Award and feasible to complete within the allowed [budget and period of performance limits](#). (2000-character limit.)
  - How will the proposed work uniquely address a critical problem in at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#)? The focus area(s) described in this response should match the primary (and secondary, if applicable) focus area(s) selected within the Application Tab in eBRAP during pre-application submission. (500-character limit.)
  - What are the innovative aspects of the proposed research (seeking a new paradigm, challenging current paradigms, introducing novel concepts or agents, etc.)? Explain how the proposed research is beyond an incremental advancement or next logical step and is not a continuation of an established research program in the PI's laboratory. (1000-character limit.)
  - How will the anticipated short- and long-term outcomes of the proposed research, if the effort is successful, answer a critical question or address an unmet need in melanoma to the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American public? (500-character limit.)
- **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

## 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 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 responses.

### 4.3. Full Application Components

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

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

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

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

#### (b) Attachments:

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


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

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Rationale:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research; include relevant literature citations. ***Preliminary data are discouraged.***
- **Hypothesis or Objective:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility:** Describe the experimental design, methodology, and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation of their appropriateness and feasibility. Describe how the studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results that support successful completion of the project aims. Address potential problem areas and pitfalls, and present alternative methods and/or approaches.
  - Clearly describe the statistical plan and the rationale for the statistical methodology. If applicable, describe an appropriate power analysis, how it supports the sample size, and how it adequately represents an assessment of the population or subpopulation proposed. Ensure sufficient information is provided to allow thorough evaluation of all statistical calculations and/or the power of the proposed studies during review of the application. If there are sample size limitations (budget limitations, availability of specimens, etc.) justify how results from the proposed sample size(s) will yield meaningful information. A separate [Sex as a Biological Variable \(SABV\) Strategy](#) is required as part of Attachment 2.

## Section Shortcuts

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

- If cell lines are used, justify why the proposed cell line(s) are appropriate to achieve the goals the proposed study(ies) and clearly articulate the source(s) of the proposed cell line(s).
  - If animal studies are proposed, including the use of PDX models, justify why the proposed animal model was chosen and clearly articulate the source of the model(s). Describe how the animal studies are conducted in accordance with the appropriate [guidelines](#) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
  - If human data sets, human anatomical substances (blood, tumor tissue, etc.) and/or human participants will be used, provide evidence supporting the availability of and access to the proposed specimens/populations required for the study. Include a plan for the acquisition of samples or the recruitment of participants, and for acquiring any additional research resources necessary for conducting the proposed research project. If there are sample size limitations (funding restraints, availability of rare specimens, etc.), justify how the proposed sample size(s) will provide sufficient information to support moving forward with the line of research.
  - For all applications that propose [clinical research](#), describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of specimens/subjects. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement. ***This award cannot be used to conduct clinical trials.*** See [Attachment 2](#) for instructions regarding the Inclusion Enrollment Report that is required with all applications that propose clinical research.
  - 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.
- **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

## Section Shortcuts

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

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

## Section Shortcuts

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

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

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

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

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

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project.
- **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.
- **Study Design:** Describe the study design, including the model system(s) that will be used and appropriate controls.
- **Innovation:** Summarize the innovative aspect(s) of the proposed project.
- **Impact:** Summarize how the proposed project will make an important contribution toward at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#).




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

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

- State the [FY26 MRP Focus Area\(s\)](#) addressed by the research project.
- Summarize the scientific rationale, objective and aims for the proposed project.
- Summarize how the proposed research is a novel concept, idea or paradigm that will lead to new avenues of discovery or development.
- Summarize the applicability of the research to melanoma patients and/or survivors by considering the following points:
  - What populations will the proposed research help?
  - What are the potential applications, benefits and risks?
  - How will the proposed research outcomes benefit Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American public?

## Section Shortcuts

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

- **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 the [Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work](#). Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.
- **Attachment 6: Innovation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Innovation.pdf”.**  
Describe how the project will lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, introduce novel concepts or agents or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. Justify how the proposed research represents more than an incremental advancement, studies a new avenue of research for the laboratory and/or addresses new concepts beyond already established lines of research in the PI’s laboratory and/or published data.
- **Attachment 7: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”. *Using language readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine*,** state how the proposed work uniquely addresses a critical problem in at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#). The focus area(s) addressed here should be the same as what was described in the pre-proposal. Define a reasonable expectation for success for the proposed research and describe a practical vision for how the short- and long-term outcomes of the proposed research, if successful, will advance the state of the science/technology in melanoma research, patient care and/or survivorship. If the research is too basic for short-term clinical applicability, describe the interim research outcomes expected and their applicability to the field of melanoma. Basic research should have the long-term goal of advancing the melanoma field and/or impacting patient care. Describe the relevance of the proposed research to the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, their Families and all people affected by melanoma. If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Attachment 8: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.**   
All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP.
- **Attachment 9: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (*if applicable*): Upload as “IGBudget.pdf”.**   
If an [intramural DOW organization](#) will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the [Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget](#) form available on eBRAP.

### (c) Additional Application Materials:

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

## Section Shortcuts

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



Grants.gov



eBRAP.org

---

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

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

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

---

### ii. Research & Related Budget

---

### iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

---

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

---

## 4.4. Other Application Elements

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



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

## 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 HT942526MRPIA from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

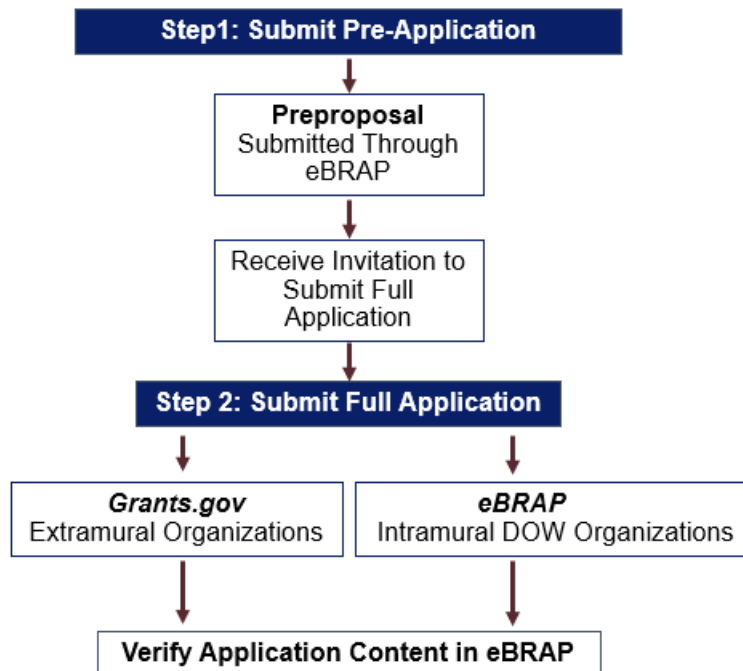
## 5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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

## 5.3. Submission Instructions

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

### *Application Submission Workflow*



### 5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

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


During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during [the full application submission process](#). The

## Section Shortcuts

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


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

- To what extent the hypothesis and/or objective and the stated specific aims are appropriate for the intent of an Idea Award and are feasible to complete within the allowed budget and period of performance limits.
- How well the pre-application addresses at least one [FY26 MRP Focus Area](#).
- To what extent the proposed research is innovative, as defined in this program announcement.
- To what extent the proposed research, if successful, will answer a critical question or address an unmet need in melanoma to the benefit of Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American public.

### 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:

## Section Shortcuts

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

- **Innovation**

- To what extent the project is innovative and will lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, introduce novel concepts or agents, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities.
- To what extent the application materials demonstrate that the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance, studies a new avenue of research for the laboratory and/or addresses new concepts beyond already established lines of research in the PI's laboratory and/or published data. Applications relying heavily on preliminary data may not meet the innovative nature of the Idea Award.

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

- To what extent the scientific rationale supports the proposed research, as demonstrated by a critical review and analysis of the literature and logical reasoning. If preliminary data are presented, **which is discouraged**, whether they support the hypothesis or objective.
- To what extent the hypothesis or objective, research strategy, methodology and analyses are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results and support successful completion of the specific aims.
- How well the application addresses potential problem areas and presents alternative methods and approaches.
- To what extent it will be feasible to complete the proposed research within the allowed budget and period of performance limits.
- To what extent the statistical plan is appropriate for the proposed research.
- If applicable, whether the use of the proposed cell lines is appropriately justified.
- If applicable, how well the animal studies are designed to achieve the research objectives, to include the use of appropriate models.
- If applicable, to what extent the application demonstrates the availability of human data sets, human anatomical substances and/or human participants, including a detailed plan for the acquisition of samples/resources and/or recruitment of human participants necessary for conducting the proposed research.
- If applicable, whether the strategies for the inclusion of women and minorities are appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial and ethnic group and an accompanying rationale for the selection of specimens/subjects. Whether a completed Inclusion Enrollment Report providing anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities is included with the application.
- 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.

- **Impact**

- To what extent the proposed research uniquely addresses a critical problem in at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#).

## Section Shortcuts

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

### ***Assuming the objectives/aims of the proposed research are realized, to what degree:***

- A practical vision for how the short- and long-term outcomes of the proposed research will advance the state of the science/technology in melanoma research, patient care and/or survivorship is described.
- The proposed research is relevant to the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, their Families and all people impacted by melanoma.
- If applicable, the anticipated outcomes of the proposed research will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

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

- **Personnel**
  - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.
- **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.
  - Whether the lay abstract and impact statement are written with clarity for persons without a background in science or medicine.

### **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 MRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
  - Relevance to at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#)
  - Relative innovation

## Section Shortcuts

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

- Relative impact
- Program portfolio balance
- 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, selected Focus Area(s), or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

#### 6.3.2. Full Application

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

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

### 6.4. Risk, Integrity and Performance Information

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

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

In accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DOW must be evaluated for affiliations with foreign entities.

## Section Shortcuts

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

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 MRP 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 Defense Health Agency (DHA) or U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command awards at the applicant organization, DHACA will not issue any new awards to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.***

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



## 8.2. Reporting

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

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

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

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10M are required to provide information to the SAM about certain civil, criminal and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with their performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable [Representations](#).

## Section Shortcuts

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

### 8.3. Additional Requirements

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



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

## 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\_01d.

## 9.2. Administrative Actions

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

### 9.2.1. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not issued.

### 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 MRP 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)

## Section Shortcuts

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

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 invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- An investigator may only be named as a PI on a single FY26 MRP full application. If an investigator is named as a PI, Initiating PI or Partnering PI on multiple full application submissions, only the first application received for the PI will be accepted; additional full applications may be administratively withdrawn.
- The application does not address at least one of the [FY26 MRP Focus Areas](#).
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The main subject of the research is non-melanoma skin cancers.

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

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting <i>In Vivo</i> Experiments
CAF	Cancer-Associated Fibroblast
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHA R&D-MRDC	Defense Health Agency Research and Development Medical Research and Development Command
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	U.S. Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
HCMI	Human Cancer Models Initiative
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MRP	Melanoma Research Program
MVP	Million Veteran Program
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDC	Patient-Derived Tumor Culture
PDF	Portable Document Format
PDM	Patient-Derived Model
PDMR	Patient-Derived Models Repository
PDX	Patient-Derived Xenograft
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development

### Section Shortcuts

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

RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SABV	Sex as a Biological Variable
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA SHIELD	VA Science and Health Initiative to Combat Infectious and Emerging Life-Threatening Diseases