

**Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
Rare Cancers Research Program (RCRP)
Reference Table of Award Mechanisms and Submission Requirements**

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Concept Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526RCRPCA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at or above the level of postdoctoral fellow (or equivalent).</p> <p>An investigator may be named on only one FY26 RCRP Concept Award application as Principal Investigator.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports highly innovative, untested, potentially groundbreaking novel concepts in rare cancers. • Reviewers will be blinded to the identity of the Principal Investigator, collaborators, and their organization(s). • Research must address one or more of the FY26 focus areas: Biology, Preclinical Research Model, Therapy, and/or Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Model. • Preliminary data are not required. • Clinical trials are not allowed. • Submission of a Letter of Intent is required prior to full application submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$140,000 for total costs.* • The maximum period of performance is 2 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Letter of Intent): September 16, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: September 30, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Idea Development Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526RCRPIDA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at all career levels.</p> <p>An investigator may be named on only one FY26 RCRP Idea Development Award application as Principal Investigator.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes new ideas that are ready for further development and have the potential to yield high-impact findings and new avenues of investigation in the rare cancers field. • Impact is a key criterion of this award mechanism. Applications that demonstrate exceptional merit but lack high potential impact do not meet the intent of the award mechanism. • Research must address one or more of the FY26 focus areas: Biology, Preclinical Research Model, Therapy, and/or Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Model. • Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale are required. However, these data do not necessarily need to originate from studies of the proposed rare cancer type(s)/subtype(s) under study and may include correlative studies to ongoing clinical research. • Clinical trials are not allowed. • Submission of a Preproposal is required; full application submission is by invitation only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$490,000 for total costs.* • The maximum period of performance is 3 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): August 19, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: November 18, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p>Resource and Community Development Award</p> <p>Go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Announcement • General Application Instructions <p>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</p> <p>HT942526RCRPRCDA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at all career levels.</p> <p>An investigator may be named on only one FY26 RCRP Resource and Community Development Award application as Principal Investigator.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the development of research resources and clinical or preclinical datasets that will advance the field of rare cancers research and ultimately improve outcomes for individuals with rare cancers. • Emphasizes the development of collaboration and information sharing among stakeholders such as researchers, patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other members of the rare cancers community. • Research must address the FY26 focus areas: Platform Development and/or Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Model. • <i>Clinical trials are not allowed.</i> • <i>Submission of a Preproposal is required; full application submission is by invitation only.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum allowable funding for the entire period of performance is \$1.12 million for total costs.* • The maximum period of performance is 4 years. 	<p>Pre-Application (Preproposal): August 19, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p>Application: November 18, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>

*Total costs include direct and indirect costs.