

**Defense Health Agency (DHA) Science & Technology Portfolio Management (STPM)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Intramural Proposal Process Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) –
AS OF 09 JULY 2026**

Question 1: How will intramural labs collaborate with extramural entities to include Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)?

- **Response:** If an intramural lab is proposing an extramural collaborator involvement as part of their plan, it's at the Portfolio's discretion to approve/disapprove. Labs are responsible for ensuring that necessary agreements are in place for the extramural collaboration.

Question 2: Is the classification of "intramural" or "extramural" determined by the performance site/laboratory (e.g., USU, WRAIR, etc.) or by the percentage of contractor versus federal employees, regardless of their association with an intramural lab?

- **Response:** Intramural research is defined as research, development, or engineering by employees of the DoW conducted on-site at a DoW R&D laboratory. Utilization of non-profit foundations or contracts to obtain scientific/technical Contractor (CTR) personnel necessary for on-site research execution, with DoW Civilian/Military (CIV/MIL) oversight, is consistent with the definition of intramural research.

Question 3: Should Civilians include salaries (i.e., CIVPAY) in the budget for the FY28 Intramural proposals if paid through O&M?

- **Response:** If CIVPAY is covered by another funding source (i.e., not DHP RDT&E S&T), they should not be part of proposal budgets submitted to STPM for DHP RDT&E funding consideration.

Question 4: Have the proposal templates and/or requirements changed from FY27?

- **Response:** Yes, templates have been updated for the FY28 intramural proposal cycle. Laboratories must ensure they are utilizing the updated FY28 proposal templates located here: <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm?clientAcronym=DHA>. Pre-proposals are a new requirement for FY28. Pre-proposal submission does not guarantee invitation to submit a full proposal, and submission of a full proposal does not guarantee funding.

Question 5: When will the laboratories be notified of FY28 funding decisions?

- **Response:** FY28 funding decisions, including FY27 tails, will be communicated to the Component Laboratory leads for coordination within their organization summer of 2027. Funding is contingent upon FY28 funding availability.

**Defense Health Agency (DHA) Science & Technology Portfolio Management (STPM)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Intramural Proposal Process Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) –
AS OF 09 JULY 2026**

Question 6: Should PIs with well-scoring proposals that were not recommended for FY27 funding resubmit for FY28?

- **Response:** PIs should discuss with Portfolios. Any resubmitted proposals for FY28 must align to the FY28 Intramural Solicitation / CDP requirements (not just recycling existing FY27 proposals), address any weaknesses highlighted during peer review, and be in the correct FY28 templates, including submitting a pre-proposal. PIs should coordinate with the relevant PM(s) through iterative discussions to ensure the proposals align and address the requirements in the respective FY28 solicitation.

Question 7: Regarding the meetings between PMs and PIs, should Component Lab leadership attend these meetings between the subject matter experts?

- **Response:** For ideas related to topics included in the solicitations, and questions related to understanding, modifying, clarifying, improving a proposal, etc., there is no need for higher level leadership intervention from RTI perspective; If there is a proposal that stretches the limits in a grey area (potentially out of scope), that would require a discussion between the SD and PfM.

Question 8: The solicitations will be for roadmaps with new starts in FY28?

- **Response:** Yes, the FY28 intramural solicitations will include intramural targeted research activities we expect to have a new start proposal to fund in FY28

Question 9: At what point might there be new roadmaps addressing priorities in a Strategic Research Plan (SRP) for which there is no roadmap developed yet?

- **Response:** We have not received any new/different Joint priorities through the Service Medical Gap (SMG) process or the Office of the Joint Staff Surgeon (OJSS) process that would trigger the development of a new roadmap. We are anticipating outputs in AUGUST 2026 that could influence current and/or future priorities, but new roadmaps would not be expected to enter our process until POM29+ (if needed)

Question 10: Can you explain the difference between PI full proposal submission deadline and lab full proposal approval deadline in eBRAP?

- **Response:** PI can submit their proposals in eBRAP until NOVEMBER 6, there is a window of time with a deadline of 13 NOVEMBER where the Business Official (BO) or designated lab

**Defense Health Agency (DHA) Science & Technology Portfolio Management (STPM)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Intramural Proposal Process Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) –
AS OF 09 JULY 2026**

approver within eBRAP must approve the full proposal submission for release to STPM; BO-approved proposal is considered the Component-approved version. Component approval of the proposal in eBRAP formally documents that the Component Laboratory Responsibilities outlined in the DHA STPM Intramural Research Execution Planning Guidance for FY28 DHP S&T memorandum (i.e., Financial Compliance; Regulatory Compliance; Intramural Competencies & Capabilities) have been reviewed and completed

Question 11: Is there an emphasis on labs collaborating to reduce the number of proposal submissions?

- **Response:** We do encourage collaborations between labs if the collaboration produces a stronger proposal – those PIs should be working with the respective PM to ensure alignment with the solicitation

Question 12: The FY28 budget template doesn't have enough rows in a specific section of the template or otherwise doesn't meet my needs, what should I do?

- **Response:** Rather than trying to modify the template yourself, please reach out to STPM if minor modifications are required (additional lines in a specific budget category). We aimed to create a budget template that works for all proposals, but some unique situations may arise that require a template to be modified by STPM. Please email your PM contact or the STPM mailbox: dha.ncr.j-9.mbx.stmp@health.mil

Question 13: It is past JULY 10, and I have not received an eBRAP link. Am I not invited to submit a pre-proposal?

- **Response:** Portfolios may send out FY28 intramural solicitation invitations, including eBRAP links to solicitations and instructions on eBRAP, following 10 JULY based on additional Portfolio assessment of the SD validated PI list.