

Program Announcement

**Defense Health Program
Defense Medical Research and Development Program**

Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)

Spinal Cord Injury Research Program

Qualitative Research Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-11-SCIRP-QRA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), July 15, 2011
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** September 2011
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, December 1, 2011
- **Scientific Peer Review:** January 2012
- **Programmatic Review:** March 2012

New for fiscal year 2011 (FY11): The Grants.gov Research & Related Budget form is a mandatory component of all Grants.gov application packages.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Defense Health Program is soliciting applications for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) which was established in fiscal year 2009 (FY09). The SCIRP focuses its funding on innovative projects that have the potential to make a significant impact on improving the function, wellness, and overall quality of life for spinal cord injured military Service members and veterans, their caregivers and family members, and the American public. Appropriations for the SCIRP through FY10 totaled \$46.25 million (M). The FY11 appropriation is \$12M.

The FY11 SCIRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for and address neglected issues in the field of spinal cord injury SCI-focused research. Applications from investigators within the military Services, and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other Federal Government agencies are highly encouraged. Though the SCIRP supports groundbreaking research, all projects must demonstrate solid scientific rationale.

B. FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement

The FY11 SCIRP encourages applications that specifically address the prevention, alleviation, or care of medical complications from SCI, including adjustment to disability, autonomic dysreflexia, bladder and bowel dysfunction, pain, pressure ulcers, psychological disorders, sensory dysfunction or deficit, sexual dysfunction, and spasticity. ***New for FY11: Applications that do not address at least one of these areas are required to justify the relevance of the project to the spinal cord injured military and/or veteran population.***

Since few advancements have impacted the standard of care in SCI, the SCIRP is giving special consideration to projects focused on implementation research (i.e., the development of methods and approaches that would enable the translation of research findings into SCI clinical practice) and/or the development of new clinical practice guidelines or the modification of current guidelines.

Alignment with current Department of Defense (DOD) research and collaboration with military researchers and clinicians is encouraged. The following websites may be useful in identifying information about ongoing DOD research interest within the FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.

Defense Technical Information Center
<http://www.dtic.mil>

U.S. Army Medical Research and
Materiel Command
<https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil>

Congressionally Directed Medical
Research Programs
<http://cdmrp.army.mil>

Air Force Research Laboratory
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl>

Navy and Marine Corps Public
Health Center
<http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/>

Defense Advanced Research
Projects Agency
<http://www.darpa.mil/>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
Office of Research and Development
www.research.va.gov

U.S. Army Medical Research
Acquisition Activity
<http://www.usamraa.army.mil>

Office of Naval Research
<http://www.onr.navy.mil/>

Naval Health Research Center
<http://www.nhrc.navy.mil/>

U.S. Army Research Laboratory
<http://www.arl.army.mil>

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
<http://www.acq.osd.mil/>

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
www.nrl.navy.mil

USUHS Center for Neuroscience and
Regenerative Medicine
<http://www.usuhs.mil/cnrm/>

C. Award Information

The SCIRP Qualitative Research Award mechanism was first offered in FY10. Since then, 8 Qualitative Research Award applications have been received, and 2 have been recommended for funding.

The intent of the Qualitative Research Award is to support *qualitative research studies* that will help researchers and clinicians better understand the experiences of individuals with SCI, and thereby identify the most effective paths for adjusting to disability and/or improving overall quality of life, health, and functional status after SCI. This mechanism is specifically focused on military and veteran populations in the first few years after SCI, examining the issues, barriers, and promoters of success for Service members during the transition from initial injury and acute care through rehabilitation and community reintegration; therefore, collaboration with military researchers and clinicians is encouraged. Factors that may affect the rehabilitation and reintegration of spinal cord injured soldiers include, but are not limited to, age, gender, ethnicity, family members/caregivers, psychological health, severity of injury, type of medical care (e.g., civilian versus military facility), and co-morbid conditions.

Qualitative research is a form of social inquiry that uses open-ended variables and focuses on understanding the way that people interpret and make sense of their experiences and the world in which they live (i.e., seek to understand the human experience). Observations that drive a research idea may be derived from basic discovery, population-based studies, a clinician's first-hand knowledge of patients, or anecdotal data. *Appropriate qualitative research topics include, but are not limited to, the explorative, descriptive, predictive, or explanatory study of:*

- Barriers preventing soldiers with spinal cord injuries from returning to active duty, returning home, or reintegrating into the community.

- Impact of personal factors and co-morbid medical conditions that influence or mediate a patient's health or quality of life during hospitalization following SCI.
- Impact of cultural values and beliefs on the success of rehabilitation and community reintegration.
- Impact of medical care decisions (e.g., choice of civilian versus military facility, treatment type, etc.) on the success of rehabilitation and community reintegration.
- Impact of care provision on the spouse and/or families of the spinal cord injured to include career issues, physical strain and injury, intimacy, etc.
- Factors and strategies for improving psychosocial adjustment and adjustment to disability for patients and their family and friends; the influence of family and friends' involvement in the SCI patient's life experiences on quality of life and health outcomes.

Preliminary data relevant to SCI and the proposed project are encouraged, but not required.

Research involving human subjects and human anatomical substances is permitted; however, clinical trials are NOT ALLOWED under this funding opportunity. A clinical trial is defined as a prospective accrual of human subjects where an intervention (e.g., device, drug, biologic, surgical procedure, rehabilitative modality, behavioral intervention, or other) is tested on a human subject for a measurable outcome with respect to exploratory information, safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy. This outcome represents a direct effect on the human subject of that intervention or interaction. The SCIRP encourages clinical trials with a focus on rehabilitation through the FY11 SCIRP Clinical Trial Award – Rehabilitation mechanism (Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-11-SCIRP-CTA).

Use of Human Subjects and Human Anatomical Substances: All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human subjects and human anatomical substances must be reviewed and approved by the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record. Local IRB approval at the time of submission is NOT required. The HRPO is mandated to comply with specific laws and directives governing all research involving human subjects that is supported by the DOD. These laws and directives are rigorous and detailed, and will require information in addition to that supplied to the local IRB. Allow a minimum of 4 months for regulatory review and approval processes. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for more information.

D. Eligibility Information

- Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent) are eligible to submit applications.
- Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.
- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

E. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **3** years.
- The maximum allowable direct costs for the entire period of performance is **\$400,000** plus indirect costs. More cost-effective studies that do not request the full available funding amount are encouraged.
- All direct and indirect costs of any subaward (subgrant or subcontract) must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.
- The applicant may request the entire funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years.
- Regardless of the period of performance proposed, the applicant may not exceed the maximum allowable direct costs. Indirect costs shall be proposed in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate agreement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget form. In addition, for this award mechanism, direct costs:

Must be requested for:

- Principal Investigator's (PI's) travel to one DOD-sponsored scientific meeting in the Washington, DC/Baltimore, Maryland, area (\$1,800)
- Each PI must also request travel funds to attend one program review meeting every other year starting with the first year of the award period of performance. For planning purposes, it may be assumed that program reviews will be held in the Washington, DC/ Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Salary
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Clinical research costs (clinical trials not allowed)
- Travel costs of up to \$1,800 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings

The Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot approximately \$1.92M of the \$12M FY11 SCIRP appropriation to fund approximately 3 Qualitative Research Award applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds for this program.

II. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission is a multi-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the CDMRP eReceipt System (<https://cdmrp.org/>) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is discouraged. The Government reserves the right to reject duplicative applications.

A. Where to Obtain the Application Package

To obtain the complete application package, including all required forms, perform a Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-11-SCIRP-QRA.

B. Pre-Application Submission Content and Form

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through the CDMRP eReceipt System (<https://cdmrp.org/>). Because the invitation to submit an application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

PIs and organizations identified in the application should be the same as those identified in the pre-application. If a change in PI or organization is necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@cdmrp.org or 301-682-5507. Changes in PI or organization after submission of the pre-application will be allowed only at the discretion of the US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) Contracting/ Grants Officer.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in the CDMRP eReceipt System by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., for additional information on pre-application submission):

- **Application Information – Tab 1**
- **Application Contacts – Tab 2**
- **Collaborators and Conflicts of Interest (COI) – Tab 3**
- **Required Files – Tab 4**

Preproposal Narrative (two-page limit): The Preproposal Narrative page limit applies to text and any figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, pictures, pictorials, and cartoons.

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

- **Research Problem:** Identify the major research problem. State the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed work is based.

- **Study Design:** Describe the specific theoretical perspective on qualitative research on which the study is based. Briefly describe the sampling techniques, data collection and recording method(s) that will be used, and how they will yield trustworthy, credible, and confirmable results. Explain why a qualitative approach, rather than a quantitative approach, is more appropriate to address the research problem.
- **Impact:** Describe how the study addresses a critical issue in SCI research or patient care and quality of life. State explicitly how the proposed work, if successful, will improve the understanding of individuals with SCI and/or identify the most effective paths for adjusting to disability.
- **Military Relevance:** Describe how the proposed project is applicable to the health care needs of spinal cord injured military Service members and veterans, and/or their caregivers and family members.
- **Alignment with Areas of Encouragement:** If applicable, explain how the proposed work addresses any of the FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement. Alternatively, if the application does not address at least one Area of Encouragement, the PI must justify the relevance of the project to the spinal cord injured military and/or veteran population.

Pre-Application Supporting Documentation: The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application are limited to:

- References Cited (one-page limit): List relevant references using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author(s), year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate). The inclusion of Internet URLs to references is encouraged.
- PI Biographical Sketch (two-page limit).

- **Submit Pre-application – Tab 5**

- **Other Documents Tab**

No additional documents are required.

Pre-Application Screening

- **Pre-Application Screening Criteria**

Pre-applications will be screened by the SCIRP Integration Panel (IP), composed of scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates, based on the following criteria:

- **Research Problem:** How well the major research problem is identified and the proposed study is justified.
- **Study Design:** How well the design of the study, the sampling technique, and the data collection and recording method(s) are appropriate to address the research question, and will yield trustworthy results. How clearly the specific theoretical perspective on qualitative research was stated, and how it informed the method(s) used. How well the selection of a qualitative approach, rather than a quantitative approach, is justified.

- **Impact:** Whether the study addresses a critical issue in SCI research or patient care and quality of life. If successful, how the study will improve our understanding of individuals with SCI and identify the most effective paths for adjusting to disability and/or improving overall quality of life, health, and functional status after SCI.
- **Military Relevance:** How well the proposed project benefits spinal cord injured military Service members and veterans, and/or their caregivers and family members.
- **Alignment with Area of Encouragement:** How the proposed study addresses at least one of the FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement, or justifies the relevance of the project to the spinal cord injured military and/or veteran population.

- **Notification of Pre-Application Screening Results**

Following the pre-application screening, the PI will be notified of whether or not they are invited to submit an application; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-application.

Pre-application notification dates are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

C. Application Submission Content and Form

Applications will not be accepted unless the PI has received a letter of invitation.

Each application submission must include the completed application package of forms and attachments provided in Grants.gov for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. The application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

Grants.gov application package components: For the Qualitative Research Award, the Grants.gov application package includes the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on application submission):

1. **SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

2. **Attachments Form**

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (10-page limit):** Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf.”

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. *Preliminary data relevant to SCI and the proposed project are encouraged, but not required.*

- **Background:** Identify the major research problem, and state the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed work is based. Cite relevant literature, and describe previous experience most pertinent to this project.
- **Research Problem:** Discuss the research problem and why it is important. Explain why a qualitative approach, rather than a quantitative approach, is more appropriate to address the research problem.

- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims to be funded by this application. If the proposed work is part of a larger study, present only tasks that the SCIRP award would fund.
- **Study Design:** Describe the specific theoretical perspective on qualitative research on which the study is based. Describe the study design, methods (including sampling, collection, interviewing, and recording/documentation methods), and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for analysis. The methods and analyses should be systematic, rigorous, and appropriate to address the qualitative research question. Procedures used for interviewing and developing the rules for coding should be systematic and rigorous enough for duplication by other investigators. Describe the plan for documentation of procedures, decisions, and rationale for decisions made, which should support consistency, dependability, and duplicability of results. Describe the steps taken to control biases and preconceptions. Explain how the project’s design and analyses will yield trustworthy, credible, and confirmable results. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches. If human subjects or human biological samples will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. Describe the data analysis plan for the research proposed. ***This award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.***
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation.** Start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf.” If documents are scanned to pdf, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. ***Each component has no page limit unless otherwise noted.***
 - **References Cited:** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the project narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
 - **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, and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). Indicate if Government-owned facilities or equipment are proposed for use. Reference should be made to the original or present contract under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
 - **Publications and/or Patent Abstracts (five-document limit):** Include relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If publications are not publicly available, then they must be included. Extra items will not be reviewed.

- Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters if applicable), signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, reflecting the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. If the PI is a clinician, the institution must clearly demonstrate a commitment to the clinician’s research.
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work.
- Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publically available. Include plans for utilizing the spinal cord injury Common Data Element (CDE) standards developed through the collaboration of the International Spinal Cord Society, the American Spinal Injury Association, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke CDE team, as referenced at <http://www.commondataelements.ninds.nih.gov/SCI.aspx>. Additionally, the government reserves the right to identify repositories for submission of data for archive. Any costs associated with submission will be addressed during award negotiations.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.”
Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below.
 - Background: Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
 - Research Problem: Discuss the research problem and why it is important. Explain why a qualitative approach, rather than a quantitative approach, is more appropriate to address the research problem.
 - Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
 - Study Design: Briefly describe the study design including appropriate controls and type of analyses.
 - Impact: Briefly describe how the proposed project will have an impact on SCI research, patient care, and/or quality of life.
 - Military Relevance: Briefly describe the relevance of the proposed project to the health care needs of spinal cord injured military Service members and veterans and/or their caregivers and family members.
- **Attachment 4: Public Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “PublicAbs.pdf.”
Public abstracts should be written using the outline below.

- Clearly describe, in a manner readily understood by lay persons, the rationale and objective for the proposed work.
 - Do not duplicate the technical abstract.
- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research.
 - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?
 - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
 - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?
- What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of SCI research?
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit):** Upload as “SOW.pdf.” Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Impact.pdf.” Describe the potential impact of this study on the field of research and/or patient care in SCI. If applicable, address impact on one or more of the FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement. Include an assessment of the likelihood that a successful outcome to the research project will lead to a practical application in patients. The following are examples of ways in which proposed studies, if successful, may have an impact. Although not all inclusive, these examples are intended to help PIs frame the impact of the proposed research:
 - Has the potential to advance the field of research in SCI.
 - Has the potential to change the standard of care.
 - Contributes to the development or validation of evidence-based policy or guidelines for patient evaluation and care.
- **Attachment 7: Military Relevance Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Military.pdf.” Demonstrate how the proposed study is applicable to the health care needs and quality of life of spinal cord injured military Service members, veterans, and/or their caregivers and family members. If the active duty military, veteran, or military family member population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed study, and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population.
- **Attachment 8: Approval for Access to Military and VA Populations (if applicable, one-page limit):** Upload as “ApprovalAccess.pdf.” A letter of support, signed by the lowest ranking person with approval authority, should be included for studies involving active duty military, veterans, or military family members; military-controlled study materials; databases; and/or restricted facilities (e.g., biological or chemical containment facilities).

3. **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
 - PI Biographical Sketch (four-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - PI Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
 - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (four-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - Key Personnel Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
4. **Research & Related Budget:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
 - Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.”
5. **Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
6. **R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.

D. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Pre-application and application submissions are required. Failure to meet any one of the deadlines shall result in application rejection.

E. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for detailed formatting guidelines.

All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Organizations are required to provide a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for information on Grants.gov requirements.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates using a two-tier review process. The first tier is a peer review of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. The second tier is a programmatic review that compares applications to each other and makes recommendations for funding to the Commanding General, USAMRMC, based on technical merit, the relevance to the mission of the DOD and CDMRP, and the specific intent of the award mechanism. The highest scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Additional information about the

two-tier review process used by the CDMRP can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess>.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Each level of review requires panelists to sign a non-disclosure statement attesting that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of the non-disclosure statement can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. Organizational personnel and PIs are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panelists or PIs that compromise the confidentiality of the review process may also result in suspension or debarment of their employing organizations from Federal awards. Furthermore, it is a crime for Federal officials to disclose confidential information of one party to another third party (Title 18 United States Code 1905).

B. Application Review Criteria

1. Peer Review: To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are listed in decreasing order of importance:

- **Research Problem**

- How well the major research problem is identified and the proposed study is justified.
- How well the selection of a qualitative approach, rather than a quantitative approach, is justified.
- How well the research question(s) or topics are described and appropriate to address the research problem.
- How clearly the specific theoretical basis for the study is stated, and is related to the research question(s).

- **Study Design**

- How well the design of the study, the sampling technique, and the data collection and recording method(s) are appropriate to address the research question, and will yield trustworthy, credible, and confirmable results.
- How clearly the specific theoretical perspective on qualitative research was stated, and how it informed the method(s) used.
- How well the PI demonstrates access to, and ability to recruit, the appropriate military, veteran, and/or family/caregiver population(s).
- How well the documentation of procedures, decisions, and rationale for decisions and conclusions support consistency, dependability, and duplicability of results, and prevent biases and preconceptions.

- How well the data analysis plan remains consistent with the research problem and theoretical basis of the study.
- How well the context of the interview was specified and incorporated into the analysis (e.g., which data were given more weight; voluntary vs. involuntary responses; first hand vs. second hand data; data collected early vs. later in the study, etc.).
- How well the project obtains ongoing feedback from the participants, especially regarding interpretation of data and study conclusions.
- How well the PI acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- **Impact**
 - How well proposed study addresses a critical issue in SCI research or patient care and quality of life.
 - If successful, how the study will improve our understanding of individuals with SCI and/or identify the most effective paths for adjusting to disability and/or improving overall quality of life, health, and functional status after SCI.
 - If applicable, how well the study addresses the impact on one or more of the FY11 SCIRP Areas of Encouragement.
- **Personnel**
 - How well the relevant training and experience of the PI and other key personnel are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work.
 - How the levels of effort by the PI and other key personnel are appropriate to ensure success of this project.

In addition, the following unscored criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influenced the review.
- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- **Environment**
 - How the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research.
 - How the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
 - How the quality and extent of institutional support are appropriate for the proposed research.

2. Programmatic Review: To determine the application's relevance to the mission of the DOD and CDMRP, as well as to make funding recommendations, the following equally considered criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
- Military relevance
- Program portfolio composition, with consideration of the Areas of Encouragement
- Programmatic relevance
- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers
- Relative impact

C. Recipient Qualification

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information on organization and Government agency requirements.

D. Application Review Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

E. Notification of Application Review Results

Each PI and organization will receive notification of the funding recommendation. PIs will receive a scientific peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After receipt of pre-applications from CDMRP eReceipt or applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

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

- Preproposal Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.

B. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative and Preproposal Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.
- Following the application deadline, you may be contacted by CDMRP via email with a request to provide certain missing supporting documents (excluding those listed in Section IV.A., Rejection). The missing documents must be provided by 5:00 p.m. ET on the second full business day following the date the email was sent. Otherwise, the application will be reviewed as submitted.

C. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application or application:

- FY11 SCIRP Integration Panel (IP) member is found to be involved in the preapplication or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting document. A list of the FY11 SCIRP IP members may be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/scirp/panels/panels11>.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The application does not conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to an extent that precludes appropriate review.
- Direct costs as shown on the Research and Related Budget form exceed the maximum allowed by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- Inclusion of URLs with the exception of links to published references.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- The proposed research is, or requests funding for, a clinical trial.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

D. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending institutional investigation. The institution will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Contracting/Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

V. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2012. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional award administration information.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section C, for general information regarding administrative and national policy requirements.

C. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section D, for general information on reporting requirements.

D. Award Transfers

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section E, for general information on organization or PI changes.

VI. AGENCY CONTACTS

A. CDMRP Help Desk

Questions related to Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity content or submission requirements and questions related to the submission of the pre-application through the CDMRP eReceipt System should be directed to the CDMRP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 1-301-682-5507

Email: help@cdmrp.org

B. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to application submission through the Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. Federal holidays). Note that the CDMRP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 1-800-518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for “send me change notification emails” by following the link on the Synopsis page for the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. If the application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Action	Completed
SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form	Complete form as instructed.	
Attachments Form	Upload Project Narrative (ProjectNarrative.pdf) as Attachment 1.	
	Upload Supporting Documentation (Support.pdf) as Attachment 2.	
	Upload Technical Abstract (TechAbs.pdf) as Attachment 3.	
	Upload Public Abstract (PublicAbs.pdf) as Attachment 4.	
	Upload Statement of Work (SOW.pdf) as Attachment 5.	
	Upload Impact Statement (Impact.pdf) as Attachment 6.	
	Upload Military Relevance Statement (Military.pdf) as Attachment 7.	
	Upload Approval for Access to Military and VA Populations (ApprovalAccess.pdf), if applicable, as Attachment 8.	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
	Attach PI Current & Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
	Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
	Attach Current & Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.	
Research & Related Budget	Complete form as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed.	
R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	Complete form as instructed.	