

# **I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Program Announcement for the Department of Defense**

**Defense Health Program**

**Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**

**Autism Research Program**

**Career Development Award**

**Announcement Type: Initial**

**Funding Opportunity Number: HT9425-23-ARP-CDA**

**Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical  
Research and Development**

## **SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES**

- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), April 19, 2023
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** May 24, 2023
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, July 20, 2023
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 25, 2023
- **Peer Review:** September 2023
- **Programmatic Review:** December 2023

*This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 801. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the “Package” tab, clicking “Preview,” and then selecting “Download Instructions.”*

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## II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Autism Research Program (ARP) are being solicited by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). The ARP was initiated in 2007 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit and innovation with high impact that focuses on autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Appropriations for the ARP from FY07 through FY22 totaled \$134.4 million (M). The FY23 appropriation is \$15M.

The ARP's vision is to improve the lives of individuals with ASD now and in their future, and its mission is to promote innovative research that advances the understanding of ASD and leads to improved outcomes.

***The proposed research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and/or the American public.***

#### II.A.1. FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest

The FY23 ARP Career Development Award seeks applications from all areas of research. However, if the proposed research project does not address at least one of the FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest, justification should be provided that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD.

The ARP ***encourages*** applications that address critical needs of the ASD community in one or more of the FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest:

- Assessment of novel therapeutics using valid preclinical models
- Create tools and strategies to increase the speed with which evidence-based practices are deployed in community-based settings
- Cultural, socioeconomic, and gender factors in diagnosis, treatment efficacy, delivery, and access to services
- Development of healthcare provider-focused training or tools to improve healthcare delivery for autistic individuals across the life span and the continuum of care (i.e., primary care, urgent/emergent care, and disaster relief)
- Environmental risk factors

- Factors impacting quality of life during geographic relocation, such as military permanent change of station
- Factors promoting success in key transitions to independence for individuals living with ASD
- Improve diagnosis and access to services across the life span
- Interventions to support ASD adults, including transition to adulthood, mid-life, and late life needs
- Long-term treatment outcomes from previous clinical trials for ASD core symptoms or to alleviate co-occurring conditions
- Mechanisms of heterogeneous clinical expression of ASD
- Mechanisms underlying sex differences (i.e., prevalence, biological mechanisms, phenotypic expression, core and comorbid syndrome expression and outcomes, developmental trajectories, diagnosis, and treatment response)
- Mechanisms underlying conditions co-occurring with ASD (e.g., sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal issues, inflammation, aggression, depression, anxiety, attention deficit, and seizures)
- **(New for FY23)** Mental health issues (such as grief, masking, suicide risk, trauma, etc.) or disorders in autistic individuals
- Tests of implementation strategies to increase use of evidence-based practices
- **(New for FY23)** Understanding heterogeneity in treatment response, including identification of psychosocial or biological factors that (1) impact treatment outcomes or (2) can be used to prospectively identify treatments that are most likely to benefit particular subgroups of individuals.
- Understanding key factors to support ASD adults, including transition to adulthood
- **(New for FY23)** Understanding physical health and related issues in aging autistic adults including cardiovascular issues, joint pain, asthma, obesity, etc.

## **II.A.2. Award History**

The ARP Career Development Award mechanism was first offered in FY21. Since then, 39 Career Development Award applications have been received, and 8 have been recommended for funding.

## **II.B. Award Information**

The FY23 ARP Career Development Award supports early-career, independent investigators and/or the transition of established investigators from other research fields to conduct innovative,

high-impact ideas or early-phase, proof-of-principle clinical trials with the potential to have a major impact on ASD. ***Applications are strongly encouraged to address one of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#)*** or provide justification that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD.

This award enables such investigators to compete for funding separately from investigators with established programs of ASD research. Previous experience in ASD research is allowed, but not required. However, in FY23 Career Development Award applications that name a Principal Investigator (PI) with limited background in ASD research, the ARP strongly encourages the inclusion of collaboration with investigators who are experienced in ASD research and/or possess other relevant expertise in order to strengthen the application. PIs must meet specific eligibility criteria as described in [Section II.C, Eligibility Information](#).

***Research funded by the FY23 ARP should be responsive to the needs of people with ASD, their families, and/or caregivers. Researchers are therefore encouraged to establish and utilize effective collaborations and partnerships with community members to maximize the translational and impact potential of the proposed research.***

Key elements of this award are as follows:

- **Impact:** The proposed research is expected to make an important and original contribution to advancing the understanding of ASD and ultimately lead to improved outcomes for individuals with ASD and their families/caregivers. The project’s impact on both ASD research and ASD care should be clearly articulated. A statistical plan is an important aspect of the FY23 ARP Career Development Award to demonstrate the significance of any research outcomes or findings.
- **Preliminary data:** Although the proposed research must have direct relevance to ASD, the required preliminary data, which may include unpublished results from the laboratory of the PI(s), research team, or collaborators named on the application, may be from outside the ASD research field. Research should also be based on a sound scientific rationale that is established through logical reasoning and critical review and analysis of the literature.
- **Personnel:** The FY23 ARP seeks applications from investigators in the early stages of their ASD career. *The FY23 ARP Career Development Award is designed to support the continued development of promising independent investigators that are early in their faculty appointments or the transition of established investigators from other research fields into a career in the field of ASD research.* Applicants are strongly encouraged to strengthen their applications through collaboration with investigators experienced in ASD research and/or possessing other relevant expertise as demonstrated by a record of funding and publications.

The types of awards made under the program announcement will be assistance agreements. An assistance agreement is appropriate when the federal government transfers a “thing of value” to a “state, local government,” or “other recipient” to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring property or service for the direct benefit and use of the U.S. government. An assistance agreement can take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. The level of involvement on the part of the Department of

Defense (DOD) during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement. If “no substantial involvement” on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a grant award will be made (31 USC 6304). Conversely, if substantial involvement on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a cooperative agreement will be made (31 USC 6305), and the award will identify the specific substantial involvement. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration, participation, or intervention in the research to be performed under the award. The award type, along with the start date, will be determined during the negotiation process.

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY23 ARP Career Development Award should not exceed **\$550,000**. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed funding information.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2024. For additional information refer to [Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices](#).

*The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$2.64M to fund approximately three Career Development Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific 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. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY23 funding opportunity will be funded with FY23 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2029.*

**Research Involving Human Data, Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers:** All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human data, human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO), Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of application submission is *not* required; however local IRB/EC approval is necessary prior to OHRO review. Allow up to 3 months to complete the OHRO regulatory review and approval process following submission of *all required and complete* documents to the OHRO. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the OHARO web page [https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research\\_protections/hrpo](https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/hrpo) for additional information.

As of January 20, 2020, U.S. institutions engaged in non-exempt cooperative research *must* rely on a single IRB to review and approve the portion of the research conducted at domestic sites in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46.114(b) (45 CFR 46.114[b]). If the proposed, non-exempt research involves more than one U.S.-based institution, a written plan for single IRB review arrangements must be provided at the time of application submission or award negotiation. The lead institution responsible for developing the master protocol and master consent form should be identified and should be the single point of contact for regulatory submissions and requirements.

***A clinical trial is defined*** as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes.

***Studies that do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention are not considered clinical trials.***

***Clinical research*** encompasses research with patient samples, data, and interaction with patients that may or may not be considered a clinical trial. ***For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research.*** Clinical research is observational in nature and includes: (1) Research that does not seek to evaluate the effects of interventions. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as data, tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects, but does not seek to assess the effects of an intervention, qualifies as clinical research. Patient-oriented research may include but is not limited to: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) diagnostic or detection studies (e.g., biomarker or imaging), (c) health disparity studies, and (d) development of new technologies. (2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies that do not seek to study the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention. (3) Outcomes research and health services research that do not fit under the definition of clinical trial. Excluded from the definition of clinical research are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. ***Note:*** Studies that meet the requirements for exemption under [§.104\(d\)\(4\) of the Common Rule](#) are not considered clinical research as defined by CDMRP. Exemption category 4 refers to secondary research for which consent is not required.

**Research Involving Animals:** All research funded by the FY23 ARP Career Development Award involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC OHARO, Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. ***Allow at least 3 to 4 months for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

**Rigor of Experimental Design:** All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of preclinical research. The standards are described in Landis SC, et al., 2012, A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research, *Nature* 490:187-191 ([www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html)). While these standards are written for preclinical studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies. Projects that include research on animal models are required to submit [Attachment 10, Animal Research Plan](#), as part of the application package to describe how these standards will be addressed. Applicants should consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 can be found at <https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines>.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to submit their data to the National Institute of Mental Health Data Archive (NDA), a secure bioinformatics platform for data sharing of ASD-related information, supported by the NDA. For more information, consult the NDA website at <https://nda.nih.gov/>.

## **II.C. Eligibility Information**

### **II.C.1. Eligible Applicants**

**II.C.1.a. Organization: All organizations, including foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and international organizations, are eligible to apply.**

**Government Agencies Within the United States:** Local, state, and federal government agencies are eligible to the extent that applications do not overlap with their fully funded internal programs. Such agencies are required to explain how their applications do not overlap with their internal programs.

As applications for this program announcement may be submitted by extramural and intramural organizations, these terms are defined below.

**Extramural Organization:** An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD, and research institutes.

**Intramural DOD Organization:** A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. ***Intramural Submission: An application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.***

**The USAMRAA makes awards to eligible organizations, not to individuals.**

### **II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator**

- The investigator named by the organization as the PI on the application may select one of the following eligibility categories. These eligibility criteria pertain as of the application submission deadline:
  - An independent investigator at or below the level of Assistant Professor, Instructor, or equivalent; *or*
  - An established independent investigator in an area other than ASD at or above the level of Assistant Professor seeking to transition to a career in ASD thereby bringing their expertise to the field.



- In addition, the PI must:
  - Not have received a Career Development Award (or equivalent) previously from any program within the CDMRP.
  - Not have received more than \$300,000 in total direct costs for previous or concurrent ASD research as a PI of one or more federally or privately funded, non-mentored, peer-reviewed grants.
  - Must hold a Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D., or equivalent at time of pre-application submission.
  - Not be a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or other “mentored” researcher.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with an eligible organization.

The CDMRP strongly encourages all PIs to participate in a digital identifier initiative through Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc. (ORCID). Registration for a unique ORCID identifier can be done online at <https://orcid.org/>.

### **II.C.2. Cost Sharing**

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

### **II.C.3. Other**

Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites in order to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3.

Refer to [Section II.H.2, Administrative Actions](#), for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

## **II.D. Application and Submission Information**

*Submission of applications that are essentially identical or 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).*

### **II.D.1. eBRAP and Grants.gov**

The electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://ebrap.org>) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications, view and verify extramural full applications submitted to Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov>), receive

communications from the CDMRP, and submit documentation during award negotiations and throughout the period of performance. eBRAP also allows intramural organizations to submit full applications following pre-application submission.

**Grants.gov** is a federal system required to be utilized by agencies to receive and process extramural grant applications. Full applications may only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.

Contact information for the eBRAP Help Desk and the Grants.gov Contact Center can be found in [Section II.G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts](#).

***Extramural Submission:***

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at Grants.gov.

***Intramural DOD Submission:***

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.

***Note: Applications from an intramural DOD organization or from an extramural federal government organization may be submitted to Grants.gov through a research foundation.***

## **II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission**

Submission is a two-step process requiring both ***pre-application*** (eBRAP.org) and ***full application*** (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov) as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Full application submission guidelines differ for extramural (Grants.gov) and intramural (eBRAP.org) organizations (refer to [Table 1, Full Application Guidelines](#)).

***The application title, eBRAP log number, 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. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

### **II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission Content**

***During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique eBRAP log number is required during the full application submission process.***

To begin the pre-application process, first select whether the submitting organization is extramural or intramural, then confirm your selection or cancel. **Incorrect selection of extramural or intramural submission type will delay processing.**

If an error has been made in the selection of extramural versus intramural and the pre-application submission deadline has passed, the PI or Business Official must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.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.

The applicant organization and associated PI identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

No change in PI will be allowed after the pre-application deadline. If any other changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

PIs with an ORCID identifier should enter that information in the appropriate field in the “My Profile” tab in the “Account Information” section of eBRAP.

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

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**

Submission of application information includes assignment of primary and secondary research classification codes, which may be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and confirm the codes prior to making their selection.

- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**

Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form). The Business Official must be either selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and the contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form), and click on “Add

Organizations to this Pre-application.” The organization(s) must be either selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel**

Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.

[FY23 ARP Programmatic Panel members](#) should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal](#), or contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a conflict of interest in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

*Note: Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. eBRAP will not allow a file to be uploaded if the number of pages exceeds the limit specified below.*

- **Preproposal Narrative (two-page limit):** The Preproposal Narrative page limit applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Preproposal Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application.

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

- **Principal Investigator:** Describe the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research, including qualifications and achievements that make the PI an ideal candidate for this award. Describe the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and how the proposed research experience will advance their career.
- **Research Idea:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective(s) to be reached. State the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) that will be addressed. If the proposed project does not address one of the Career Development Award Areas of Interest, provide justification that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD. Detail the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed project is based. Concisely state the specific aims, provide a brief overview of the study design and details of the methods to be used. If the proposed

research includes a clinical trial, briefly state the clinical intervention, subject population(s), and phase of the clinical trial.

- **Impact:** Describe the potential impact, both short and long term, of this study on the outcomes of individuals with ASD, their families/caregivers, and/or the understanding of ASD.
- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application *must be uploaded as individual files* and are limited to the following:
  - **References Cited (one-page limit):** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.
  - **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit per individual):** *All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.* Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.
- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

### Pre-Application Screening

- **Pre-Application Screening Criteria**

To determine the technical merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program (DHP) and the ARP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Principal Investigator:** How well the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research is supported by their qualifications and achievements. The degree to which the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and the proposed research experience will advance their career.
- **Research Idea:** Whether the proposed research addresses one or more of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or, if not, whether justification was provided that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD. How well the rationale, study design, methods used and specific aims support the project’s hypothesis or objective(s). To what extent the research can be accomplished with the defined subject population, if applicable.

- **Impact:** What potential impact this study will have on the outcomes of individuals with ASD, their families/caregivers, and/or the understanding of ASD.

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

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-application. The estimated timeframe for notification of invitation to submit an application is indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Invitations to submit a full application are based on the Pre-Application Screening Criteria listed above.

### **II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission Content**

Applications will not be accepted unless notification of invitation has been received.

***The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.***

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov/>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/>) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

#### **II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Guidelines**

Extramural organizations must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Applicants must create a Grants.gov Workspace for submission, which allows the application components to be completed online and routed through the applicant organization for review prior to submission. Applicants may choose to download and save individual PDF forms rather than filling out webforms in Workspace. A compatible version of Adobe Reader **must** be used to view, complete, and submit an application package consisting of PDF forms. If more than one person is entering text into an application package, the **same version** of Adobe Reader software should be used by each person. Check the version number of the Adobe software on each user's computer to make sure the versions match. Using different versions of Adobe Reader may cause submission and/or save errors – even if each version is individually compatible with Grants.gov. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, and the “Apply For Grants” page of Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

***Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.***

**Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines**

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<b>Application Package Location</b>	
<p>Download application package components for HT9425-23-ARP-CDA from Grants.gov (<a href="https://grants.gov">https://grants.gov</a>) and create a Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows online completion of the application components and routing of the application package through the applicant organization for review prior to submission.</p>	<p>Download application package components for HT9425-23-ARP-CDA from eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a>).</p>
<b>Full Application Package Components</b>	
<p><b>SF424 Research &amp; Related Application for Federal Assistance Form:</b> Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.</p>	<p><b>Tab 1 – Summary:</b> Provide a summary of the application information.</p> <p><b>Tab 2 – Application Contacts:</b> This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.</p>
<p>Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Personal Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Tab 3 – Full Application Files:</b> Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Key Personnel</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Performance Sites</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data:</b> Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.</p>
<b>Application Package Submission</b>	
<p><b>Create a Grants.gov Workspace.</b> Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.</p> <p><b>Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the “Sign and Submit” button on the “Manage Workspace” page, under the “Forms” tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package <b>at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date</b> to allow time</p>	<p><b>Submit package components to eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a>).</b></p> <p><b>Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application:</b> After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to “Enter Your Password Here” and press the “Submit Full Application” button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official by email. <b>Do not password</b></p>

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<p>to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID <i>prior to</i> the application submission deadline. <b>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</b></p>	<p><b><i>protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></b></p>
<b><u>Application Verification Period</u></b>	
<p>The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <b><i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form.</i></b></p>	<p>After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/ Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <b><i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form.</i></b> Your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the application verification deadline.</p>
<b>Further Information</b>	
<p><b>Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the “Confirmation” page that is generated after submission.</p> <p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.</p>	<p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.</p>

The full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.



## II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

- **Extramural Applications Only**

**SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

**Attachments:**

*Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4.*

For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Attachments will be rejected if the file names are longer than 50 characters or have incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, there are file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 megabytes (MB), and the file size for the entire full application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (page limits vary, as shown below): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **Page Limit:** Page limits vary:
  - **Projects without a clinical trial:** Eight-page limit
  - **Projects with a clinical trial component:** 14-page limit

Describe the proposed project in detail using *one* of the two outlines below, depending on whether or not a clinical trial is proposed. ***The inclusion of preliminary data relevant to the proposed project, but not necessarily derived from ASD studies, is required.***

***Outline for projects without a clinical trial:***

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research; include relevant literature citations. Describe and show the preliminary data to justify the rationale for the proposed project.

- **Hypothesis(es) and/or Objective(s):** State the hypotheses/study questions to be tested and overall objective(s) to be reached. Describe how the project addresses one or more of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or a critical problem or question in ASD.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims supported by this application. If this application is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund.
- **Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, with appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for assessment. Address potential limitations and present alternative methods and approaches. If animal studies are proposed, the applicant is required to submit an Animal Research Plan ([Attachment 10](#)). If human subjects or human biological samples will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. Where relevant, describe the availability of, and access to, tissue, data, or human subjects.
- **Statistical Plan:** Clearly describe the statistical plan and the rationale for the statistical methodology as well as an appropriate power analysis. Describe in detail how the statistical plan is appropriate for the experimental methodology being used. *If applicable*, describe how the human subject population is appropriate for the study and provide assurance that there is clear access to the designated population. The inclusion of a biostatistician in the study team is encouraged.
- **Enrollment Table (if applicable):** Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. The Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report format is a three-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>
- **Principal Investigator:** Describe the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research, including qualifications and achievements that make the PI an ideal candidate for this award. Describe the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and/or clinician and how the proposed research experience will advance their career. Discuss the appropriateness of the level of effort of the PI for successful conduct of the proposed research.

***Outline for projects with a clinical trial component:***

***Note: The Project Narrative is NOT the formal clinical trial protocol. Instead, all elements of the proposed clinical trial necessary for peer review must be described as indicated below.***

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research and include relevant literature citations. Describe and show the preliminary data and/or laboratory and/or preclinical evidence to justify the rationale for the proposed project.

- **Hypothesis(es) and/or Objective(s):** State the hypotheses/study questions to be tested and overall objective(s) to be reached. Describe how the project addresses one or more of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or another critical problem or question in ASD.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims. If this application is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund.
- **Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for assessment. Provide a well-developed, well-integrated research strategy that supports the translational feasibility and promise of the approach. Address potential problems and present alternatives.
- **Clinical Strategy:** Describe the following under separate subheadings:
  - ***Type of clinical trial:*** Describe the type of clinical trial to be performed (e.g., prospective, randomized, controlled) and outline the proposed methodology in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action. Note whether the intervention is already in use.
  - ***Challenges and alternative strategies:*** Describe potential challenges and alternative strategies where appropriate.
  - ***Scope of the trial:*** Outline the scope of the trial to be performed and the intervention to be tested.
  - ***Study variables:*** Define the study variables, outline why they were chosen, and describe how they will be measured. Include a description of appropriate controls and the endpoints to be tested.
  - ***Access to study population, recruitment plans, and inclusion/exclusion criteria:*** Indicate the access to the study population, recruitment plans, and inclusion/exclusion criteria. Describe how the human subject population is appropriate for the study and whether there is clear access to the designated population. Specify the number of human subjects to be enrolled. If multiple study sites are involved, state the approximate number to be enrolled at each site.
  - ***Women and Minorities in the Study:*** Consistent with the Belmont Report, “Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects,” and congressional legislation, special attention is given to inclusion of women and/or minorities in studies funded or supported by the USAMRDC. This policy is intended to promote equity both in assuming the burdens and in receiving the benefits of human subjects research.
    - ❖ Describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities in the clinical trial appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects.

Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.

- ❖ Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report format is a three-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.
- **Consent:** Describe the informed consent process, including safeguards for vulnerable populations.
- **Data Management Plan:** Describe the Data Management Plan. Explain measures taken to protect the privacy of human subjects and maintain confidentiality of study data.
- **Reporting:** Describe how data will be reported and how it will be assured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), if applicable.
- **Statistical Plan:** Clearly describe the statistical plan and the rationale for the statistical methodology as well as an appropriate power analysis. Describe how the statistical plan is appropriate for the methodology being used. Describe how the human subject population is appropriate for the study and provide assurance that there is clear access to the designated population. The inclusion of a biostatistician in the study team is encouraged.
- **Principal Investigator:** Describe the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research, including qualifications and achievements that make the PI an ideal candidate for this award. Describe the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and/or clinician and how the proposed research experience will advance their career. Discuss the appropriateness of the level of effort of the PI for successful conduct of the proposed research.
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf”.** Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

***There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those 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 (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 award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no 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 Organizational Support:** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.
- **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.
- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in the 2 CFR 200.315, "Intangible Property."
  - **Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable):** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
  - **Commercialization Strategy (if applicable):** Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.

- **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 2, Section K, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Data Management Plan (2-page limit):** If there is a separate Data Management Plan attachment, then submission of the Data Management Plan under “Supporting Documentation” is not required. Describe the Data Management Plan in accordance with Section 3.c. Enclosure 3, [DoD Instructions 3200.12](#).
  - For Extramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, Attachments Form, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
  - For Intramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.1, Application Component – Attachments, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. ***Do not include proprietary or confidential information.*** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Programmatic reviewers typically do not have access to the full application and rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project’s key aspects. Therefore, clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important.

The technical abstract should address the following elements:

- **Research:**
  - **Background:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed project. Identify the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Area\(s\) of Interest](#) or provide justification that the proposed research addresses another critical problem, question, or need in ASD that will be addressed by the proposed research project.
  - **Hypothesis(es) and/or Objective(s):** State the objective(s) to be reached/hypothesis(es) to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective(s)/hypothesis(es).
  - **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of this study.
  - **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

- **Impact:** Summarize how the proposed project is relevant to and will have an impact on the outcomes of individuals with ASD, their families/caregivers, and/or the understanding of ASD. Describe the impact on the specified population, if applicable.
- **Career Development:** Describe how the award will provide the PI with the opportunity to effectively advance an independent career in ASD research.
- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”.** The lay abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. ***Do not include proprietary or confidential information. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.*** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Minimize the use of acronyms and abbreviations, where appropriate. The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the consumer community. Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below.

- Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine. State the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Area\(s\) of Interest](#) or another critical problem, question, or need in ASD addressed by the project.
- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research.
  - Who will it help and how will it help them?
  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks? If the research is too basic for clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes expected and their applicability to the field.
  - What is the projected time anticipated to achieve a clinically relevant outcome?
  - What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of ASD research and ultimately lead to improved outcomes for individuals living with ASD and the well-being of their families/caregivers?
- How is the project relevant to military Service Members, Veterans, and their families?
- Describe the PI’s career goals in ASD research.
  - How will the award advance the PI’s career in ASD research?
  - How do the research and career development plan support the PI in attaining these goals?

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** The suggested Statement of Work (SOW) format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.

For the Career Development Award, refer to either the “*Suggested SOW Strategy for Clinical Research Clinical Trial*” or “*Suggested SOW Strategy Generic Research*”, whichever format is most appropriate for the proposed effort, and use the blank SOW format titled “Suggested SOW Format”. The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** Describe how the proposed research is relevant to ASD now. Detail the anticipated outcome(s)/product(s) (intellectual and/or tangible) and /or improved understanding of ASD that will be directly attributed to the results of the proposed research project (short-term impact). Compare the anticipated outcomes from the proposed project to currently available ASD information, products or treatments, if applicable. Describe the short-term and long-term impact of the expected outcomes of the research project on the ASD community, individuals with ASD and their quality of life, and the well-being of their families/caregivers.

If a clinical trial component is proposed, explain how the aims of the project will have a significant clinical impact on individuals with ASD. Describe how the long-term benefits for implementation of the intervention may impact patient care and/or quality of life. Describe how well the project will translate promising, well-founded research findings into a larger clinical trial for a novel ASD intervention.

- **Attachment 7: Innovation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Innovation.pdf”.** Summarize how the proposed research is innovative. State how the research challenges existing paradigms or provides new paradigms, technologies, evidence-based diagnoses, and/or applications for ASD. Investigating the next logical step or an incremental advancement on published data is not considered innovative.
- **Attachment 8: Eligibility Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Eligibility.pdf”.** Provide a letter, signed by the PI and the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official, verifying that the eligibility requirements will be met by the application submission deadline. The letter should verify that the PI holds a Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D., or equivalent, is an independent investigator at or below the level of Assistant Professor, Instructor (or equivalent) or an established independent investigator in an area other than ASD at or above the level of Assistant Professor seeking to transition to a career in ASD thereby bringing their expertise to the field; that the PI has not received more than \$300,000 in total direct costs for previous or concurrent ASD research as a PI of one or more federally or privately funded, non-mentored peer-reviewed grants; and that the PI has not received a Career Development Award previously from any program within the CDMRP (refer to [Section II.C.1.b, Principal Investigator](#), for eligibility information).



- **Attachment 9: Research Outcomes Plan: (one-page limit): Upload as “Outcomes.pdf”.** Describe the anticipated research outcomes including knowledge products, clinical products for development, etc. Describe the methods and strategies proposed to move the anticipated research outcomes to the next phase of development or clinical application after successful completion of the project. Detail the funding strategy to transition to the next level of investigation, development, and/or commercialization (e.g., partners, applications for internal/external funding opportunities).
- **Attachment 10: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit), if applicable: Upload as “AnimalPlan.pdf”.** When the proposed study involves animals, the applicant is required to submit a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted. Applicants should not submit a verbatim replica of the protocol(s) to be submitted to the IACUC as the Animal Research Plan. The Animal Research Plan should address the following points for each proposed animal study:
  - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and, where appropriate, the study’s relevance to human biology.
  - Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.
  - Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
  - Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.
  - Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis, and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- **Attachment 11: Regulatory Strategy (applicable only if proposing a clinical trial; no page limit): If submitting multiple documents, start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named “Regulatory.pdf”.**

Describe the regulatory strategy using the following outline and provide supporting documentation as applicable.

- State the product/intervention name.

***For products/interventions that do not require regulation by the FDA or an international regulatory agency:***

- **Explain why the product/intervention is exempt from oversight. Provide confirmation that the trial does not require regulation by the FDA/regulatory**

**agency in writing from the IRB of record or the FDA/regulatory agency.** If the clinical trial will be conducted at international sites, provide equivalent information relevant to the regulatory requirements of the host country(ies). No further information for this attachment is required.

***For products/interventions that require regulation by the FDA or an international regulatory agency:***

- State whether the product is FDA-approved, -licensed, or -cleared and marketed in the U.S.
- If the product/intervention **has** already received FDA approval:
  - Provide a copy of the acceptance letter from the FDA.
  - If the product is marketed in the U.S., state the product label indication. State whether the proposed research involves a change to the approved label indication for the route of administration, dosage level, and/or subject population. Indicate whether the proposed research involves a change that increases the risks associated with using the product. State whether the product is being promoted for an off-label use (where promotion involves the sale of a marketed product).
- If the product/intervention **has not** already received FDA approval:
  - State the planned indication/use. Indicate whether the product would be classified as a drug, device, biologic, or combination product. Indicate whether the FDA has confirmed the proposed classification.
  - Identify the regulatory sponsor. Include a signed sponsor commitment letter acknowledging the regulatory sponsor’s understanding of all sponsor responsibilities and commitment to oversee execution of the study.
  - If an Investigational New Drug (IND) or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) application is required to initiate the proposed research project, it must be submitted to the FDA prior to the FY23 ARP Career Development Award application submission deadline. The government reserves the right to withhold or withdraw funding if an IND or IDE application is necessary but has not been submitted to the FDA by the application submission deadline, or if documented status of the IND or IDE has not been obtained within 9 months of the award date.
  - If the clinical trial will be conducted at international sites, provide equivalent information and supporting documentation relevant to the product indication/label and regulatory approval and/or filings in the host country(ies).
  - If a device is to be used in the proposed clinical trial, indicate who holds the intellectual property rights to the intervention, if applicable, and how the PI has obtained access to those rights for the conduct of the clinical trial.

- **Attachment 12: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- **Attachment 13: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf”.** If a military facility (Military Health System facility, research laboratory, medical treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DOD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format”, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>), including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681[a] et seq.), the DOD is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must include the following forms completed as indicated.

**Research & Related Personal Data:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

**Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as “Biosketch\_LastName.pdf”. The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in uneditable PDF format.

- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support\_LastName.pdf”.
  - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
  - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch\_LastName.pdf”.
- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support\_LastName.pdf”.
  - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
  - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

**Research & Related Budget:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

**Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf”.** The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1.

**Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Applications Only**

**Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete the “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format” and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as

[Attachment 13](#). (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) Each Intramural DOD Collaborator should include costs per year on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

### **II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. ***As of April 2022, all federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI generated through SAM.gov.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

### **II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times**

All submission dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

### **Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP**

***For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants:*** eBRAP allows an organization’s representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the “Full Application Files” tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

***Extramural Submission:*** The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified.

***Intramural DOD Submission:*** After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business

Official and PI will receive email notification of the status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified. The Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve the application package prior to the application verification deadline.

***For All Submissions:*** Verify that subaward budget(s) with budget justification are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

#### **II.D.5. Funding Restrictions**

The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$550,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate.

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

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs may be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multidisciplinary collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel costs to scientific/technical meeting(s) is to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY23 ARP Career Development Award.

For extramural awards with an intragovernmental component, direct transfer of funds from an extramural award recipient to a DOD or other federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Funding to intramural DOD and other federal agencies will be managed through a direct funds transfer. Intramural applicants are responsible for coordinating through their agency's procedures the use of contractual or assistance funding awards or other appropriate agreements to support extramural collaborators.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. ***For federal agencies or organizations collaborating with federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.***

#### **II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements**

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for detailed formatting guidelines.

## **II.E. Application Review Information**

### **II.E.1. Criteria**

#### **II.E.1.a. Peer Review**

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

*For applications without a clinical trial:*

- **Scientific Merit**

- To what extent a clear hypothesis is stated and supported through scientific rationale, preliminary data, and referenced literature.
- How well the hypothesis or objectives, specific aims, and experimental design are developed.
- How well the study is designed to achieve the research objectives, including, if applicable, the development and use of animal model(s) and to what extent the chosen animal and endpoints/outcome measures are justified.
- If applicable, to what extent the human subject population is appropriate for the study and whether there is clear access to the designated population.
- If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.
- How well the applicant acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- To what degree the statistical plan is appropriate for the experimental methodology being used.
- Whether the power analysis for the proposed study adequately represents an assessment of the population or subpopulation proposed, if applicable.

- **Impact**

- To what degree the proposed project is relevant to ASD.
- How the anticipated outcomes from the proposed project compare to currently available ASD information, products, or treatments if applicable.
- To what extent the anticipated short-term outcome(s)/product(s) of the project may impact individuals with ASD, their families/caregivers, and/or improve understanding of ASD.

- To what degree the anticipated long-term outcomes from this research project may impact the ASD community, individuals with ASD and the well-being of their families/caregivers.
- How well the proposed study addresses one or more of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or justifies that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD.
- **Innovation**
  - To what extent the proposed research is innovative and will challenge existing paradigms or provide new paradigms, technologies, evidence-based diagnoses, and/or applications for ASD.
  - To what degree the proposed research represents more than a logical extension and/or incremental advance upon published data.
- **Research Outcomes Plan**
  - Whether the application described the anticipated research outcomes, including knowledge products, clinical products for development, etc.
  - How well the application demonstrated methods and strategies to move the anticipated research outcomes to the next phase of development or clinical application after successful completion of the project.
  - Whether the application detailed the funding strategy to transition to the next level of investigation, development, and/or commercialization (e.g., partners, internal/external funding opportunities to be applied for).
- **Principal Investigator and Research Team**
  - **Principal Investigator**
    - How well the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research is supported by their qualifications and achievements.
    - The degree to which the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and/or clinician and the proposed research experience will advance their career.
    - The degree to which the PI’s level of effort is appropriate for the successful conduct of the proposed research.
  - **Research Team**
    - To what extent the research team’s background, expertise and level of effort are appropriate to accomplish the proposed research.



***For applications with a clinical trial component:***

• **Scientific Merit**

- How well the scientific rationale for testing the intervention/clinical research is supported by the preliminary data, critical review and analysis of the literature, and/or laboratory and/or preclinical evidence.
- How well the specific aims, hypotheses or objectives, experimental design, methods, data collection procedures, and analyses are designed to clearly answer the clinical objective, including selection of an appropriate control condition(s) for comparison.
- To what degree the statistical plan and the rationale for the statistical methodology, including sample size projections, are adequate for the study proposed.
- Whether the power analysis for the proposed study adequately represents an assessment of the population or subpopulation proposed, if applicable.

• **Clinical Strategy and Regulatory Strategy**

- Whether the proposed clinical trial has sound rationale and methodology, and whether a description of the type of clinical trial to be performed (e.g., prospective, randomized, controlled) is provided.
- To what extent the human subject population is described as being appropriate for the study and whether there is clear access to the designated population.
- How well the recruitment plan and inclusion/exclusion criteria will support achieving the objective.
- Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.
- Whether the proposed intervention is feasible and endpoints are rational.
- How well the applicant acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.

***If applicable for the proposed clinical trial:***

- For investigator-sponsored regulatory exemptions (e.g., IND/IDE application approval or other international equivalent), whether there is evidence of appropriate institutional support.
- Whether the application includes documentation that the study is exempt from FDA or other international agency regulation or the IND or IDE application (and/or international equivalent) has been submitted to the FDA and/or relevant international regulatory agency, as appropriate.

- How well the documentation provided supports the feasibility of acquiring an active IND or IDE application approval (and/or international equivalent) covering the proposed trial, if applicable.
- **Clinical Impact**
  - Whether the aims of the project are likely to have a significant clinical impact on individuals with ASD.
  - How the potential outcomes of the proposed study will provide/improve short-term benefits for individuals with ASD.
  - How significantly the long-term benefits for implementation of the intervention may impact patient care and/or quality of life.
  - To what extent the proposed project will ultimately improve the outcomes.
  - How well the proposed study addresses one or more of [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or, if not, justifies that the proposed research addresses a critical problem, question, or need in ASD.
- **Innovation**
  - To what extent the proposed research will challenge existing paradigms or provide new paradigms, technologies, evidence-based diagnoses, and/or applications for ASD.
  - To what degree the proposed research represents more than a logical extension and/or incremental advance upon published data.
- **Research Outcomes Plan**
  - Whether the application described the anticipated research outcomes, including knowledge products, clinical products for development, etc.
  - How well the application demonstrated methods and strategies to move the anticipated research outcomes to the next phase of development or clinical application after successful completion of the project.
  - Whether the application detailed the funding strategy to transition to the next level of investigation, development, and/or commercialization (e.g., partners, internal/external funding opportunities to be applied for).
- **Ethical Considerations**
  - How well the evidence shows that the intervention is consistent with sound research design, minimizes the level of risk to human subjects, and, when appropriate, that the intervention is already in use.
  - To what degree privacy issues are appropriately considered.

- To what degree the process for seeking informed consent is appropriate and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.
- **Principal Investigator and Research Team**
  - **Principal Investigator**
    - How well the PI’s potential for a career at the forefront of ASD research is supported by their qualifications and achievements.
    - The degree to which the PI’s career goals as an ASD researcher and/or clinician and the proposed research experience will advance their career.
    - The degree to which the PI’s level of effort is appropriate for the successful conduct of the proposed research.
  - **Research Team**
    - To what extent the research team’s background, expertise and level of effort are appropriate to accomplish the proposed research.

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

- **Environment**
  - Whether the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research.
  - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
  - To what extent the quality and level of institutional support are appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Budget**
  - Whether the direct costs exceed the allowable direct costs as published in the program announcement.
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Application Presentation**
  - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

### II.E.1.b. 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 the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY23 ARP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
  - Program portfolio balance
  - Programmatic relevance to one or more of the [FY23 ARP Career Development Award Areas of Interest](#) or another critical problem or question in ASD
  - Relative impact and innovation

### II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

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 made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. *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 II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#).* Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the ARP will be provided to the PI and posted on the CDMRP website.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval 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 panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

### **II.E.3. 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 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 Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

An applicant organization may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available in FAPIIS.

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.

### **II.E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

All application review dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#).

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

## **II.F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **II.F.1. Federal Award Notices**

Awards supported with FY23 funds are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2024. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

After email notification of application review results through eBRAP, and if selected for funding, a representative from the USAMRAA will contact the Business Official authorized to negotiate on behalf of the PI's organization.

**Pre-Award Costs:** An institution of higher education, hospital, or non-profit 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

***Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds.*** 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.**

**Federal Government Organizations:** Funding made to federal government organizations (to include intramural DOD organizations) will be executed through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

#### **II.F.1.a. PI Changes and Award Transfers**

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

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

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section B, for general information on organization or PI changes.

#### **II.F.2. 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.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest [DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) and the [USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) for further information.

**Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources.** The proposing entity must comply with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which requires that the PI, Partnering PIs (if applicable), and all key personnel:

- Certify that the current and pending support provided on the application is current, accurate, and complete;
- Agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and

- Have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act.

False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (18 USC 1001).

### **II.F.3. Reporting**

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements. ***If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing USAMRAA-sponsored awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.***

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report will be required.

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

**Award Expiration Transition Plan:** An Award Expiration Transition Plan must be submitted with the final progress report. Use the one-page template “Award Expiration Transition Plan,” available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) under the “Progress Report Formats” section. The Award Expiration Transition Plan must outline whether and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

**PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (*only required for clinical research studies and clinical trials*):** Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in 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 FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with 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 (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

## **II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

### **II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk**

Questions related to program announcement content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the pre-application or intramural application submission through eBRAP should be directed to the eBRAP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET (closed on most U.S. federal holidays). Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org)

## **II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center**

Questions related to extramural application submission through 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 eBRAP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto: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 or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

## **II.H. Other Information**

### **II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions**

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 801b. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 801.

### **II.H.2. Administrative Actions**

After receipt of pre-applications or applications, the following administrative actions may occur:

#### **II.H.2.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:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.



- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.

#### **II.H.2.b. Modification**

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Preproposal Narrative and Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

#### **II.H.2.c. Withdrawal**

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

- An FY23 ARP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *A list of the FY23 ARP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/arp/panels/panels23>.*
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY23, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.
- 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.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.
- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.

- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

#### **II.H.2.d. 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 USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

### II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

Application Components	Action	Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance ( <b>extramural submissions only</b> )	Complete form as instructed	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) ( <b>intramural submissions only</b> )	Complete tabs as instructed	
Attachments	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	
	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf"	
	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf"	
	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf"	
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf"	
	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf"	
	Innovation Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Innovation.pdf"	
	Eligibility Statement: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "Eligibility.pdf"	
	Research Outcomes Plan: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "Outcomes.pdf"	
	Animal Research Plan: Upload as Attachment 10 with file name "AnimalPlan.pdf"	
	Regulatory Strategy: Upload as Attachment 11 with file name "Regulatory.pdf"	
	Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 12 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf"	
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 13 with file name "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable	
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed	

<b>Application Components</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach PI Previous/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 Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
Research & Related Budget ( <b>extramural submissions only</b> )	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field	
Budget ( <b>intramural submissions only</b> )	Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed	
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable	Complete form as instructed	
<b>Additional Application Components</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Confidential Letters of Recommendation	Confirm upload to eBRAP	

## APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
ARP	Autism Research Program
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting <i>In Vivo</i> Experiments
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHP	Defense Health Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MB	Megabytes
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NDA	National Institute of Mental Health Data Archive
OHARO	Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (previously Office of Research Protections)
OHRO	Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection Office)
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRDC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
USC	United States Code