Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Alzheimer's Research Program Transforming Care Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526AZRPTrCA

Pre-Application Due: June 22, 2026

Application Due: September 24, 2026

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version CD26_01.

Content

Before You Begin

- **Active SAM.gov, eBRAP.org and Grants.gov registrations are required for application submission.** User registration for each of these websites can take several weeks or longer. Each applicant must ensure their registrations are active and up to date prior to application preparation.
- **Read this funding opportunity announcement in the order it is written before beginning to prepare application materials.** It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether the proposed research meets the intent of this funding opportunity and that all parties meet eligibility requirements.
- **To support application preparation, additional resources are available** including an application process FAQ, a Guide for Intragovernmental & Intramural Applicants and a CDMRP Video Series detailing the application process.

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507
help@eBRAP.org

Questions regarding funding opportunity submission requirements, as well as technical assistance related to pre-application or intramural application submission.

Grants.gov Support Center

800-518-4726
International: 1-606-545-5035
support@grants.gov

Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace.

This document uses internal links; you can go back to where you were by pressing the Alt + left arrow keys (Windows) or command + left arrow keys (Macintosh) on your keyboard.

Click ⓘ to be taken to additional guidance and instructions within the General Application Instructions (GAI).

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Alzheimer's Research Program (AZRP) Transforming Care Award (TrCA) supports clinical research or clinical trials evaluating interventions, innovations, and solutions in critical areas for dementia care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease related dementia (AD/ADRD) and their care partner(s).

Distinctive Features:

- Clinical research and clinical trials are allowed; however, clinical trials solely testing or evaluating pharmacological interventions do not meet the intent of this funding opportunity.
- Studies utilizing animal models do not meet the intent of the mechanism and are not allowed.
- Preliminary data are required.
- Community collaboration is required for research prospectively enrolling human subjects.
- The AZRP encourages studies to leverage existing cohorts/datasets. Cohorts consisting of individuals 65 years or younger are also encouraged.
- **Career Initiation or Transition (CIT) Partnership Option:** The TrCA includes an option for more than one PI and supports both new and existing collaborative partnerships. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). If utilizing this option, at least one independent investigator must meet the CIT Partnership Option eligibility requirements at the time of application submission.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $5.4M to fund approximately three TrCA applications with total cost caps of $1.6M per award for the single PI option and $1.9M combined for the CIT Partnership Option. The maximum period of performance is 4 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY26 funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. Awards supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Preproposal) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), June 22, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** August 10, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, September 24, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 29, 2026
- **Peer Review:** December 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** February 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526AZRPTrCA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

Extramural and intramural U.S. Department of War (DOW) organizations are eligible to apply, ***including foreign and domestic organizations, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and public or private entities***.

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

Independent investigators affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named as Principal Investigator (PI), Initiating PI, or Partnering PI on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status. ***Individuals in mentored positions (e.g., postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows) are not considered independent investigators.***

CIT Partnership Option:

At least one independent investigator must meet the CIT Partnership Option eligibility requirements.

- Career Initiation investigators must have at least three years of research experience beyond a terminal degree but no more than seven years within their first independent research position with only nominal, if any, research support or publications in the field. Lapses in research time or appointments as denoted in the biographical sketch should be explained in the application.
- Career Transition investigators may be any level, but new to military health, traumatic brain injury, and/or AD/ADRD fields, with nominal, if any, publications and/or research support for their intended field.

Application Limit: The same independent investigator may not be named as a PI, Initiating PI, or Partnering PI on more than four (4) TrCA applications.

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

Awards are made to eligible ***organizations***, not to individuals. Refer to the GAI for additional recipient qualification requirements.

3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the Alzheimer's Research Program (AZRP). The CDMRP is located within the Defense Health Agency Research and Development (DHA R&D), which is a part of the Department of Defense, DOD, herein referred to using the secondary title Department of War, DOW. Congress initiated the AZRP in 2011 to provide support for Alzheimer's disease research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the AZRP from FY11 through FY25 totaled $213 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is $15M.

AZRP Vision Statement: Mitigate the impact of Alzheimer's and related dementias associated with traumatic brain injury (TBI), military and diverse risks.

AZRP Mission Statement: Fund impactful, solution-oriented research to address critical needs and improve quality of life for Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and the public who are living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

3.1. Award History

The AZRP Transforming Care Award (TrCA) mechanism was first offered in FY23. Since then, 68 TrCA applications were received, and 5 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Transforming Care Award

The FY26 TrCA intends to support well-designed non-incremental clinical research/trials in dementia care that provide significant impact and solutions for the AD/ADRD field, Community, and military health. ***Funded research will support the evaluation of interventions, innovations, and solutions in critical areas in dementia care.*** Applications may address knowledge gaps, interventions, strategies, technologies and/or tools. Research should lead to improved quality of life, reduced caregiver burden and stress, and increased support for those living with dementia diagnoses. Applications are encouraged to prioritize both the individual living with an AD/ADRD diagnosis and their care partner(s). In addition, the FY26 AZRP TrCA encourages applications that address health disparities in Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (ADRD) research.

Research responsive to the FY26 AZRP TrCA includes, but is not limited to, studies that:

- Inform improvements and solutions in long-term care, quality of life, and psychosocial wellness
- Provide evidence supporting quality of life improvements for aging in place, belonging, and community living for individuals, care partners, and families living with a dementia diagnosis
- Address dementia care considerations specific to Service Members, and/or Veterans, and their Families, such as navigating the AD/ADRD diagnosis and care path and overcoming care partner/caregiver stress
- Evaluate the impact of interventions, innovations, and solutions for individuals living with AD/ADRD and their caregivers

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the following terms are defined:

- *Care* is used comprehensively to indicate the broad spectrum of dementia care, beyond that of medical care/pharmacological intervention administered by clinicians.
- *Community* encompasses the network of individuals living with an AD/ADRD diagnosis, their care partner(s), families, advocates and/or other close connections. The CDMRP refers to these individuals as consumers.
- *Military or military health* refers to not only members of all components of the U.S. Armed Forces, but Veterans, their Families, and other DOW beneficiaries. Note that these could be individuals living with AD/ADRD but also their caregivers.

3.2.1. Key Elements for the TrCA

- **Research Should Be Robust:** Characteristics of robust research include transparency, adequate sample size, strong methodology, replicability, and control for biases.
- **Preliminary data are required.** Applicants must provide sufficient preliminary data to support the rationale for the proposed research and associated endpoints.
- **Solution-Oriented:** All applications to the FY26 AZRP TrCA should involve research that prioritizes solutions for people living with a dementia diagnosis. Research projects should align to a clear pathway to implementation.
- **Clinical research and clinical trials are allowed.** Clinical trials solely testing or evaluating pharmacological interventions do not meet the intent of this funding opportunity.
- **Research Manual:** The FY26 AZRP TrCA requires manualization of the proposed research to enable consistency and replicability. Applicants should include a draft research manual that outlines methodology, procedures, and considerations as part of Attachment 2. This manual should be revised and expanded upon throughout the lifetime of the award.
- **Study Population:** The proposed research solution(s) should be representative of the characteristics and priorities of the population(s) intended to benefit from the research. This is a high priority for the program as it provides critical context to enhance the quality and impact of research. The AZRP encourages studies to leverage existing cohorts or datasets. Cohorts consisting of individuals 65 years or younger are encouraged. There is no requirement for any specific research population, such as Service Members or Veterans. Instead, the AZRP encourages investigators to consider how their research from a civilian cohort might apply to such populations, and vice versa.
- **Pathway to Clinical Application:** Applicants must provide a plan to transition research outcomes to clinical application through engagement of both the scientific and the lived experience community(ies). This information will be captured in Attachment 7: Post-Award Progression Plan.
- **Community-Informed Research:** Research funded by the FY26 AZRP should be responsive to and informed by the needs of people living with AD/ADRD and their Communities. Applicants should leverage patient and/or caregiver perspectives research to inform the proposed research question, study design, and actions to lower the burden of participating in research.

  For the FY26 AZRP TrCA, ***Community collaboration* is required for studies prospectively enrolling human subjects.** To maximize the impact and implementation of

the proposed research, teams are expected to form effective and equitable partnerships with members of the AD/ADRD lived experience Community.

- **CIT Partnership Option:** The TrCA includes an option for more than one PI. ***The TrCA supports both new and existing collaborative partnerships*.** One PI will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The other PI will be identified as a Partnering PI. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). Each award will be subject to separate reporting, regulatory, and administrative requirements. For individual submission requirements for the Initiating and Partnering PI(s), refer to Section 5.3, Submission Instructions.

3.2.2. Other Important Considerations for the TrCA

Community collaboration in research is defined by the AZRP as research that incorporates shared responsibility and ownership of a research project between the scientific investigators and Community members.

Community collaboration supports strengths-based approaches where scientific researchers and Community members work in partnership on all aspects of the project, which may include needs assessment, planning, research intervention design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination. Research results are jointly interpreted, disseminated, fed back to affected communities, and may be translated into interventions or policy. These methods are critically important for Community-level interventions and can also augment the potential impact of a research program on people living with dementia, their families and/or their care partners.

These collaborative relationships are often established through integrating Community members and/or organizations into research teams as co-researchers, advisory board members and consultants. It is up to each applicant to choose the appropriate approach that is best suited for the unique needs of the research project.

Clinical trials are allowed within this funding opportunity. Clinical trials solely testing or evaluating pharmacological interventions do not meet the intent of this funding opportunity.

Clinical research is also allowed within this funding opportunity.

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of clinical and preclinical research, such as those described in the STROBE, CONSORT, SPIRIT and ARRIVE 2.0 guidelines.

Applications from investigators within the DOW and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the DOW, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American Public. If the proposed research relies on access to unique resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research.

PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOW and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with the DOW and/or VA is also encouraged. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOW

and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in Appendix 10 of the GAI.

3.3. Funding Instrument

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

3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **4** years.

3.4.1. Application Submission With a Single PI

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$1.6M**.

3.4.2. Application Submission With the CIT Partnership Option

Cost Cap: The combined total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should not exceed **$1.9M**.

A separate award will be made to each PI's organization.

The PIs are expected to be partners in the research, and direct cost funding should be divided accordingly unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

3.4.3. For Both Options Within This Award Mechanism

If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **4** years.

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

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

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the AZRP TrCA.
- Costs associated with data and resource sharing.
- Costs associated with the Community collaborative research approach (e.g., consultant costs, capacity-building exercises).

- Research subject compensation and reimbursement for study-related out-of-pocket costs (e.g., travel, lodging, parking, costs associated with caregiving, and resources/equipment to enable participation).
- Clinical trials costs.

Must not be requested for:

- Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
- Animal costs.

4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

Application submission is a two-step process requiring both a ***pre-application*** submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) and a ***full application*** submitted through eBRAP or Grants.gov. Depending on the submission portal, certain aspects of the application will differ.

Intramural DOW organizations submitting a full application should follow instructions for submission through eBRAP.

Extramural organizations submitting a full application must follow instructions for submission through Grants.gov.

4.2. Pre-Application Components

The PI or Initiating PI must submit the following pre-application components.

Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. Files must comply with the formatting guidelines listed in the GAI.

- **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:

  - **Background and Rationale:** Briefly describe the critical area to be addressed by the research. State the scientific rationale on which the proposed research project is based. Describe the scientific rationale on which the proposed work is based; include relevant preliminary data and literature citations.
  - **Specific Aims and Study Design:** Concisely state the hypothesis and specific aims and provide a brief overview of the study design. If prospective human subjects research is proposed, indicate how the research or study design is informed by the lived experience Community and/or patient perspectives research.
  - **Adherence to the Intent of the Funding Opportunity:** Describe how the proposed research is responsive to the intent of the FY26 TrCA.
  - **Impact:** Describe the potential impact to people living with AD/ADRD, their families, or care partners using lay language. Guidelines for writing in lay language, also known as plain language, can be found online.
  - **Partnership**: For preapplications submitted under the CIT Partnership Option, briefly describe the qualifications of the two PIs and how their collaborative efforts will better address the research question.
- **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).
- **Other Pre-Applications (two-page limit)**: If applicable, provide a list of all FY26 TrCA pre-applications where the PI is also named as a PI, Initiating PI, Partnering PI, or collaborator. Each entry must include the CDMRP log number, the PI's role, the project title, the specific aims, and a brief explanation of how each pre-application's research questions are distinct.
- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.
- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches:** ***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.

4.3. Full Application Components

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

CIT Partnership Option: The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. The application submission process for the Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package.

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

4.3.1. Full Application Components for the PI or Initiating PI

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

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

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

(b) Attachments:

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

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (15-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".**

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Background/Rationale:** Present the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed research project. Provide a review and analysis of relevant literature and completed/ongoing studies, including preliminary studies and preclinical data. If prospective human subjects research is proposed, describe how lived experience

Community and/or patient perspectives informed the research. Describe how this proposed research represents a non-incremental advance upon the existing knowledge.

- **Specific Aims/Objectives:** Clearly and concisely explain the project's specific aims, objectives, and hypotheses. If the proposed research project is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this AZRP award would fund.
- **Preliminary Data:** Clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient evidence to support the proposed stage of research. Provide preliminary data to support the proposed research and endpoints to be measured.
- **Research Strategy:** Describe the research strategy, study design, methods, and analysis of research outcomes, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation of their appropriateness and feasibility. Detail how the research strategy provides a care-centered approach, and how the research builds capacity to transform care for individuals living with dementia. Consult the appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
  - Identify and describe how the study design, methods, models, and analyses will meet the project's goals and milestones.
    - If prospective human subjects research is proposed, describe how community/patient perspectives informed the study design. Details on prospective human subject recruitment will be required in the Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan (Attachment 10).
    - For studies proposing clinical trials, describe the intervention and expected outcomes.
    - Describe measures to ensure the research study is representative of the population(s) intended to benefit from the research.
    - For studies performing deidentified human subjects research, describe the population(s) of interest and how access to the sample(s), specimen(s), or dataset(s) will be achieved.
    - If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOW or VA resources or databases, describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. ***Note that CDMRP will not serve as the government sponsor or signatory on any access applications or agreements for DOW or VA patient populations, resources, or databases***. Also include a plan for obtaining any required data sharing, memorandum of understanding or other agreements required to access and publish data. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional considerations.
  - Describe how the proposed project is feasible and will be completed within the proposed performance period.
    - Describe potential problem areas and provide alternative methods and approaches.
- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis:** Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. Ensure sufficient information is

provided to allow for a thorough evaluation of statistical calculations during review of the application.

- Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study. Explain any anticipated subgroup analyses and demonstrate that such analyses will be appropriately powered.
- Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable will be requested in Attachment 2.

- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf".**

  There are no page limits for these components unless otherwise noted. Include only components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

  - **References Cited:** List the references cited in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format (include URLs, if available).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols.
  - **Facilities, Existing Equipment and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project; include any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is not a standardized form for this information.
  - **Publications and/or Patents:** Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
  - **Letters of Support (two-page limit per letter is recommended):** Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI(s) meet eligibility criteria. If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOW collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOW resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.
  - **Sex as a Biological Variable Strategy (two-page limit is recommended):** Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable. This strategy should include a brief discussion of what is currently known regarding sex differences in the applicable research area. Clearly articulate how sex as a biological variable will be factored into the data analysis plan and how data will be collected and disaggregated by sex. If needed, provide a strong rationale for proposing a single-sex study, based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or

other relevant considerations. Refer to the CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research for additional information.

- **Draft Research Manual:** Provide a stepwise, detailed plan that outlines the processes, procedures, evaluations, and considerations required to execute and assess the proposed research to ensure consistency and replicability. This manual is meant to serve as a foundation where iterative revisions, edits, and additions during the period of performance evolve into a final research manual for use by the investigator team or to enable another party to adapt and expand the research with fidelity. In addition to the research methodology and timeline, the draft research manual should include:
  - Copies of the most recent versions of questionnaires, rating scales, interview guides or other data collection instruments. This should include any drafts that are currently in use or under development.
  - Resources, operational practices, and training details necessary for effective data collection and analysis.
  - Considerations for participation, ethics, reporting and compliance.
  - Critical elements to consider when expanding or scaling the research.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, including clinical research participants. Include the name of the repository(ies)[1] where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived, if applicable. Identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources that will not be shared (e.g. for intellectual property, feasibility, cost, or other considerations). The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer/third-party intellectual property. Provide a milestone plan for disseminating data/results including when data and resources will be made available to other users. In cases where the study participant could potentially derive medical or other benefit from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with the participant or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

  Do not submit a copy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing Plan or duplicate the Data Management Plan, which will be requested only after a recommendation for funding is made.
- Refer to the CDMRP Directive on Sharing Data and Research Resources for more information about the CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Quad Chart:** Provide a Quad Chart for the proposed project. The format for the Quad Chart is available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page at (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm).

[1] NIH-supported Data Repositories can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/NIHbmic/domain_specific_repositories.html

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

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

  - **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project and explain how it is Community-informed.
  - **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached.
  - **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
  - **Study Design:** Describe the study design, including appropriate controls and, if applicable, Community collaboration integration.
  - **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed research project, if successful, will transform and make important contribution(s) to AD/ADRD research, patient care and/or quality of life.

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

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

  - Summarize the objectives and rationale for the proposed research.
  - What population will the research help, and how will it help them?
  - What are the potential applications, benefits, and risks of the anticipated outcomes?
  - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing research, patient care and/or quality of life?
  - What is the potential benefit of the proposed study and the anticipated outcomes to Service Members, Veterans and/or their Families?
  - How soon would the proposed research result in a solution that helps people living with or at risk of AD/ADRD, their care partners and/or families? Describe the potential applications, benefits, and risks of the anticipated outcomes with a realistic timeline.
  - Overall, how will the contributions of the proposed research project advance dementia care and quality of life?

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Refer to eBRAP for the Suggested SOW Format.

  For guidance on preparing the SOW, refer to the Example: Assembling a Clinical Research and/or Clinical Trial Statement of Work.

  The SOW should state the specific aims described in the Project Narrative and include a list of major tasks and subtasks that support the completion of the stated aims, including milestones for completing the aims during the period of performance. The SOW should describe only the work for which funding is being requested by this application and, as applicable, should also include the following tasks/subtasks:

- Include tasks related to revision and modification of the draft research manual provided in Attachment 2. The revised versions of the manual are expected to be appended to annual technical reports and to incorporate practical lessons learned and insights gained through Community collaboration (as applicable).
- Include milestones associated with data or research resource(s) sharing and, if applicable, executing the community collaboration plan.
- **CIT Partnership Option:** Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW. The specific contributions of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should be clearly noted for each task.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (two-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".** The Impact Statement is considered by reviewers on the peer review and programmatic review panels and therefore must be written in a manner that will be ***readily understood by the general public, especially those without a background in science or medicine.*** Avoid scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations.

  Clearly detail the impact of the proposed research outcomes **as if the proposed project is successful in all its aims**, and include the following:

  - How will the project outcomes provide an impactful advance to overcome critical areas in dementia care? What does this project change compared to the current standard?
  - If the aims of the project are successful, how and when will the research outcomes improve care?
    - What immediate and potential long-term benefit(s) does successful completion of this project yield for people living with TBI and/or AD/ADRD, their families, and care partners/caregivers?
    - How would the results from this project transfer from a civilian to military population, or vice versa?
    - If applicable, how can the anticipated research outcomes improve the understanding of health differences between the sexes?
  - What are the potential issues that might limit or lessen the impact of the proposed research, and what strategies could overcome those issues?

- **Attachment 7: Post-Award Progression Plan (three-page limit). Upload as "Progression.pdf".** The AZRP requires applicants to provide a feasible implementation plan for the research proposed and how the research will ultimately lead to clinical application for intended populations. Applicants should identify the next logical and feasible steps ***following the period of performance*.** Assuming the project is successful in all its aims:

  - Outline the next immediate and subsequent logical steps to be taken following the period of performance to progress the research to clinical applicability. Describe the timeline needed with defined milestones. If further research is required, describe why this additional study is needed and how those outcomes would contribute to progressing the research toward clinical utility. Include steps necessary for regulatory interactions, if applicable.
  - Describe how the bidirectional feedback and dissemination from the AD/ADRD/TBI Community will be integrated into the progression of this research.

- Describe collaborations and other resources (e.g., clinical partners, commercial partners, manufacturing partners, clinical practice guideline development/execution committees, training providers/resources) that are in place or will be established to reach the milestones described above.
- As appropriate, discuss ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award.
  - Include a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
  - If the intellectual property rights are not owned by the applicant, PI, or a member of the study team, describe the planned next steps necessary to make the product(s) available to the AD/ADRD/TBI Community.

- **Attachment 8: Community Collaboration Plan *(required for research prospectively enrolling human subjects)*: Combine and upload as a single file named "Collaboration.pdf".** Refer to Section 3.2.2, Other Important Considerations for the TrCA, for more details regarding the Community collaboration requirement. This attachment must be written in a manner that will be ***readily understood by the general public, especially those without a background in science or medicine.*** Avoid scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations.
  - **Collaborative Research Statement (three-page limit is recommended):** Describe the collaborative research approach that will be used (e.g., lived experience consultants, partnership with Community-based organization, community advisory board, co-researcher model). Detail when and how the approach will be used within the research project; how input will be meaningfully incorporated into the research design, execution, and dissemination; and explain how this best serves the Community/intended user base.
    - Name the individuals(s) participating and describe how the Community collaborator(s) are connected to your study population(s).
    - Describe any training, co-learning, or capacity-building activities that will be provided to both scientific researchers and Community members on collaborative research approaches, decision-making and equitable participation.
  - **Letters of Community Collaboration (two-page limit per letter is recommended):** Provide a letter signed by each Community partner confirming their role and commitment to participate on the research team. If a Community-based organization will be engaged, the letter of commitment should be signed by ***both*** the organization point of contact leading the engagement and the organization's leadership endorsing the collaboration. The letter should explain how the individual's qualifications and background will benefit the proposed research project.
- **Attachment 9: Partnership Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Partnership.pdf". *(Attachment 9 is only applicable and required for applications submitted under the CIT Partnership Option.)*** Describe how the CIT Partnership investigator meets the eligibility requirements. Describe how the partner's combined experience and expertise of the Initiating and Partnering PIs better address the proposed research question than could be achieved through separate efforts. Describe the contribution and time commitment of each PI toward the proposed research project,

and indicate how the award will help to enhance research capacity in the TBI and/or AD/ADRD fields by developing new or transitioning PIs.

- **Attachment 10: Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan (no page limit): Upload as "StudyPopPlan.pdf". (*Attachment 10 is required for research prospectively enrolling human subjects.)*** Include the components listed below.
  - **Enrollment Distribution:** Provide anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race, and ethnicity using the Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study.
  - **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:** List the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the proposed clinical research/trial. If limiting inclusion by age, race, ethnicity, or sex, then provide strong rationale based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations. List and describe any evaluations (e.g., laboratory procedures, history or physical examination) that are required to determine eligibility/suitability for study participation and the diagnostic criteria for entry. Describe how the study population represents the population anticipated to benefit from the research.
  - **Study Population Availability:** Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population at each site. Describe the approximate number, pertinent demographic information and other relevant characteristics of the study population at each enrollment site. Indicate whether the actual size of available study population may be affected by ongoing clinical research/trials that compete for the same population.
  - **Recruitment and Retention Process:** Explain methods for identification of potential study participants (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, health care provider identification). Describe the recruitment process in detail; address who will identify potential study participants, who will recruit them, and what methods will be used to recruit them. Describe any special care (e.g., wound dressing assistance, transportation due to side effects of study procedures impairing ability to drive) or equipment (e.g., thermometers, telemedicine equipment) needed for human subjects enrolled in the study. If study participants will be compensated, include a detailed description of and justification for the compensation plan. Describe the methods that will be employed to retain participants within the study. Discuss past efforts in recruiting and retaining study participants for previous clinical research/trials (if applicable). Address any potential barriers to accrual and plans for addressing unanticipated delays, including a mitigation plan for slow or low enrollment or poor retention. Estimate the potential for participant loss to follow up and how such loss will be handled/mitigated. Indicate whether the study team has considered barriers to clinical research participation and, if applicable, how the team aims to mitigate or overcome these barriers.
  - **Women and Minorities Recruitment/Retention Strategy:** Describe the strategy for recruitment, enrollment, and retention specific to women and minorities in the study appropriate to the objectives of the study.
  - **Informed Consent Process:** Specifically describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from study participants; include information regarding the timing and location of the consent process. If minors or other populations that cannot provide informed consent are included in the proposed study, describe the plan to obtain assent

(agreement) from those with capacity to provide it, or a justification for a waiver of assent. Appendix 6 of the GAI contains additional considerations unique to DOW-sponsored research.

- **Risks/Benefits Assessment:**
  - **Foreseeable risks:** Clearly identify all study risks, including potential safety concerns and adverse events. Address special precautions to be taken by the human subjects before, during and after the study (e.g., medication washout periods, dietary restrictions, hydration, fasting, pregnancy prevention). If applicable, identify any potential risk to the study personnel. Describe how the proposed research might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study.
  - **Risk management and emergency response:** Appropriate to the study's level of risk, describe how safety monitoring and reporting to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Regulatory Agency (if applicable) will be managed and conducted. Describe all safety measures to minimize and/or eliminate risks to human subjects and study personnel or to manage unpreventable risks. Discuss the overall plan for provision of emergency care or treatment for an adverse event for study-related injuries, including who will be responsible for the costs of such care.
  - **Potential benefits:** Describe known and potential benefits of the study to the human subjects who will participate in the study. Articulate the importance of the knowledge to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the potential risks to human subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to the human subjects and others that may be expected to result.

- **Attachment 11: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.

- **Attachment 12: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)*: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".** If an intramural DOW organization will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget form available on eBRAP.

(c) Additional Application Materials:

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

Grants.gov

eBRAP.org

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

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

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

ii. Research & Related Budget

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Initiating PI should not include budget information for Partnering PI, or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.4, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

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

4.3.2. Full Application Components for the Partnering PI

Refer to the equivalent attachment above for details specific to each of the following application components. See Appendix 1 for a checklist of the full application components required for the Partnering PI.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form *(Grants.gov Submissions Only)*:

(b) Attachments:

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW.
- **Attachment 11: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".**
- **Attachment 12: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".**

(c) Additional Application Materials:

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

Grants.gov	eBRAP.org

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

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

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

ii. Research & Related Budget

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.4, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form

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

4.4. Other Application Elements

If recommended for funding, a Quad Chart will be requested. The format for the quad chart is available on the eBRAP website.

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

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

5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526AZRPTrCA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

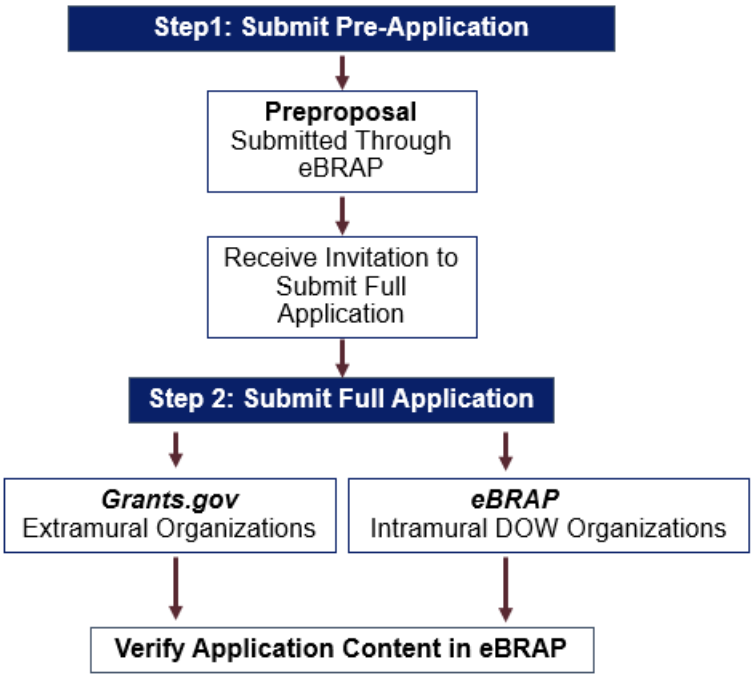
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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

5.3. Submission Instructions

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

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI or Initiating PI through eBRAP, including the submission of contact information for the Partnering PI if selecting the CIT Partnership Option.

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during the full application submission process. The eBRAP log number, application title and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify and verify the application in eBRAP. Contact the eBRAP Help Desk if any changes need to be made.

Community Collaborator(s): For administrative purposes, please use the label "Consumer" when assigning Community partners' roles in eBRAP.

CIT Partnership Option: After the Initiating PI confirms submission of the pre-application, the Partnering PI[(s)] will be notified of the pre-application submission via an email from eBRAP. ***The Partnering PI must follow the instructions provided in the email to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account.*** If not previously registered, the Partnering PI must register in eBRAP.

Partnering PIs should not initiate a new pre-application based on the same research project submitted by the Initiating PI. Partnering PIs are urged to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account as soon as possible. If this is not completed by the full application deadline:

- Any intramural Partnering PI will not be able to submit their full application package components to eBRAP.
- The Partnering PI will not be able to view and modify their full application during the verification period in eBRAP.

When starting the pre-application, PIs should select a Mechanism Option appropriate to their pre-application:

Application Includes:	Select Mechanism Option:
Single PI	No Option (TrCA)
CIT Partnership Option	Partnering PI (TrCA-CITPO)
Single PI with Prospective Human Enrollment	Prospective Human Enrollment (TrCA-PHE)
CIT Partnership Option with Prospective Human Enrollment	Partnering PI with Prospective Human Enrollment (TrCA-CITPO-PHE)

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

Grants.gov Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through the Grants.gov Workspace.

eBRAP Submissions: Only intramural DOW organizations may submit full applications through eBRAP.

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of the submission portal, once the full application is submitted, it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP; the transmission to eBRAP may take up to 48 hours. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log in to eBRAP to review, modify and verify the full application submission. ***The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the application verification period ends. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and full application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated in this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. ***The DHACA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant.***

Submission dates and times are specified in Section 1, Basic Information.

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

Submitting applications that propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

While it is allowable to propose similar research projects to different programs within the CDMRP or to other organizations, duplication of funding or accepting funding from more than one source for the same research is prohibited. See the CDMRP's Directive on Research Duplication.

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal.

Members of the FY26 AZRP Programmatic Panel must not be involved in any pre-application or full application including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation and the development of any supporting documentation, including personal letters of support/recommendation for the research and/or PI. Programmatic panel members ***may*** provide letters to confirm PI eligibility and access to laboratory space, equipment and other resources necessary for the project if that is part of their regular roles and responsibilities (e.g., as Department Chair). ***A list of the FY26 AZRP Programmatic Panel members can be found on the CDMRP website.***

Additional restrictions and associated administrative responses are outlined in Section 9.2, Administrative Actions.

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

To determine the merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the AZRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Background and Rationale:** How well the critical need is described and justified by the background and rationale.
- **Specific Aims and Study Design:** How well the specific aims are stated. If prospectively enrolling human subjects, to what extent the research or study design are informed by the lived experience community and/or patient perspectives research.
- **Impact:** How likely the proposed research will impact people living with AD/ADRD, their families or care partners.
- **Adherence to the Intent of the Funding Opportunity:** How well the project adheres to the intent of the funding opportunity.
- **Partnership:** For pre-application submitted under the CIT Partnership Option, how well the project describes the partnership, and how the collaborative efforts will better address the research question.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Impact**
  - To what extent will the research outcomes provide an advance that overcome critical areas in dementia care?
  - To what extent will the research generate immediate and long-term benefits for people living with TBI and/or AD/ADRD, their families and their care partners/caregivers? Are these benefits realistic and valuable?
  - Does the project have the opportunity to change the current standard?
  - To what extent will the results from this project transfer from a civilian to military population, or vice versa?
  - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes?
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - How well the scientific rationale, relevant literature, preliminary, and/or published data support the feasibility of the research project.
  - To what extent the research represents a non-incremental advance upon existing knowledge.
  - For research prospectively enrolling human subjects, to what degree the research and study design are informed by the lived experience Community and/or patient perspectives research.
  - For research prospectively enrolling human subjects, whether the Community collaboration plan used within the research project is appropriate.
  - Whether the application includes sufficient evidence to support access to de-identified human subject specimens, data, and samples, if applicable.
  - Whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objectives of the study or whether the justification for a single-sex study is sufficiently strong.
  - Whether the research is feasible and could be completed within the proposed period of performance.
  - How well the application acknowledges potential problem areas and provides alternative methods and approaches.
- **Recruitment, Accrual and Retention (*for research prospectively enrolling human subjects*)**
  - To what degree the plan for recruiting, enrolling, and retaining study participants is reasonable to meet the needs of the proposed clinical research.
  - How well the application identifies possible delays (e.g., slow/low enrollment, poor retention) and presents adequate mitigation plans to resolve them.

- To what degree the number of study participants to be enrolled is reasonably based upon the proposed timeline, study procedures, available study population, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and planned efforts to achieve accrual goals.
- Whether the distribution of the proposed enrollment on the basis of age, sex, race, and/or ethnicity is appropriate for the proposed research. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.
- If applicable, whether the justification for limiting inclusion of any demographic group, including sex, is sufficiently strong.
- To what extent the strategy for recruitment and retention of women and minorities in the clinical research is appropriate to the objectives of the study.

- **Ethical Considerations *(for research prospectively enrolling human subjects)***
  - Whether the population selected to participate in the clinical research stands to benefit from the knowledge gained.
  - How the level of risk to human subjects is minimized, and how the safety monitoring and reporting plan is appropriate for the level of risk.
  - To what degree the process of seeking informed consent is appropriate, and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.
  - To what extent the proposed clinical research might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study.
  - If applicable, to what degree barriers to clinical research participation have been considered and/or addressed.
- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis**
  - To what degree the statistical model and data analysis plan are suitable for the planned study objectives.
  - To what degree the sample size projections are appropriate to ensure proper power for the study, and as applicable, any subgroup analysis.
- **Post-Award Progression Plan**
  - Whether the Post-Award Progression Plan realistically outlines the next immediate and subsequent logical steps of the research following the period of performance. How well the Post-Award Progression Plan realistically details timelines and milestones for the next steps, including regulatory interactions, if applicable.
  - Whether the established or planned collaborations and resources are appropriate for the Post-Award Progression Plan.
  - How well the Post-Award Progression Plan incorporates bidirectional feedback and dissemination from the AD/ADRD/TBI Community.
  - To what degree ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award are considered and planned.
- **Research Team**
  - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.

- To what extent the background, experience, and effort of the Community collaborative research partner(s) are appropriate to support the proposed research study.
- How well the input from the Community partner(s) is meaningfully integrated and incorporated into the planning, design, execution, and dissemination of the research.

- **CIT Partnership Option *(if applicable)***
  - Whether the CIT Partnership investigators meet the eligibility requirements.
  - How well the partners' combined experience and expertise will better address the research question than could be achieved through separate efforts
  - How the partnership will build research capacity in the field by developing new or transitioning PIs.

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

- **Budget**
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
  - **CIT Partnership Option:** Whether the funding is equitably distributed proportional to the project and each individual's effort.
- **Environment**
  - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project.
  - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.
- **Research Sharing Plan**
  - To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate, reasonable, and includes dissemination to affected communities, study participants and/or the scientific community. If applicable, whether specific repository(ies) are named where data and research resources arising from the project will be stored.
- **Application Presentation**
  - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Ratings and evaluations of peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 AZRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
  - Program portfolio balance
  - Relative impact

- Benefit to end users including transferability between populations, including military, as applicable

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

Following the pre-application screening, PIs or Initiating PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit full applications. The estimated date when PIs can expect to receive notification of an invitation to submit a full application is indicated in Section 1, Submission and Review Dates and Times. No feedback (e.g., a critique of the pre-application's strengths and weaknesses) is provided at this stage. Because the invitation to submit a full application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

6.3.2. Full Application

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

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

6.4. Risk, Integrity and Performance Information

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

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

In accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DOW must be evaluated for affiliations with foreign entities. All applicant organizations must disclose foreign affiliations of all key personnel named on applications. Failure to disclose foreign affiliations of key personnel shall lead to withdrawal of

recommendations to fund applications. Applicant organizations may be presented with an opportunity to mitigate identified risks, particularly those pertaining to influence from foreign entities specified in law. Implementation of mitigation discussions and utilization of the DOD Component Decision Matrix must decrease risk of foreign influence in accordance with the above-mentioned laws and guidance prior to award.

7. Federal Award Notices

For each compliant full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within 6 weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the AZRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website. After all awards are made, the CDMRP includes individual award information in a searchable database.

If an application is recommended for funding, after the email notification is posted to eBRAP, a government representative will contact the person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the recipient organization.

Only an appointed DHACA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds to an extramural organization. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. ***The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document (i.e., assistance agreement).***

Intragovernmental obligations of funding will be made according to the terms of a negotiated Inter-Agency Agreement and managed by a CDMRP Science Officer.

Funding obligated to ***intragovernmental and intramural DOW organizations*** will be sent through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), Funding Authorization Document (FAD) or Direct Charge Work Breakdown Structure processes. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intragovernmental and intramural DOW investigators and collaborators must coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

An organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award.

8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DoDGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

The GAI contain information regarding administrative requirements and national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest DoD R&D Terms and Conditions and the DHACA Terms and Conditions for further information.

If there are delinquencies in technical reporting requirements for any existing DHA or U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command awards at the applicant organization, DHACA will not issue any new awards to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

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

Funded trials are required to post a copy of the informed consent form used to enroll subjects on a publicly available federal website in accordance with federal requirements described in 32 CFR 219. Additionally, the CDMRP requires all funded clinical trials to register and submit study results on ClinicalTrials.gov.

The AZRP requires that all TBI-related clinical research with at least 50 subjects funded by this program be shared through the jointly supported DOW-NIH Federal Interagency TBI Research Information System (FITBIR). Recipients will be required to upload study data annually and in accordance with the FITBIR data submission policies. There is no fee to use FITBIR, and detailed guidance and policies, including a cost estimator tool for budgeting considerations, can be found on the FITBIR website.

8.2. Reporting

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

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting ***(required for research prospectively enrolling human subjects)*:** Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on eBRAP.

Revised Research Manual: Revisions to the research manual should be addressed in the annual technical and final reports, or the revised manual may be submitted as an attachment to those required reports.

Award Expiration Transition Plan: An Award Expiration Transition Plan, using the template available on eBRAP, must be submitted with the final progress report.

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

8.3. Additional Requirements

In-Progress Review meeting: The PI(s) may be required to present an update on progress toward accomplishing the goals of the award at an In-Progress Review (IPR) meeting to be held virtually during years two through four of the period of performance. The PI may include up to three additional members of the research team, including their Community partner, as participants in the meeting. The IPR will be attended by members of the AZRP Programmatic Panel, CDMRP staff, the DHACA Grants/Contracts Officer, and other stakeholders.

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

An organizational transfer of an award supporting the Initiating PI or Partnering PI is discouraged and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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

9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name and the program announcement version code CD26_01d.

9.2. Administrative Actions

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

9.2.1. Rejection

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

- The Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not issued.
- The Post-Award Progression Plan (Attachment 7) is missing.

For research prospectively enrolling human subjects:

- The Community Collaboration Plan (Attachment 8) is missing.
- The Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan (Attachment 10) is missing.

For CIT Partnership Option applications:

- The Partnership Statement (Attachment 9) is missing.

9.2.2. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to reviewing all documents.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

9.2.3. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the full application:

- A member of the FY26 AZRP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes.
- The application includes the name(s) of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For

FY26, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found on the CDMRP website.

- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- The application from an extramural organization, including non-DOW federal agencies, is received through eBRAP.
- The federal government recipient organization (including an intramural DOW organization): (a) cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY26 funds; and/or (b) cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- The application includes URLs, with the exception of links in the References Cited and Publication and/or Patent sections.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The same independent investigator is named as a PI, Initiating PI, or Partnering PI on more than four (4) TrCA applications. Only the first three applications received will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.
- The PI (and/or Partnering PI, if applicable) does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.
- The application contains animal research.
- The clinical trial solely tests or evaluates pharmacological interventions.

9.2.4. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the DHACA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded	
	Single or Initiating PI	Partnering PI
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance *(Grants.gov submissions only)*	☐	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) *(eBRAP submissions only)*	☐	☐
Attachments		
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	☐	
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	☐	
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	☐	
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	☐	
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	☐	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐	
Post-Award Progression Plan – Attachment 7, upload as "Progression.pdf"	☐	
Community Collaboration Plan – Attachment 8, upload as "Collaboration.pdf"	☐	
Partnership Statement – Attachment 9, upload as "Partnership.pdf" *(if applicable)*	☐	
Study Population Recruitment and Safety Plan – Attachment 10, upload as "StudyPopPlan.pdf"	☐	
Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)* – Attachment 11, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental Budget Form *(if applicable)* – Attachment 12, upload as "IGBudget.pdf"	☐	☐
Additional Application Materials		
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐	☐
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐	☐
Research & Related Budget	☐	☐
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	☐	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) *(if applicable)*	☐	☐

Appendix 2. Acronym List

AD	Alzheimer's Disease
ADRD	Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias
AD/ADRD	Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
AZRP	Alzheimer’s Research Program
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIT	Career Initiation or Transition Partnership Option
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	U.S. Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IPR	In-Progress Review
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)

SOW	Statement of Work
SPIRIT	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials
STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TrCA	Transforming Care Award
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs