Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Neurofibromatosis Research Program

Neurofibromatosis Research Academy – Leadership Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526NFRPNFRALA

Pre-Application Due: August 31, 2026

Application Due: September 14, 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) Neurofibromatosis Research Program (NFRP) Neurofibromatosis Research Academy – Leadership Award (NFRALA) supports visionary, established neurofibromatosis (NF) investigators with documented history of neurofibromatosis funding, publications, strong mentorship and commitment to leadership to serve as Director and Deputy Director of the Neurofibromatosis Research Academy. The Academy Director and Deputy Director will execute a multi-institutional, interactive, virtual research academy that consists of scholars, who are early-career investigators, and their career guides, who serve as the scholars' primary mentors.

Distinctive Features:

- **Academy Director:** Established NF investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor, or equivalent, at the full application submission deadline.
- **Academy Deputy Director:** Investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor, or equivalent, at the full application deadline and affiliated with a different institution than the Academy Director.
- **Pilot Research Project:** The Academy Director and Deputy Director will conduct one or more pilot research projects in collaboration with the academy scholars. ***Preliminary and/or published data relevant to NF and the proposed research project are encouraged but not required.***

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $2.4M to fund approximately one Neurofibromatosis Research Academy – Leadership Award application with total cost caps of $2.4M per award. 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 (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), August 31, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, September 14, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 21, 2026
- **Peer Review:** November 2026
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 1:** January 2027
- **Invitation for Oral Presentation:** February 2027
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 2:** March 2027

Announcement Type: Modified

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526NFRPNFRALA

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

An investigator may be named on only one NFRALA application as a Principal Investigator (PI) (i.e., Academy Director or Deputy Director).

Academy Director and Deputy Director:

- Must be an independent, established NF researcher at or above the level of associate professor or equivalent.
- Must have NF research funding (past and/or present).
- Must have a record of NF publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Must not be named as a Career Guide on any FY26 Neurofibromatosis Academy Scholar Award applications.

Individuals affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named PI on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

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 General Application Instructions (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 Neurofibromatosis Research Program (NFRP). 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 NFRP in 1996 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit that promotes the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of NF, including NF type 1 (NF1), NF type 2 (NF2) and schwannomatosis. Appropriations for the NFRP from FY96 through FY24 totaled $452.85 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is $25.00M.

The vision of the NFRP is to decrease the clinical impact of neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis The mission of the NFRP is to promote research directed toward the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis to enhance the quality of life for persons with these disorders that impact Service Members, Veterans and the American Public.

3.1. Intent of the Neurofibromatosis Research Academy – Leadership Award

The FY26 NFRALA mechanism is soliciting applications for a Director and Deputy Director to stand up and lead the Neurofibromatosis Research Academy (NFRA). The Academy Director and Deputy Director (referred to as Academy Leadership) must be established NF researchers and should be at different institutions. The Academy Leadership must demonstrate a strong record of mentoring and training early-career independent investigators, a commitment to leadership, the ability to articulate methods toward research collaborations, and the ability to objectively assess the progress of all early-career investigators (Scholars) in the NFRA.

The intent of the NFRA is to establish a multi-institutional interactive virtual academy platform that provides a framework of intensive mentoring and iterative guidance with proposed research, national networking, collaborations and a peer group of Scholars to increase research and vital resources in the field of NF. The NFRA will bring together established NF investigators (one Director and one Deputy Director) and Scholars with their Career Guides for the purpose of developing successful, highly productive NF scientists and clinicians to conduct research that will lessen the clinical impact of neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis disorders. The NFRA affords Scholars the opportunity to operate in a scientifically focused, collegial virtual center to advance cross-disciplinary investigations that range from basic to clinical research while also providing professional and leadership development, including required skills and competencies needed to fund and manage a productive laboratory as future leaders in the NF field.

The functioning NFRA will consist of Scholars and their Career Guides (mentors) from different institutions, and an Academy Director and Deputy Director (see Figure 1 below). The NFRA Leadership will catalyze the growth and professional development of the Scholars in collaboration with their Career Guides and assess the progress of the Scholars. The Academy Leadership facilitates communication and collaboration among all Academy members as well as with national research and patient advocacy communities. NFRA fosters connections between Scholars and Career Guides and other national and international NF experts who may not be directly affiliated with the NFRA. ***The Career Guide is not required to be at the same institution as the Scholar; however, if the (primary) Career Guide is from a different institution, the Scholar must identify a secondary Career Guide at the Scholar's***

institution. The NFRP expects to concurrently release a FY26 NFRA Scholars Award (NFRASA) funding mechanism to solicit early-career investigators with their designated Career Guides to the Academy. The Scholars will conduct their research under the guidance of the Academy Leadership team.

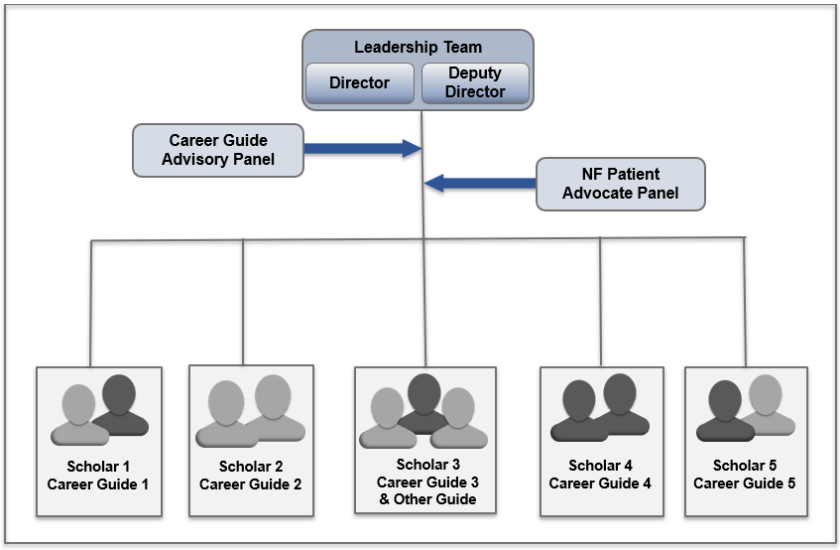


Figure 1: Structure of the FY26 NFRP NFRA: Infographic demonstrating the intended collaborative environment provided for Scholars as part of the NFRP Leadership Academy. Scholars should benefit from not just the Academy Leadership, but also the breadth of experience, resources and expertise of the NFRA Advisory Panel and Patient Advocacy Panel and other Scholars and Career Guides.

Objectives of the NFRA Academy Leadership include, but are not limited to:

- Establish the Academy structure and oversight, including how the NFRA leadership will integrate different disciplines into one cohesive unit.
- Develop tools for Scholars to enable success and provide opportunities to broaden their knowledge in NF disorders.
- Conduct collaborative neurofibromatosis pilot research project(s) that include Academy Scholars. These pilot projects should have the potential to improve collaboration within the Academy, as well as impact neurofibromatosis research and/or neurofibromatosis patients/survivors.
- Act as a resource for all Scholars and Career Guides in the Academy over the Scholars' 4-year period of performance.
- Facilitate communication and collaboration among all Scholars and Career Guides (including periodic interactive communication among all Academy members).
- Develop an evaluation plan with assessment criteria to evaluate the research progress made by all Scholars, as well as their career progression and sustainment as independent investigators in NF research.
- Provide avenues to increase the promotion of the Academy and visibility of Scholars within NF research and advocacy communities (e.g., peer review, conferences, editorial boards).
- Support the professional development of Scholars (e.g., laboratory and team management skills) through invited presentations from experts outside of the Academy.

- Plan and host an annual one-day workshop and, biennially, a multi-day workshop for all Scholar/Career Guide pairs as well as Academy graduates to present their research, share knowledge and develop collaborative efforts within the NFRA. ***Scholars will be responsible for their own travel costs to in-person Academy meetings.***
- Include NFRP investigators holding NFRP Young Investigator Research-type awards to at least one annual meeting of the FY26 NFRA and at least one biennial multi-day meeting. ***These investigators will be responsible for their own travel costs, funds for which are included in their research awards.***
- Establish a panel of patient advocates and Veteran(s) (i.e., the NF Patient Advocacy Panel) to inform the NFRA on the needs of the patient community.
- Establish a NFRA Advisory Panel that incorporates experts in the field, Career Guides and at least one NF Patient Advocate from the NF Patient Advocacy Panel.

3.1.1. Strategic Goals and Areas of Emphasis for the NFRALA

The NFRP seeks to support innovative, high-impact research that will foster new directions for and address neglected issues in NF research; sponsor multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations that will bring new perspectives to the field; promote translational and clinical studies to move promising ideas from bench to bedside; and develop a balanced portfolio of meritorious research related to all aspects of NF1, NF2 and schwannomatosis.

Strategic Goals: The NFRP's current strategic goals are:

- Support basic and exploratory research.
- Facilitate rapid testing of potential therapeutics.
- Increase capacity and multi-disciplinary research through support and development of vital resources and the next generation of NF researchers to improve patient care. *(**Must be addressed for this award mechanism**)*.
- Encourage research in areas of critical interest to NF patients.

Areas of Emphasis: To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, all applications should specifically address the critical needs of the NF community in one or more of the areas of emphasis listed below. The NFRP also encourages all applicants to include materials and data from diverse populations in their research.

- NF2- and schwannomatosis-related areas (e.g., hearing, balance, schwannoma, ependymoma, meningioma, LZTR1, SMARCB1).
- Endpoint validation, biomarker discovery and technological innovation for assessments.
- Application of data science.
- Non-tumor manifestations not limited to:
    - Pain
    - Cognitive manifestations
    - Sleep
- Heterogeneity of NF-related phenotypes.
- Genetics, genomics, epigenetics, systems biology, metabolomics or similar approaches.
- Preclinical efficacy studies.

- Target identification and drug discovery.
- Nutritional, environmental and other modifiers of NF.
- Health services research.

Note: Not all areas of emphasis are applicable to every award mechanism. If the proposed research project does not address at least one of the FY26 NFRP areas of emphasis, justification should be provided that it addresses an important problem related to NF research and/or patient care.

3.1.2. Key Elements for the NFRALA

- **The NFRA – Leadership Award is structured to support two PIs.** The Academy Director will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The Deputy Director will be identified as the Partnering PI. The collaboration between the Academy Director and the Deputy Director should be supported by complementary expertise and experience. The application should clearly demonstrate that both PIs have equal levels of input on the proposed Academy Leadership and clearly define the components to be addressed by each to support the success of the Scholars. While it is up to the Academy Director and the Deputy Director to define their roles, both should have interactions with the Scholars; acting as administrative support does not fulfill the intent of the Deputy Director. The Director and Deputy Director are not required to be at the same institution. 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.
- **Patient Advocacy Panel**: Academy Director and Deputy Director will maintain an NF Patient Advocacy Panel to inform the academy on the needs of the NF patient community. The panel should include at least two Patient Advocates and at least one Veteran, as described in **Attachment 7: Patient Advocacy Panel**.
- **Oral Presentation:** An invited oral presentation is a requirement for application review, as described in **Section 6.2.3. Programmatic Review.**

3.1.3. Other Important Considerations for the NFRALA

Clinical trials are not allowed within this funding opportunity. *For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research*.

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.

The following encouragement is broadly applicable across many CDMRP programs, including the NFRP: A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, the CDMRP encourages applicants to review the recommendations and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY26 NFRP priorities.

Research Involving Animals: All research funded by the FY26 NFRP NFRALA involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the Defense Health Agency Research and Development Command ORRC 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 three to four months for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions for additional information.

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, the CDMRP does not support the conduct of painful research (U.S. Department of Agriculture pain category D or E) involving domestic cats or dogs, except for studies relating to military or service animals.

3.2. Funding Instrument

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

3.3. Funding Details

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

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 **$2.4M**. 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.

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.

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

Must be requested for:

- **Interim (In-Progress) Review (IPR)/Milestone Meetings:** Travel costs for the PI(s) for attendance and participation in at least one two-day IPR should be requested.
- Costs associated with planning and holding the annual one-day workshop (virtual or in-person) with Academy members, including costs associated with external speakers. (Do not include travel costs for the FY26 NFRP NFRA Scholars).
- Costs associated with planning and holding the biennial multi-day in-person workshop in coordination with the NFRP Program staff, including costs associated with external speakers. In alternate years, they must also attend a DOW NFRP NFRA one-day workshop. (Do not include travel costs for the FY26 NFRP NFRA Scholars).

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Costs associated with participating in the NFRA (e.g., hardware and/or software for audio- or video-teleconferencing or web-based communications).
- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Travel between/among institutions participating in the Academy.
- Travel costs per Academy Leader to one-day and biennial multi-day workshops.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the required meetings described above. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the NFRP NFRALA mechanism.
- Cost associated with Leadership team to promote the academy and research outcomes (e.g., virtual/AI/web base activities, publication and print costs).

Must not be requested for:

- Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
- Clinical trial costs.
- Tuition of graduate students.
- Any travel costs for the Academy Scholar Awardees or their Career Guides; their travel costs will be covered by their respective NFRA Scholar Awards.

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

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

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

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the area of emphasis under which the application will be submitted.

4.3. Full Application Components

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.

The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and the 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.

4.3.1. Full Application Components for the Initiating PI

Each application submission must include:

(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 (20-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".**

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Vision:** Describe the Academy Leadership's (Academy Director and Deputy Director) vision of the NFRA and how it will serve as a non-traditional, non-

conventional training and research platform, including intensive mentoring and networking for the Scholars in a virtual environment. Describe the mission and roadmap as to how the Academy will develop highly productive NF researchers who will be recognized as leading researchers through a collaborative and interactive research training environment within the 4-year period of performance. Articulate how the Academy addresses one or more FY26 NFRP Strategic Goal(s) and at least one of the FY26 NFRP Areas of Emphasis.

- **Background and Experience:** Describe the Academy Leadership's background and experience as established NF researchers. Describe the record of mentoring and training of early-career investigators and how this mentorship contributed significantly to the early investigators' careers. Explain how the complementary experience of both candidates contributes to the ideal leadership of the Academy.
- **Commitment to the NFRA:** Describe the Academy Leadership's commitment to leading the NFRA and to the success of this unique, interactive virtual academy in providing collaborative mentoring of Scholars with the goal of developing sustainable, independent careers as leaders in NF research at their institutions, nationally, and internationally.
- **Management of the Academy:** Clearly define the roles that will be filled by the Academy Director and Deputy Director in leading the NFRA. Describe how the Academy Leadership will catalyze cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration among all of the Scholars and their Career Guides, the NF consumer community and the broader NF research and patient care communities, including but not limited to periodic virtual interactive meetings and annual and biennial in-person workshops). Include plans for developing externally funded collaborative research projects conducted by members of the NFRA (e.g., between NFRA Leadership and Scholar, Scholar/Scholar, Scholar/Career Guide) with input from the NF Patient Advocacy Panel. Explain the opportunities provided within the NFRA for the Scholars to overcome barriers associated with initiating and sustaining a career in NF research (grant writing, research and laboratory management, publications, professional networking and committee memberships, etc.). Describe plans for including other NFRP early career investigators and NFRA Scholar Alumni in the NFRA.
- **Scholar Transition Support:** Describe how the Leadership team will foster the transition of a Scholar from post terminal degree to assistant professor (or equivalent) and on to independent scientist with a track record of independent funding.
- **Scholar Evaluation Plan:** Explain how the NFRA Leadership will evaluate the research progress made by the Scholars, their career progression, and sustainment as independent investigators in NF research and/or patient care. Identify measurable outcomes for the Scholars that are expected to be achieved by the end of their NFRA Scholar Award period of performance. The Scholar evaluation plan should clearly articulate:
  - What are the evaluation questions/criteria?
  - What data will be collected to answer the evaluation questions/asses the defined criteria? How will the data be collected? At what frequency? Who will collect the data? How will the data be managed and stored?

  If available, copies of any questionnaires, forms, etc., that may be used for data collection can be included in Attachment 1.

- **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:** 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(s) 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.
  - **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual and/or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural DOW organization is named as a collaborator on a full application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural DOW organization authorizing the collaborator's involvement.
  - **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.

- **Inclusion Enrollment Report *(only required if clinical research is proposed)*:** Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the "Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report," a three-page fillable PDF form that can be downloaded from eBRAP. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.
- **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) 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.
- **Use of DOW Resources *(if applicable)*:** Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOW resources or databases.
- **Use of VA Resources *(if applicable)*:** Provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space. If the VA-affiliated non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant organization for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.

  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.

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

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

- **Academy Leadership Plan**

  Summarize the vision for the successful continuation of the Academy as a non-traditional, non-conventional training platform in which the Scholars are poised to lead NF research and patient care to a new frontier.

  Outline how the Academy Leadership will catalyze cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration among all the Scholars and their Career Guides, the NF Patient Advocacy Panel and the broader NF research and patient care communities.

- **Pilot Research Projects**
  - **Background:** Summarize scientific rationale behind the proposed research project(s).
  - **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:** Briefly describe the study design, include appropriate controls.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (two-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.***

  - Explain the vision and mission of the Academy as a non-traditional, non-conventional training platform in which the Scholars will develop partnerships, collaboration, and career growth to ensure their dedication and productivity as leading NF researchers.
  - Describe the integration of the NF Patient Advocacy Panel and NFRA Advisory Panel into the NFRA administration and execution.
  - How will the data and resources generated during the performance of the proposed research project(s) be shared with the research community (scientific and advocacy organizations) and the public?

- **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 Generic Statement of Work. Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.

  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: Sample Agenda (two-page limit): Upload as "SampleAgenda.pdf".** Provide a sample agenda for the first annual workshop of a fully integrated Academy of Leadership and Scholars that will be led by the FY26 Academy Leadership. Explain how the format for the workshop is designed to stimulate the professional growth of the Scholars in both leadership and research skills.

- **Attachment 7: Patient Advocacy Panel (three-page limit): Upload as "PatAd.pdf."** Include the names of at least two patient advocates and at least one Veteran (the Veteran may be one of the patient advocates). Describe the Patient Advocacy Panel. Articulate the patient advocates' and/or Veteran(s)' roles on the panel and how they will

be integral to the training, networking, and collaboration of the Scholars. Clearly articulate how the patient advocates and Veteran(s) will have a meaningful role in the NFRP. Provide a letter from at least two patient advocates confirming their commitment to serving on the NF Patient Advocacy Panel.

- **Attachment 8: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".** State explicitly how the proposed research project addresses one or more of the FY26 NFRP Areas of Emphasis or, if the project does not address an Area of Emphasis, provide justification that the proposed research project addresses a critical problem in NF research and/or patient care. In lay language, describe how the NFRA will bridge the gaps in patient outcomes and care through the multidisciplinary training and support of the next generation of NF researchers. Justify the long-term impact of the virtual academy on NF research. Describe how the FY26 NFRP Strategic Goal(s) are integrated into the Academy. Describe how the data and resources generated during the performance of the proposed research project will be shared with the research community (scientific and advocacy organizations) and the public. If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Attachment 9: Partnership Statement (one-page limit) Upload as "Partnership.pdf":** Describe how the partners' combined experience will better address the research question and explain why the work should be done together rather than through separate efforts.
- **Attachment 10: Research Projects (five-page limit): Upload as "ResearchProject.pdf"** Briefly describe one or more projects proposed by the Academy Leadership that will be conducted in a collaborative effort by the Academy Leadership and Scholars. Describe the scientific rationale of the pilot(s) projects. List the specific aims and rationale as to why the pilot projects will help Scholars launch a career in NF. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches. If applicable, describe how the proposed research using animals meets the regulatory guidelines for appropriateness and robustness of experimental design.
  - If human subjects or human anatomical samples will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. Clearly describe the tissue or tumor type to be studied, where applicable (e.g., encapsulated versus diffuse plexiform neurofibroma).
  - Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
  - 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. 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 for additional considerations.
- **Attachment 11: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf".** (Only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.) If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. 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 Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the IACUC. The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results 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 12: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.
- **Attachment 13: 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(s), or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to **Section 3.3, 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 12: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".**
- **Attachment 13: 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(s) should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, or vice versa, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.3, 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

Oral Presentation

Candidates for Academy Director and Deputy Director selected for Stage 2 Programmatic Review will be required to give an oral presentation (see **Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review**). In the event a PI is invited to the Programmatic Review, Stage 2 (see **Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review**), but is unable to attend, the CDMRP staff and the Grants Officer will consider alternative arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

- Each presentation will include a 30-minute talk by the candidates (Academy Director/Deputy Director pairs), followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer session with NFRP Programmatic Panel members. The following questions will be the topics for discussion during the PIs' talk and the question-and-answer session. PIs who are selected should prepare a presentation consisting of no more than 10 slides (not including title slide) that specifically address:
  - What conceptual or intellectual barriers do you consider as important to overcome in the career development and sustainment of investigators dedicated to NF research?
  - Articulate the capabilities of the Academy Leadership to facilitate the Scholars development of partnerships, collaborations and career growth to ensure their dedication, commitment, and productivity as leading researchers in NF.
  - What are the proposed milestones and outcomes for the Scholars during the four years in the Academy?
  - Briefly introduce your proposed NF pilot research project(s) that will be conducted as collaborative efforts with the Scholars. Briefly describe the metrics used to evaluate the outcomes of the research.

- Describe the integration of the NF Patient Advocacy Panel and the NFRA Advisory Panel into the Academy program.
- Briefly introduce the Academy Leadership team's communication plans to promote the academy, to maximize networking opportunities/new research collaborations amongst scholars-mentor pairs and/or NF experts and patients/patient advocacy groups.

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 HT942526NFRPNFRALA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

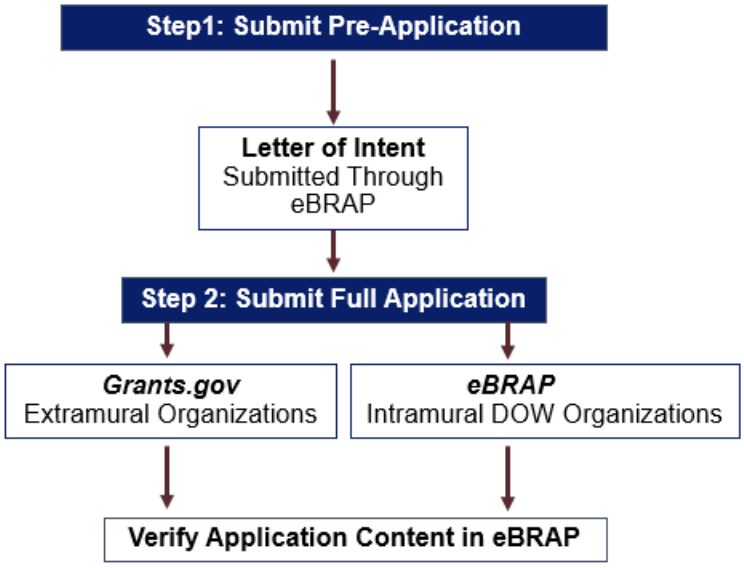
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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 Initiating PI through eBRAP, including the submission of the contact information the Partnering PI.

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.

After the Initiating PI confirms submission of the pre-application, the Partnering PI 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.

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 NFRP 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 NFRP 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

Pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be screened.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Academy Leadership**
  - To what extent the Academy Director's and Deputy Director's background and experience in NF research demonstrate their potential for leadership of the NFRA.
  - To what extent the Academy Leadership's record of mentoring and training early-career investigators in NF research indicates the potential for successful mentorship and career development of the Scholars.
  - To what degree the mentorship of the Director or Deputy Director contributed to the careers of past mentees.
  - How appropriate the levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.

- **Vision**
  - To what extent the vision of the NFRA supports the ideal to serve as a non-traditional, non-conventional training and research platform, including intensive mentoring and networking for the Scholars in a virtual environment.
  - Whether the mission and roadmap as to how the Academy will develop highly productive NF researchers who will be recognized as leading researchers through a collaborative and interactive research training environment within the 4-year period of performance are articulated and feasible.
  - Whether the overall goals of the NFRA with respect to the FY26 NFRP Strategic Goal(s) are described.
- **Management of the Academy**
  - Whether the roles that will be filled by the Academy Director and Deputy Director are clearly defined.
  - How well the Academy Leadership demonstrates commitment to leading the NFRA and to the success of the unique, interactive virtual academy.
  - To what degree the Academy Leadership will facilitate communication and collaboration among all the Scholars and their Career Guides (including, but not limited to, periodic virtual interactive meetings and annual and biennial in-person workshops), as well as the NF research and advocacy communities.
  - How well the Academy Leadership developed the criteria that will be used to evaluate the research progress made by all Scholars and how the evaluation will be communicated to the Scholars.
  - To what degree the Academy Leadership will evaluate career progression and sustainment of Scholars as independent investigators in NF research.
  - Whether measurable outcomes are identified for Scholars and whether they are achievable within the 4-year period of performance.
  - To what extent the Academy Leadership will help the Scholars overcome the barriers in initiating and sustaining a career in NF research (e.g., grant writing, research and laboratory management, publications, professional networking, and committee memberships).
- **Patient Advocacy Panel**
  - Whether the application describes the Patient Advocacy Panel and includes the names of at least two patient advocates and at least one Veteran.
  - To what extent the roles of patient advocates and Veteran(s) on the panel will be integral to the training, networking and collaboration of the Scholars.
  - Whether the application articulates how the patient advocates and Veteran(s) will have a meaningful role in the NFRA.
- **Impact**
  - Whether the application describes how the NFRA will bridge the gaps in patient outcomes and care through the multidisciplinary training and support of the next generation of NF researchers.

- How well the application justifies the long-term impact of the virtual academy on the future of NF research.
- To what extent an FY26 NFRP Strategic Goal(s) is integrated within the NFRA.
- To what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in the field.
- If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes. This review question is required for all PAs if appropriate for the program.

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - How well the scientific rationale of the pilot project(s) supports the specific aims.
  - Whether these pilot project(s) will help launch a career in NF for the Scholars.
  - To what degree the pilot project(s) will represent collaborative efforts by the Academy Leadership and Scholars.
  - How well the application addresses potential problem areas and presents alternative methods and approaches.
  - If applicable, whether the application describes how the proposed research using animals meets the regulatory guidelines for appropriateness and robustness of experimental design.
  - If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are 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.
  - How well studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model and the endpoints/outcomes to be measured.
  - 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.

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**:

- **Research Sharing Plan**
  - To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate and 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.
- **Budget**
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **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.

- **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 NFRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - **Stage 1:** During the first stage of programmatic review, applications will be selected for the second stage using the following criteria:
    - Ratings and evaluations of peer review
    - Adherence to intent of the funding opportunity
    - Program portfolio composition
    - Relevance to at least one of the FY26 Strategic Goals (including “Increase capacity and multi-disciplinary research")
    - Relative impact
    - Vision of Academy
  - **Stage 2 (Oral Presentation):** During the second stage of programmatic review, the following criteria will be used:
    - Capabilities to lead the Academy such that the Scholars develop partnerships, collaborations and career growth to ensure their dedication, commitment and productivity as leading researchers in NF and to move the state of the science forward.
    - Utilization of leadership skills to encourage partnerships, collaborations, resource sharing and career growth for the Scholars.
    - Appropriateness of the Scholar Evaluation plan in regards to inclusion of tools, questions/criteria, data collection and storage, analysis and interpretation of data, and dissemination of evaluation results.
    - Justification of proposed NF pilot research project(s) that will be conducted as collaborative efforts with the Scholars. With respect to the pilot projects(s), the metrics used to evaluate the outcomes of the research.
    - The significance of the NFRA Advisory Panel and the NF Patient Advocacy Panel and how it will be integrated into the program.
    - Evaluation of communication strategy/plan to promote the Academy, maximize networking/research collaborations, publish outcomes/accomplishments and to inform or provide feedback to academy participants (e.g., advisors/mentors, patient advocacy and communities, scholar and mentors, and other collaborators).

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

There is no review and selection process for pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity. ***The CDMRP will NOT provide an invitation to submit a full application after pre-application submission***. Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full application components concurrently and submit a full application AFTER successful submission of the pre-application.

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 NFRP 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 IACUC, IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review.

8.2. Reporting

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

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, using the template available on eBRAP, must be submitted with the final progress report.

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting ***(Required for research proposing clinical research and/or clinical trials)***: 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.

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

PIs are expected to participate in at least one Interim Progress Review (IPR) for the funded project. For planning purposes, PIs can expect that the IPR will last no longer than one day and will be hosted virtually by the KCRP. The invitation and format for the IPR will be provided by the Grants Officer's Representative at least 90 days prior to the scheduled IPR date.

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 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 full applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

9.2.1. Rejection

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.

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 NFRP 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 PIs do not meet the eligibility criteria.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The application fails to address the FY26 NFRP Strategic Goals. The "***Increase capacity and multi-disciplinary research***" strategic goal must be addressed for this award mechanism.
- Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.
- An investigator may be named as a PI on a single application to this program announcement. If an investigator is named multiple times as a PI, only the first application received will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.

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	
	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"	☐	☐
Sample Agenda – Attachment 6, upload as "SampleAgenda.pdf"	☐	
Patient Advocacy Panel – Attachment 7, upload as "PatAd.pdf"	☐	
Impact Statement – Attachment 8, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐	
Partnership Statement – Attachment 9, upload as "Partnership.pdf"	☐	
Research Projects – Attachment 10, upload as "ResearchProject.pdf"	☐	
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 11, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"	☐	
Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)* – Attachment 12, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)* – Attachment 13, 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

ACOS/R&D	Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development
ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of *In Vivo* Experiments
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
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
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IPR	In-Progress Review
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NF	Neurofibromatosis
NFRP	Neurofibromatosis Research Program
NFRALA	Neurofibromatosis Research Academy – Leadership Award
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
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Appendix 3. Change Log

July 31, 2026

- Section 6.1, page 25: Updated hyperlink to the FY26 NFRP Programmatic Panel members

June 25, 2026

- Section 3.1.1, page 8: Updated Areas of Emphasis
- Section 4.4, page 20: Updated Oral Presentation requirements