Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

Idea Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526PRCRPIA

Pre-Application Due: June 26, 2026

Application Due: October 5, 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) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Idea Award (IA) supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms, and/or basic cancer research. The advancement of knowledge in cancer research, patient care, and/or treatment options in the Military Health System (MHS) is critical to Service Members, Veterans, other military beneficiaries and the American public.

Distinctive Features: The proposed project should demonstrate creative thinking and innovation.

- Incremental advances, the next logical step, or switching a model system from one cancer to another cancer are not appropriate for this award.
- Inclusion of preliminary data is not required; however, the project must be based on strong scientific rationale.
- **New for FY26: Early Career Investigator Option:** The Early Career Investigator option is designed to support the continued development of promising independent investigators that are early in their faculty appointments.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $18.0M to fund approximately 30 Idea Award applications with total cost caps of $600,000 per award and $9.0M to fund approximately 15 Idea Award-Early Career Investigator Option applications with total cost caps of $600,000 per award. The maximum period of performance is 2 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this fiscal year 2026 (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 26, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** August 10, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 5, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 8, 2026
- **Peer Review:** December 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** February 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526PRCRPIA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

Extramural and intramural U.S. Department of Defense (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

Although a PI may be eligible for both the Early Career Investigator and Established Investigator categories, only one category may be chosen; the choice of application category is at the PI's discretion provided the eligibility criteria are met.

Established Investigator:

To be named as the Principal Investigator (PI) on the application, the PI must be independent investigator at all career levels.

Early Career Investigator (ECI):

The FY26 PRCRP IA mechanism encourages applications from investigators in the early stages of their research career. At the application submission deadline PI must:

- Be an Independent Investigator and below the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent).
- Be within seven years of his/her last postdoctoral research position (Ph.D.), clinical fellowship (M.D.), or equivalent at the time of full application submission deadline (excluding time spent in residency, clinical fellowship or on family medical leave).
- Receive less than $150,000 (direct cost) in extramurally funded, non-mentored funding for research **annually**.

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 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 Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). 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 PRCRP in 2009 to provide support for research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the PRCRP from FY09 through FY25 totaled $1.17 billion. The FY26 appropriation is $165 million (M).

Congressional language stipulates the FY26 PRCRP must be relevant to Service Members, and address at least one of the congressionally directed FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas listed below.

- Bladder cancer
- Blood cancers
- Brain cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Germ cell cancers
- Glioblastoma
- Liver cancer
- Lymphoma
- Mesothelioma
- Metastatic cancers
- Myeloma
- Neuroblastoma
- Neuroendocrine Tumors
- Pediatric, adolescent, and young adult cancers[1]
- Pediatric brain tumors
- Sarcoma
- Stomach cancer
- Thyroid cancer

Research proposed to the PRCRP must not address research in melanoma, or cancers originating in the breast, kidney, lung, pancreas, prostate or ovary. In addition, FY26 PRCRP funds must not be used to study rare cancers except FY26 PRCRP Topic Area cancer types that are rare by definition.

FY26 PRCRP Portfolios and Strategic Goals

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, ***all applications for FY26 PRCRP funding must specifically address one of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas as directed by the U.S. Congress and have direct relevance to military health***. Additionally, the PRCRP implements a portfolio-driven approach by grouping related topic areas with strategic goals as a framework within which to address critical gaps in cancer research and patient care. ***All applications must address one of the FY26 PRCRP strategic goals as it relates to the portfolio-assigned FY26 PRCRP Topic Area. Some topic areas are present in more than one portfolio. Applications must align to the strategic goal of the portfolio in which a topic area is included.*** If the proposed research does not specifically address one FY26 PRCRP Topic Area and one FY26 PRCRP strategic goal from a single portfolio, then the government reserves the right to administratively withdraw the application. The government reserves the right to reassign

[1] The definition of adolescents and young adults is derived from the National Cancer Institute (https://www.cancer.gov/types/aya). Research should be targeted toward pediatric (ages 0-14 years), adolescents (ages 15-24 years), and/or young adults (ages 25-39 years).

the application's topic area if submitted to an incorrect topic area. The table below lists the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas and strategic goals in each PRCRP portfolio category.

Portfolio: Blood Cancers	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Areas: Blood, Lymphoma, Myeloma	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Improve risk assessment of precancerous conditions • Develop early intervention strategies to prevent initiation and/or progression • Investigate autoimmune disorders as risk factors for lymphoma to inform surveillance strategies • Understand the role of cancer stem cells and the tumor microenvironment in the development of blood cancers
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation and/or therapeutic stratification • Develop more cost-effective molecular diagnostics • Identify biomarkers to predict progression from indolent disease • Identify unique prognostic factors in pediatric, adolescent and young adult malignancies
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Develop methods to predict therapeutic vulnerabilities • Develop therapies that don't require hospitalization • Develop therapies employing gene editing technologies and cell therapies • Identify contribution of immune niche to initial treatment response and relapse • Develop therapeutic options for patients who fail last line therapies
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers • Identify long-term effects of gene editing and cell therapies and develop risk-based standards for surveillance of treated patients • Improve understanding of the effects of long-term immunosuppression
Epidemiology	• Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy

Portfolio: Gastroenterological Cancers	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Areas: Colorectal cancer, Esophageal cancer, Liver cancer, Stomach cancer	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Identify modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors to inform prevention strategies • Identify factors driving the increasing rates of early-age onset disease • Identify environmental and genetic factors associated with an increased cancer risk • Identify key drivers of conversion from precancerous lesions into cancer • Explore the interplay between the microbiome and infectious agents in cancer initiation and progression • Conduct integrative studies that analyze stool, blood and the microbiome as they impact disease onset and patient outcomes
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation and/or therapeutic stratification • Develop cost-effective and minimally invasive tools for early detection • Develop preclinical models to study disease development
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Develop effective treatments for advanced disease • Develop immunotherapies and novel targeting therapies • Identify combination therapies to improve patient outcomes • Identify predictive biomarkers to determine treatment response • Develop integrated treatment plans to address short and long-term impacts of cancer
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers • Improve post treatment surveillance guidelines • Develop validated tools to measure patient quality of life
Epidemiology	• Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy • Implement systems to analyze disease patterns and track patient outcomes to inform best practices • Examine the influence of familial genetics and geographic location on disease onset and treatment outcome

Portfolio: Neurological Cancers	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Areas: Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Pediatric Brain Tumors	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Identify biological and environmental exposures, including maternal exposures during pregnancy, that increase risk
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Develop early detection methods that avoid diagnostic uncertainties • Develop effective monitoring for recurrence/refractory disease • Develop less invasive diagnostic procedures
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Prevent or overcome treatment resistance • Develop personalized oncological care and synergistic multi-modal therapies • Identify protective therapies to be used in conjunction with toxic therapies to reduce treatment-related damage • Develop less invasive treatment options • Develop therapies that cross the blood-brain-barrier
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers • Develop effective screening, monitoring, and provision of psychosocial support/care for the patient and family • Develop care for patients as they transition from pediatric to adult survivors
Epidemiology	• Analyze and assess the incidence/prevalence of brain tumors over time to identify changes in trends
Technology Development	• Advance the development or adoption of technologies in areas including artificial intelligence and machine learning, human microbiota, genomics, nanoparticles and robotics

Portfolio: Pediatric Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers (PAYAC)	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Areas: PAYAC, Germ cell cancers, Neuroblastoma, Sarcoma, Thyroid cancer	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Determine the molecular basis of cancer predisposition syndromes • Determine the extent to which development of disease is attributable to genetic versus environmental differences • Increase understanding of epigenetic influences on cancer development and progression • Identify biological and environmental exposures, including maternal exposures during pregnancy, that increase risk • Investigate the role of microbiome composition in cancer risk and outcomes
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation and/or therapeutic stratification • Develop noninvasive techniques for monitoring progression and recurrence • Identify biomarkers present in early-stage disease • Develop preclinical models that accurately mimic disease • Improve accurate and rapid diagnosis of sub-types of disease
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Develop treatments for relapse/recurrence, metastatic and advanced disease • Increase the number of clinical trials, including ones that may not be curative but may improve the quality of life for terminal patients • Generate evidence-based treatment and surveillance strategies to preserve fertility • Reduce secondary cancers arising from treatment regimen
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers • Develop strategies to improve the full implementation of survivorship guidelines • Develop survivorship guidelines based on current/modern therapeutic agents
Epidemiology	• Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy

Portfolio: Solid Tumors	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Areas: Bladder cancer, Endometrial cancer, Mesothelioma, Sarcoma, Germ cell cancers, Thyroid cancer, Neuroendocrine tumors	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Develop methods that mitigate or identify risk • Develop prevention strategies • Explore the mechanistic relationship between novel and known risk factors and oncogenesis • Identify convergent etiologies underlining the development of malignancies
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation and/or therapeutic stratification • Investigate the interactions of pre-existing autoimmune disease and cancer
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Develop feasible precision medicine approaches • Identify ways to tailor therapeutic strategies to minimize toxicity
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers
Epidemiology	• Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy

Portfolio: Metastatic Disease	
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.	
Topic Area: Metastatic Cancers, limited to PRCRP topic area cancers	
Knowledge Areas:	**Strategic Goals:**
Prevention and Etiology	• Identify biomarkers in primary disease that could predict metastatic potential • Prevent immune evasion by circulating tumor cells • Identify how dormant, disseminated tumor cells (DTCs) persist • Identify drivers that initiate DTCs progression to metastatic colonies • Prevent metastatic colonization by maintaining dormancy of DTCs • Investigate clonal divergence of primary tumor cells between metastatic sites to immunological disease
Diagnosis and Prognosis	• Improve early detection of metastasis and dormant residual disease • Develop biomarkers that predict and monitor treatment efficacy
Treatment	• Develop new, less toxic therapies • Revert metastatic cells to a dormant state • Identify strategies to prevent or overcome treatment resistance • Investigate abscopal effects of primary disease treatment • Determine optimal sequencing of treatments • Eliminate chemotherapy-induced metastasis
Survivorship	• Develop strategies to alleviate treatment toxicities • Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers

Metastatic cancer is cancer that has spread from its original location to another place in the body, representing what are known as stage III and stage IV cancer diagnoses. While recent research has revealed that there is a genetic basis for susceptibility or resistance to metastasis, more research is needed to develop a comprehensive understanding of this complex process.

Applications submitted under any PRCRP topic area, including the Metastatic Cancers topic area, may not address or include research focused on melanoma or cancers that originate in the breast, kidney, lung, pancreas, prostate, or ovaries, or rare cancers (excluding relevant subtypes of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas) as part of the research study; such applications will be administratively withdrawn.

FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas

It is central to the Vision and Mission of the PRCRP that applications are related to military health and mission readiness, and investigators must demonstrate how the proposed research will decrease the burden of cancer on Service Members, their dependents, Veterans and other military beneficiaries (i.e., Retirees and their Family members).

In addition to addressing at least one of the required FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas and FY26 Strategic Goals, ***applications for the FY26 Idea Award must define how the research is relevant to Service Members and their Families by addressing at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas listed below.***

FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas:

- ***Environmental exposure risk factors associated with cancer***
    - Environmental and/or occupational risk factors should be relevant to activities specific to the military, such as assigned duties or deployments that may lead to exposures to potential carcinogens (ionizing radiation, chemicals, infectious agents, etc.). For more information on military-related exposures and risk factors for cancer, applicants should refer to Exposure-Related Health Concerns at https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/health-concerns.asp
- ***Mission Readiness and Gaps in Cancer Research***
    - Gaps in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, and/or treatment that may impact mission readiness and the health and well-being of military members, Veterans, their beneficiaries and the general public.
    - Gaps in quality of life and/or survivorship that may impact mission readiness and the health and well-being of military members, Veterans, their beneficiaries, and the general public.

Mission readiness under the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas refers to the impact of cancer on the Service Member. Decreasing the impact of cancer on Service Members and/or their Families protects the overall military missions. Some examples of relevant research to decrease the impact on mission readiness may include, but are not limited to:

- Studies on the improvement in survival while minimizing effects that would allow a Service Member to return to full duty;
- Treatments to minimize a cancer patient's (either a Service Member's or their Family member's) time in the hospital, thus maximizing the time the Service Member is on duty;
- Effective ways to minimize cancer relapse for Service Members or their Families; and

- Research into improvements in cancer detection that would lead to earlier diagnosis, thus allowing for improved treatment of the Service Member and early return to duty.

For more information on military health and cancer:

- PRCRP (https://cdmrp.health.mil/prcrp/default)
- MHS (https://www.health.mil)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (https://www.va.gov/)

The PRCRP strongly encourages investigators to collaborate, integrate, and/or align their research projects with DOW and/or VA research laboratories and programs (Refer to GAI Appendix 10).

3.1. Intent of the Idea Award

The FY26 PRCRP Idea Award supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms and/or basic cancer research.

The intention of the Idea Award is to fund innovative basic research that may introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other highly creative qualities. The Idea Award is not intended to support a logical progression of an already established research project or line of research. Incremental advances, the next logical step, or switching a model system from one cancer to another cancer are not considered innovative. The proposed research project should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis base on strong scientific rationale and study design and generate robust preliminary data for use as a foundation for future research projects.

3.1.1. Key Elements for the IA

- ***Innovation is a key element of the Idea Award.*** Research deemed innovative may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. Studies supported by this award mechanism are expected to lay the groundwork for future avenues of scientific investigation. ***This award is not intended to support well-developed research.***
- **Military Relevance:** Relevance to the health care needs of Service Members, Veterans and their Families is a key feature of this award. Investigators are encouraged to consider the following characteristics as examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:
    - Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of the target disease that has direct relevance to the health of Service Members, Veterans and their Families.
    - Description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the proposed research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to benefit the civilian population and also address a military need.
    - Use of military or Veteran populations, samples, or datasets in the proposed research, if appropriate.
    - Collaboration with DOW or VA investigators or consultants. 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 within the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas can be found in Appendix 10 of the GAI.

- **Early Career Investigator Option:** The Early Career Investigator option is designed to support the continued development of promising independent investigators that are early in their faculty appointments. This mechanism is created to encourage young researchers in various scientific fields to work in topic areas under PRCRP and promote high-impact research for Service Members, their families, Veterans and the American public.
    - The Early Career Investigator category is designed to allow applicants early in their faculty appointments to compete for funding separately from established investigators. Applications from Established Investigators and New Investigators will be peer- and programmatically reviewed in separate groups.
    - All applicants for the Early Career Investigator category must meet specific eligibility criteria as described in Section 2.1.2, Eligibility Information.

It is the responsibility of the PI to select the funding opportunity that is most appropriate for the research proposed. Advanced research with robust preliminary data is more appropriate for the FY26 PRCRP Impact Award (HT942526PRCRPIPA).

3.1.2. Other Important Considerations for the IA

Applications from investigators within the DOW and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the DOW, the 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.

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, 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.

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.

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, 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 PRCRP priorities.

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 **2** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$600,000**. 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 **2** 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):

- 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 FY26 PRCRP Idea Award.

Must **not** be requested for:

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

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

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

- **Preproposal Narrative (one-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:

  - **Research Idea:** State the FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s) and FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goal the application will address. Describe the rationale and hypothesis and how these support the study's objectives and specific aims. Describe how methodology and experimental design support the project's goals.
  - **Innovation:** Explain how the project is innovative (i.e., how it may lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities).
  - **Impact:** Describe how the research will lead to a breakthrough or make an impact in the FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s).
  - **Military Relevance:** Explain how the proposed research will lead to promising outcomes for one or more of the selected FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s).
- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application ***must be uploaded as individual files*** and are limited to the following:
  - **References Cited (one-page limit):** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
  - **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.

- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches:** ***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.

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

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Background:** Describe how the proposed project addresses an FY26 PRCRP Topic Area and corresponding FY26 PRCRP strategic goal. Briefly state how the project addresses an FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s). Applicants must provide additional details about the Military Health focus in Attachment 6.
  - **Hypothesis or Objective:** State the hypothesis or objective.
  - **Rationale:** State concisely the rationale for the proposed research. **Applications do not require preliminary data**.
  - **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
  - **Relevance to the Idea Award Intent:** Describe how the research that may introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other highly creative that may result in a new research avenue in the laboratory. Applications must provide additional details on innovation in Attachment 7.
  - **Research Strategy:**
    - Describe the proposed study in sufficient detail to evaluate its appropriateness and feasibility to test the hypothesis and reach the final objective.
    - Articulate how the proposed research will have the potential to generate robust preliminary data for use as a foundation for future research projects.
    - Describe how the application designs all proposed animal studies to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints or outcome measures, if applicable. Application must describe additional details on animal studies in Attachment 9.

- If the proposed research will use human subjects or anatomical samples, include a plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples and document the experience of the PI(s) and/or key collaborators in recruiting human subjects for similar projects. ***This award does not allow clinical trials.***
- Describe potential problems and potential pitfalls and address alternative approaches.
- If applicable, describe the statistical and other data analyses to be used to justify the number of research subjects or samples (animal or human) and assess the data collected.
- Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.

- **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 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.

- **Inclusion Enrollment Plan *(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, sex, 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.

  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.
- **Use of DOW Resources or VA Resources *(if applicable)*:** 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, Appendix 4, for additional considerations

- **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:** State the FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s) and FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goal the proposed research will address. Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
  - **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.
  - **Innovation:** Briefly describe how the proposed project is innovative.
  - **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed project will have an impact on at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas.
  - **Military Relevance:** Identify the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s) the proposed research will address. Briefly describe how the proposed research is relevant to Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.

- **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.***

  - State the FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s) and FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goal the proposed research will address.
  - Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project.
  - Describe what types of patients will the research help and how it will help them. What are the potential clinical applications, benefits and risks?
  - Describe the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of cancer research and/or patient care.
  - State the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s) the proposed research will address. Describe how the proposed research is relevant to Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.

- **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 Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work.

- **Attachment 6: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "MilHealth.pdf". *Evaluation of the Relevance to Military Health Statement will occur during programmatic review only by the FY26 PRCRP Programmatic Panel.***

  - State the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s) the proposed research will address.

- Based on published literature of the impact of cancer on military populations, articulate the relevance of the research proposed and show how it will decrease the burden of cancer on Service Members, their Families and Veterans.
- If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- Identify the environmental and/or occupational exposure risk factors associated with the FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s) in the proposed study and their short- and long-term impact on the basic health, welfare and/or psychosocial wellness of active-duty Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.

  or

- Identify how the proposed research will support mission readiness through filling a gap in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, quality of life and/or survivorship that may have a profound impact on the health and well-being of Service Members, their Families, Veterans or other beneficiaries.
- Articulate how the proposed research will advance the knowledge and understanding of cancer, patient care and/or treatment options in the MHS for the benefit of Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.
- Describe the anticipated short-term and/or long-term outcomes of the proposed research and their potential impact on the basic health, welfare, and/or psychosocial wellness of Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.

- **Attachment 7: Innovation Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Innovation.pdf”.
  - Describe how the proposed research is innovative.
  - Describe how the research may introduce a new paradigm, challenges existing paradigms, looks at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other highly creative qualities.
  - Describe how the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing research and published data.
- **Attachment 8: Impact Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Impact.pdf”. The Impact Statement should be written in plain language for lay persons.
  - Explain how the proposed research project will address a critical problem for the one of the FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goals in a FY26 PRCRP Topic Area(s).
  - Describe how the proposed research project, if successful, will make important scientific advances in the relevant field of research and advance patient care for the target population.
  - If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Attachment 9: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as “AnimalResPlan.pdf”.** (Attachment 9 is 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

ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 can be found at https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (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 10: Eligibility Statement (one-page limit) (Early Career Investigator option only):** Upload as "Eligibility.pdf".
  - Provide a letter signed by the Department Chair, Division Chief or equivalent official, verifying that the eligibility requirements will be met on the application submission deadline. The letter must verify that the PI is an independent investigator below the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent), within seven years from the start of his/her postdoctoral research position (Ph.D.), clinical fellowship (M.D.), or equivalent (excluding time spent in residency, fellowship, or on family medical leave), and is not receiving more than $150,000 (direct costs) for current research as a PI of one or more non-mentored, peer-reviewed grant(s) from any agency **annually.** (Refer to Section 2.1.2, Principal Investigator, for eligibility information).
- **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

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

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

4.4. Other Application Elements

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 HT942526PRCRPIA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

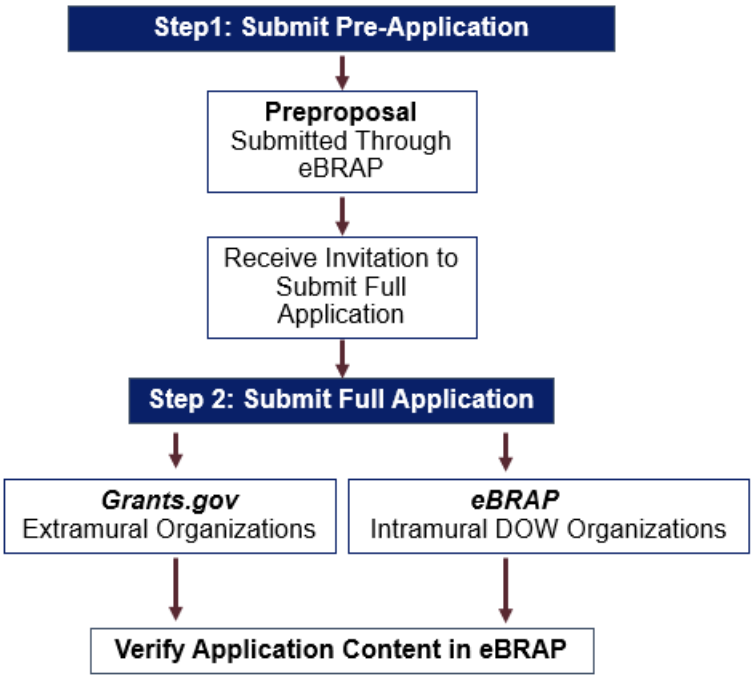
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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 through eBRAP .

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.

When starting the pre-application, applicants will be asked to select the following:

- Select the FY26 PRCRP portfolio the proposed research will address.
- Select the primary FY26 PRCRP Topic Area the proposed research will address.
- Select the FY26 portfolio classification and strategic goal to be studied.
- When applicable, the applicant should select a secondary FY26 PRCRP Topic Area. The secondary topic area may be any topic regardless of selected portfolio. Examples include, (not all-inclusive):
    - Applications addressing more than one cancer type should select the two most applicable.
    - Applications addressing a topic area that is the subtype of another topic area (e.g., Lymphoma and Blood Cancers) should select both.
    - Applications addressing a cancer type in PAYAC populations, should select both the cancer type and the PAYAC topic area.
    - Applications addressing metastatic disease in a cancer type should select both the metastatic disease and cancer type category.
- Select the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area to be studied.

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

Application Includes:	Select Mechanism Option:
Established Investigator	No Option
Early-Career Investigator	Early-Career Investigator Option

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 PRCRP 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 PRCRP 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 PRCRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- Whether the proposed project addresses at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas and at least one corresponding FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goal, and to what degree the research will lead to a breakthrough or make an impact.
- How well the rationale, hypothesis, proposed methodology and experimental design support the study's objectives and specific aims.
- Whether the proposed research is innovative (i.e., how it may lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities).
- To what degree the proposed research may lead to promising outcomes for one or more of the selected FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas.

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***:***

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - How well the application develops and supports the completion of the proposed aims through the hypothesis, specific aims, scientific rationale, experimental design, methods, data collection procedures and analyses.
  - How well the application acknowledges potential problems and addresses potential pitfalls and alternative methods and approaches.
  - 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.
  - 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 stated.
  - **(If applicable**) How well the applicant designed animal studies to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model and the selected endpoints/outcomes for measurement.
  - **(If applicable)** How well the applicant designed the proposed studies with human subjects, human biological samples or data sets to achieve reproducible and rigorous results and whether they provide evidence of availability of and access to the necessary study populations and/or resources.
  - **(If applicable)** To what degree the statistical analysis plan, including power analysis, is appropriate for the experimental methodology being used.
  - **(If applicable)** Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and the distribution of proposed enrollment is appropriate for the proposed research, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects.
- **Innovation**
  - To what degree the research introduces innovative new paradigms, novel challenges to existing paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives or exhibits other highly creative qualities which represent more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing research and published data.
- **Impact**
  - To what extent the project impacts a critical problem or question in the PI-selected FY26 PRCRP Topic Area.
  - To what extent the proposed research project addresses the PI-selected FY26 PRCRP portfolio-specific strategic goal.
  - To what extent the results of the research will impact the field of study and/or improve patient care.
- **Personnel**
  - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.

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.
  - Whether there may be significant overlap with existing or pending awards of the PI or research team.
- **Environment**
  - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project, to include the quality and level of institutional support and 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 PRCRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
  - Relative innovation
  - Program portfolio composition
  - Programmatic relevance to the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas.
  - Programmatic relevance to the FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goals as outlined in the FY26 PRCRP portfolio categories.

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

Following the pre-application screening, 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, Basic Information about the Funding Opportunity. 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 PRCRP 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), Institutional Review Board (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

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 preapplications or full applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

9.2.1. Rejection

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

- 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.

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 PRCRP 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 invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the FY26 PRCRP Strategic Goals as outlined in the FY26 PRCRP portfolio categories.
- The application addresses FY26 strategic goal from a portfolio that does not include the selected FY26 topic area.
- The pre-application or application does not adhere to congressional language and includes a cancer that originates in the breast, kidney, lung, pancreas, prostate, or ovary, or rare cancers (excluding relevant subtypes of the FY26 PRCRP Topic Areas), or melanoma as part of the research study. 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.
- A clinical trial is proposed.

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.

9.2.5. Other Funding Opportunities

The PRCRP is committed to leveraging efforts with other funding organizations to accelerate progress in [issue] research. At the time of funding notifications, the PRCRP may inform highly rated, unfunded applicants about opportunities to provide their PRCRP applications and peer review summary statements to non-governmental and other governmental funders, who will determine the specific criteria for funding consideration.

Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
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"	☐
Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "MilHealth.pdf".	☐
Innovation Statement – Attachment 7, upload as "Innovation.pdf"	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 8, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 9, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"	☐
Eligibility Statement (Early Career Investigator option only) Attachment 10, upload as "ECI-statement.pdf"	☐
Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)* – Attachment 11, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural 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

ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
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
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
IA	Idea Award
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OHRO	Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection Office)
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
PRCRP	Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
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
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs