

***Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Defense Vision Research Program (VRP)  
Reference Table of Award Mechanisms and Submission Requirements***

Award Mechanism	Eligibility	Key Mechanism Elements	Funding	Submission Deadline
<p><b>Clinical Trial Award (CTA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p>HT942524VRPCTA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></b></li> <li>• Supports the rapid implementation of early-phase clinical trials (i.e., phase 0 through phase 2a) of new interventions to service-related eye injury or visual dysfunction.</li> <li>• <b>Evidence of Investigational New Drug (IND) or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) application submission is required at the time of full application submission.</b></li> <li>• <b>Evidence of IND/IDE approval is required by March 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• Must demonstrate access to the proposed intervention(s).</li> <li>• Must demonstrate access to the targeted subject population(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum funding of <b>\$1,600,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs)</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>3</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 11, 2024 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET)</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 12, 2024 11:59 p.m. ET</p>

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<p><b>Focused Translational Team Science Award (FTTSA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Announcement</li> <li>General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p>HT942524VRPFTTSA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NEW FOR FY24:</b> The FY24 FTTSA is structured to have an Overall Lead Principal Investigator (PI) and multiple Project PIs.</li> <li>The Overall Lead PI must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent) with demonstrated success in leading large collaborative research project(s).</li> <li>Project PIs must be independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professors (or equivalent).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</b></li> <li>Supports a team initiative that leverages the strengths of investigators specializing in different fields to address an overarching scientific challenge or question and fundamentally advance the understanding and treatment of military-relevant vision trauma.</li> <li><b>Overarching Challenge</b> Investigators are encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider barrier(s) to and/or gap(s) in the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, and/or treatment of eye injury or visual dysfunction associated with a military-relevant trauma and envision what may be achievable in 10 to 15 years.</li> <li>Identify, based on the long-term expectation, what should and can be achieved in the near term.</li> <li>Design projects and research teams around these considerations.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Research Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The team science proposal shall include at least three but no more than five distinct research projects that together form a concerted and synergistic effort to advance a solution beyond what would be possible through individual efforts.</li> <li>Preliminary data to support the feasibility of each project are required.</li> <li>May include, as a portion of the proposed research, a pilot clinical trial component that collects preliminary data to support the feasibility, rationale, and design of subsequent clinical trials.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Research Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Overall Lead PI must devote a minimum of 20% effort.</li> <li>The Overall Lead PI will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum funding of <b>\$4,000,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs)</li> <li>The \$4,000,000 funding restriction applies to the combined direct costs for the applications of the Overall Lead PI and Project PIs</li> <li>The maximum period of performance is <b>4</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 11, 2024 5:00 p.m. ET</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 12, 2024 11:59 p.m. ET</p>

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		<p>Project PIs will have their own submission requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If recommended for funding, all PIs will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). Each award will be subject to separate reporting, regulatory, and administrative requirements.</li><li>• Must have a detailed <b>Implementation Plan</b> for participating research groups to coordinate efforts, facilitate collaboration, and create synergy.</li></ul>		

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<p><b>Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p>HT942524VRPIIRA</p>	<p>Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></b></li> <li>• Supports studies that will yield highly impactful discoveries or major advancements in research and/or patient care.</li> <li>• <b>Funding Level 1</b> supports exploratory, high-risk/high-reward research in the earliest stages of development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research must have the potential to yield new avenues of investigation, such as new approaches, new research tools, or new paradigms.</li> <li>○ While no preliminary data is required, applicants must provide solid rationale of the research idea.</li> <li>○ The investigating team must have sufficient expertise to test the idea.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Funding Level 2</b> supports the advancement of mature research that has the potential to make significant advancements toward clinical translation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preliminary data supporting the readiness and feasibility of the proposed research is required.</li> <li>○ <b><i>NEW FOR FY24:</i></b> The IIRA Funding Level 2 includes an option for two PIs, an Initiating PI and a Partnering PI. The Initiating PI will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PI is responsible for selecting the funding level that is most appropriate for the research proposed. The funding level should be selected based on the stage of the research project, rather than the amount of the budget.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Funding Level 1</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum funding of <b>\$260,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs)</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>2</b> years.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Funding Level 2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum funding of <b>\$750,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs)</li> <li>• If exercising the Partnering PI Option, the \$750,000 funding restriction applies to the combined direct costs for the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>3</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 11, 2024 5:00 p.m. ET</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 12, 2024 11:59 p.m. ET</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="821 134 1396 250">• Clinical trials are not allowed.</li></ul>		

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<p><b>Translational Research Award (TRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Announcement</li> <li>• General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b> HT942524VRPTRA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Preproposal is required; application submission is by invitation only.</i></b></li> <li>• Supports translational research that moves promising laboratory research into clinical applications.</li> <li>• It is expected that an IND or IDE application will be submitted during or by the end of the period of performance.</li> <li>• Preliminary data are required.</li> <li>• May include, as a portion of the proposed research, a pilot clinical trial component that collects preliminary data to support the feasibility, rationale, and design of subsequent clinical trials.</li> <li>• <b><i>NEW FOR FY24:</i></b> The TRA includes an option for two PIs, an Initiating PI and a Partnering PI. The Initiating PI will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum funding of <b>\$1,000,000</b> for direct costs (plus indirect costs)</li> <li>• If exercising the Partnering PI Option, the \$1,000,000 funding restriction applies to the combined direct costs for the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI</li> <li>• The maximum period of performance is <b>3</b> years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Preproposal):</b> July 11, 2024 5:00 p.m. ET</p> <p><b>Application:</b> November 12, 2024 11:59 p.m. ET</p>

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<p><b>Mentored Clinical Research Award (MCRA)</b></p> <p><b>Go to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program Announcement</li> <li>General Application Instructions</li> </ul> <p><b>Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:</b></p> <p>HT942524VRPMCRA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PI must be an established clinician or Ph.D. clinical scientist.</li> <li>Mentee must be a clinician in training (e.g., a fellow, resident, junior clinician, clinician in a Ph.D. program), and should have sufficient time remaining in their training program to complete the research proposed under the MCRA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required prior to full application submission.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions.</li> <li>An invitation to submit a full application is <b>NOT</b> provided after LOI submission and applicants are <b>NOT</b> required to have such an invitation in order to proceed to submitting a full application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Clinical research is defined as research conducted with human subjects or research on material of human origin, such as tissues or specimens or data obtained from human subjects.</li> <li>The MCRA may not be used to conduct preclinical research (including animal research) or clinical <i>trials</i>.</li> <li><b>Evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission is required at the time of the application submission.</b></li> <li><b>IRB approval is required by December 1, 2024, for an MCRA application to be considered for funding.</b></li> <li>The award may be used to cover costs of labs/supplies/small equipment and/or to provide salary support for supportive personnel, but not salary support for the PI or the physician mentee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum funding of <b>\$75,000</b> for <i>total</i> costs (direct plus indirect costs)</li> <li>The maximum period of performance is <b>18 months</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pre-Application (Letter of Intent):</b> August 8, 2024 5:00 p.m. Eastern time</p> <p><b>Application:</b> August 23, 2024 11:59 p.m. Eastern time</p>