Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program (PRARP) Funding Opportunity Announcement Frequently Asked Questions

Application Questions

1. Is preliminary data required?

Each program announcement (PA) will clearly state whether preliminary data is required. The requirement is described in the PA in sections II.B Award Information as well as II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components, Attachment 1: Project Narrative.

2. Are funds allotted for different buckets (e.g., $XX is allocated for Epidemiology-focused awards, $XX are allocated for Quality-of-Life awards)?

No, the PRARP investment strategy outlines funds allocation per award mechanism, not topic area. Each PA will describe an award mechanism and how many awards in that mechanism the PRARP anticipates funding. Note these are estimates and the actual number of awards will depend on the quality of the applications received.

3. Are preclinical studies, such as AD drug development, allowed in the current announcement?

Please review the FY23 announcement carefully as CDMRP cannot not provide specific guidance on whether a project will align to an award mechanism. It is up to the investigator to determine their projects' relevancy to the award mechanism described in the PA.

4. Can I submit the same application to multiple program announcements, such as to PRARP and another CDMRP program? Can you help me decide how to choose?

The CDMRP/PRARP cannot advise on which program or funding opportunity is best aligned to your research or would increase your chance of success. Interested researchers are encouraged to review the many resources (including the Strategic Plan, pre-announcement/mechanism synopsis, PA) on the individual CDMRP program webpages (https://cdmrp.army.mil/researchprograms.)

Unless otherwise stated in the funding opportunity announcement, submission of applications that are essentially identical or propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s). Applicants may submit identical projects to multiple programs or non-CDMRP agencies if appropriate, however, if the project is recommended for funding by different programs or agencies, the duplicative application(s) must be withdrawn, or scientific overlap must be removed in consultation with both funders.

5. Will I receive an invitation to submit a full application after I submit the Letter Of Intent (LOI)?

No,LOIs are used for the purposes of recruiting appropriate expertise for peer review panels, and therefore do not undergo a screening process for invite/no invite. The PRARP encourages everyone who submits a LOI to submit a full application.

6. Does my research have to involve Veterans or Service Members only?

Research funded by the CDMRP/PRARP must have relevance the health care needs of Service Members, Veterans, and the American public. PRARP encourages research that can benefit military and civilian populations. There is no requirement as to which populations an investigator may choose. You will be asked to prepare a statement indicating how this research is relevant to military health, and this criterion is used at programmatic review. Note the PRARP uses the term, "military," in the broadest possible context and includes Families or other DOD beneficiaries in this definition.

Community Collaboration

7. I'm new to community collaboration. Does the community partner need to be part of the research population?

Not necessarily. The goal of the community collaboration is to maximize the impact and translation of the research to the community the research should benefit. What this may mean is involving people living with dementia, their Families and/or caregivers, trusted community members (religious or other community leaders, community nurses, etc.) and/or other individuals relevant to the AD community in the research design, strategy, and execution of the proposed research. It is expected these community collaborators enter a partnership with the research team to ensure the needs and input of the individuals who stand to benefit from the proposed research are included throughout the planning, execution, and dissemination of the research.

8. If I'm a preclinical researcher, do I need to have a community collaborator?

Community collaboration is required for the FY23 Transforming Diagnosis Award and Transforming Care Award. While community collaboration is required for clinical research proposals in the FY23 Transforming Research Award, it is only encouraged for preclinical research.

Eligibility

9. Is the non-Career Initiation or Transition Partnering Option (CITPO) principal investigator required to be a senior investigator?

No, there are no restrictions specifying seniority of the partnering principal investigator (PI). If the investigator meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the FY23 PRARP PA (that is, if that person is an independent investigator at any career level) they are eligible to serve as PI on the partnering option as well.

10. Are there options for mid-career researchers to apply?

For PRARP's FY23 award mechanisms, independent investigators at any career stage are eligible to apply as PI. The Career Initiation and Transition Partnering Option (CITPO) is a pathway which is specifically open to investigators who may not be early career but are newly transitioning to the TBI or AD/ADRD field. However, please note that AD/ADRD midcareer investigators are otherwise eligible to apply outside of the CITPO.

11. Are post-docs eligible to apply?

Post-doctoral fellows whose institutions verify their ability to be an independent investigator are eligible to apply as PI.

12. Do you need to be 3 years post terminal degree at the time of submission or at the time of award?

The FY23 PAs state, "For the CITPO PI, Career initiation investigators must have at least 3 years research experience beyond a terminal degree, but no more than 7 years, within their first independent research position. Career transition investigators may be any level, but new to either the TBI and/or AD/ADRD fields, with nominal, if any, publications and/or support. Lapses in research time or appointments as denoted in the biographical sketch should be explained in the application."

It is up to the institutions to verify the investigator meets that requirement.

13. Are small businesses eligible to apply?

Yes, any organization that is registered in SAM.gov, received confirmation of an "Active" status, and meet the award mechanism-specific eligibility criteria is eligible to receive Federal funding. For more information, please refer to the General Application Instructions (GAI) found here: https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/pa/General%20Application%20Instructions-801.pdf.

14. Do small businesses have to be collaborating with an academic institution?

There are no requirements for instructional collaboration in any of the FY23 PRARP funding opportunities.

15. Can international applicants apply? If so, is it recommended to have a partner researcher in the U.S.?

Yes, international applicants may apply to CDMRP funding opportunities if they are registered as an entity in SAM (https://sam.gov/content/home) and receive confirmation of an "Active" status. Once registered, the same eligibility criteria apply to domestic and international applicants; please refer to the PA of interest (Section II.C. Eligibility Information) as well as the GAI (https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/prarp) for information specific to the award mechanism. For eligible international applicants, partnership with a U.S. entity is neither required or a review criterion.