

FY24 Tick-Borne Disease Research Program (TBDRP) Funding Opportunity FAQs

- 1. Can a Principal Investigator (PI) submit more than one application?**
Yes, there are no limitations on the number of applications for which an investigator may be named as a PI.
- 2. What are the deadlines for FY24 applications?**
Pre-applications are due June 26, 2024. Invited applicants will be informed of their full application invitation status in August 2024; full applications are due October 3, 2024; funding decisions will be made in February 2025.
- 3. Are commercial organizations eligible to apply? What about clinical researchers?**
Yes, commercial organizations and clinical researchers can apply if they are registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>) and meet the eligibility criteria.
- 4. Can international applicants apply? If so, is having a partner researcher in the U.S. recommended?**
Yes, international applicants can apply if they are registered as an entity in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov>) and receive confirmation of an “Active” status. Once registered, the same eligibility criteria apply to domestic and international applicants. Please refer to Section II.C, Eligibility Information, in the TBDRP program announcements. For eligible international applicants, neither a U.S. partner nor a review criterion is required.
- 5. I am a postdoctoral fellow. Can I apply?**
Yes, postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply only under the Idea Development Award – Career Development Option. A mentor and a career development plan are required. Please refer to Section II.C.1.b, Principal Investigator, in the TBDRP program announcements for additional eligibility information specific to PIs.
- 6. Can I submit a revised proposal after it was not recommended for funding?**
Yes, a project can be submitted again after it is rejected, as long as the new submission meets all of the requirements of the new funding opportunity (such as alignment with current focus areas). All submissions will be treated as new submissions.
- 7. How do I know which application category/option to submit to?**
When submitting the pre-application, it is the responsibility of the applicant to select the application category/option that is most appropriate for the research proposed. Accurate selection of the application category/option is critical to ensure that the appropriate application materials are prepared and submitted and the appropriate peer reviewers are assigned to assess the application. Please refer to Section II.D.2.a, Step 1: Pre-Application Submission, in the TBDRP program

announcements for a detailed description of the purpose and key features of each application category/option. The available choices pertain to whether the application is being submitted under the Career Development Option and whether the application involves research using human subjects or the acquisition of human samples.

8. Is my research a good fit for the TBDRP?

Applications submitted to the FY24 TBDRP must address at least one of the specific Focus Areas described in Section II.A.1, FY24 TBDRP Focus Areas, in the TBDRP program announcements. These focus areas are distinct for each funding mechanism offered by the program. The Idea Development Award is focused on new ideas pertaining to tick-borne disease pathogenesis and early development of tick-borne disease treatments and methods of diagnosis; the Therapeutic/Diagnostic Research Award is focused on research toward the evaluation of developed tick-borne disease treatments and methods of diagnosis. In addition, applications must meet the intent of the program and the award mechanism as described in Section II.B, Award Information, of the TBDRP program announcements. Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)/TBDRP program staff do not provide individual guidance to applicants regarding the appropriateness of their research for the program and associated funding mechanisms.

9. Are there any areas of research that the TBDRP will not support?

Yes; for the FY24 TBDRP, following a review of the funding landscape and the program portfolio, applications proposing the following will be considered non-responsive to the funding mechanisms and will not be reviewed: human vaccine work, field work of tick or reservoir hosts, studies related to mammalian meat allergy (allergic response to galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose [alpha-gal]), or studies related to Lyme arthritis. Like the focus areas, excluded areas may change from year to year.

10. Does the TBDRP fund clinical trials?

No, the program does not currently fund clinical trials, but it does support clinical research. A clinical trial is defined as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes. For more information on how to distinguish clinical research from clinical trials, see Section II.B, Award Information, in the TBDRP program announcements.

11. How do I demonstrate the military relevance of my research?

TBDRP research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and/or the American public. Research that impacts both the American public and the military is highly relevant to the program. The following resources include data on tick-borne diseases in the military and can be used in developing a statement of impact: **Medical Surveillance Monthly Report**, February 2021 (Vol 28, No 2) and May 2022 (Vol 29, No 5) (<https://www.health.mil/MSMRArchives>).

12. What are the success rates for invited applications, i.e., submissions that have successfully moved beyond the pre-application stage?

The success rates vary by fiscal year. Details on the success rates in FY23 can be viewed in the [FY23 TBDRP Information Paper](#).

13. Where can I view projects recently funded by the TBDRP?

You may search past CDMRP awards by program and other parameters and view an award's public abstracts at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/search.aspx>.

Note: FY23 TBDRP awards are currently under negotiation and are not in the database; information will be searchable after September 2024.

14. What are some tips or strategies for success when applying to the CDMRP/TBDRP?

There is a [CDMRP Webinar Series](#) that provides valuable information about various types of funding opportunities and strategies for success, including a description of our two-tier review process and how to design applications to address all of the requirements described in our program announcements.