VRP FY20 Funding Opportunities FAQ

Eligibility

- Can one PI submit more than one application?

  For the IIRA and TRA, there are no limitations on the number of applications for which an investigator may be named as a PI.

  For the FTTSA, each investigator may be named on only one FTTSA application as the overall lead PI. Applicants to the FY20 VRP FTTSA are permitted to simultaneously submit individual projects as applications to the FY20 VRP TRA or Funding Level 2 of the FY20 VRP IIRA. The scope and budget of the FTTSA and the TRA or IIRA projects must be appropriate for the respective award mechanism. Accepting multiple awards to support the same project will not be allowed.

- Are commercial organizations eligible to apply? And clinical researchers?

  Commercial organizations and clinical researchers can apply if they are registered in SAM and meet the award mechanism-specific eligibility criteria.

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

  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 the Program Announcement that you are interested in, Section II.C. Eligibility Information, for information specific to the award mechanism. For eligible international applicants, having a U.S. partner is not required, nor a review criteria.

- I am a postdoctoral fellow. Can I apply?

  Only independent investigators may be named as Principle Investigator on IIRA or TRA applications. Only independent investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent) may be named as Principle Investigator on FTTSA applications. Please refer to the Program Announcements, Section II.C. Eligibility Information, for additional eligibility information specific to the award mechanism.

- For the FTTSA, can some or all of the teams be from the same institution?

  The FTTSA does not impose restrictions on whether project leaders should be affiliated with different institutions. Additional details regarding teams can be found in the FTTSA Program Announcement. For key aspects of the FTTSA including Research Teams, please refer to II.B. Award Information. For instructions on what information should be provided about your team

in the pre-application and full application, please refer to II.D.2 Content and Form of the Application Submission. For how Teams and Personnel will be evaluated, please refer to II.E.1 Criteria.

- Can I submit a revised proposal after it was rejected previously?

  A project can be submitted again after it was rejected previously, as long as the new submission meets all the requirements of the new Funding Opportunity (such as alignment with current Focus Areas). All submissions will be treated as new submissions and start with pre-application.

Topic Areas

- What are the topic areas that the VRP is interested in?

  Applications submitted to the FY20 VRP must address at least one of the following Focus Areas:
  - Eye injury or visual dysfunction as related to a military-relevant traumatic event. Examples of military-relevant trauma may include, but are not limited to:
    - Blast, penetrating, blunt, thermal, or chemical trauma
    - Trauma caused by directed energy weapons such as laser, high-power microwaves, and particle beams
  - Diagnosis, stabilization, and treatment of eye injuries in austere environments and prolonged field care settings
  - Restoration of visual function after trauma-related vision loss or severe visual impairment

- Where can I view recent awardees' research topics?

  The CDMRP homepage has a "Search Awards & Publication" link that allows readers to search past awards by program and other parameters and view an award's public abstract. ***Note***: FY19 VRP awards are currently under negotiation and not in the search database; information will be searchable after September 2020.

Human Research

- What kind of human research can be supported under the IIRA?

  Per the IIRA Program Announcement: "Research involving human subjects and human anatomical substances is permitted; however, the IIRA may not be used to conduct clinical trials. 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 placebo or other 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 the Human Subject Resource Document at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm."

- What is the VRP's definition of clinical trial? What is the difference between a clinical trial and a pilot clinical trial?

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 placebo or other 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 the Human Subject Resource Document at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm."

While both pilot clinical trials and full-scale clinical trials involve an intervention (or interventions) and the evaluation of the effects of the intervention(s) in human subjects, they differ in purpose. In contrast to full-scale clinical trials that are designed to determine safety or efficacy, the purpose of a pilot clinical trial is to inform the feasibility, rationale, and design of subsequent clinical trials through limited clinical testing of a novel intervention. The scale and design of the pilot clinical trial should serve and reflect such purpose.

Other

- 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 award mechanism and fiscal year. Details on the success rates in FY19 can be viewed in the FY19 VRP Information Paper.