I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program

Investigator-Initiated Research Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-22-PRARP-IIRA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical Research and Development

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

• **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), June 17, 2022

Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET, July 25, 2022

• End of Application Verification Period: 5:00 p.m. ET, July 29, 2022

• **Peer Review:** September 2022

• **Programmatic Review:** December 2022

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 702. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the "Package" tab, clicking "Preview," and then selecting "Download Instructions."

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II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program (PRARP) are being solicited by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). The PRARP was initiated in FY11 to address the long-term consequences of traumatic brain injury (TBI) as they pertain to Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD). Appropriations for the PRARP from FY11 through FY21 totaled \$153 million (M). The FY22 appropriation is \$15M.

The PRARP prioritizes research that will provide meaningful outcomes to support caregivers and persons with AD and ADRD, with a focus on partnership with those most impacted by these conditions. In addition, the PRARP strongly advocates for study population diversity, including but not limited to ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, and health access factors.

In addition to a focus on individual and care support, the PRARP seeks to support research focusing on the intersection of TBI-AD/ADRD, including understanding mechanisms, biomarkers, and risk factors associated with Veteran populations. The PRARP is interested in supporting research leading to treatment modalities that have near-term benefit.

The proposed research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and/or the American public.

II.A.1. FY22 PRARP Investigator Initiated Research Award (IIRA) Focus Areas

To address the intent of the award mechanism, applications submitted to this program announcement *must address at least one* of the FY22 PRARP IIRA Focus Areas listed below. Selection of the appropriate Focus Area is the responsibility of the applicant.

- 1. **Individual, caregiver, and family support:** Clinical research focused on long-term care, quality of life, psychosocial wellness and support, and community and home resources supporting aging-in-place and community living for individuals living with dementia, their families, and care partners. For this Focus Area, "family" is broadly defined as the family of choice and/or the family of origin. Study population diversity is strongly encouraged. Applications including *animal studies are not allowed for this Focus Area*.
- 2. **Diagnostic, environmental, and prognostic factors:** Research to better detect, diagnose, support treatment decisions, and predict long-term outcomes and risk factors associated with AD/ADRD following military service and/or TBI. Research of interest may include, but is not limited to, identification and validation of biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis of AD and ADRD, including, but not limited to, fluid, tissue, and imaging biomarkers, psychosocial

indicators, development and validation of devices/technologies, or a combination thereof. In addition, research could address the contribution and identification of risk and resiliency factors for development of AD/ADRD during and after military service, which may include, but are not limited to, life history, genetic, physiological, and psychosocial factors. Epidemiological studies examining TBI and/or military-service-related factors and AD/ADRD development are also included under this Focus Area.

3. **Foundational research** to improve understanding of the mechanisms, etiology, comorbidities, therapeutics/treatments for AD/ADRD after TBI.

II.B. Award Information

The FY22 PRARP IIRA is intended to support studies that will make important contributions to TBI and/or military-service-related factors as they pertain to AD/ADRD research, patient care, and quality of life. The work should innovatively challenge existing paradigms or exhibit high levels of creativity.

Important aspects of this award mechanism include:

Impact: Applications should address the short- and long-term impact of the proposed research on the intersectional TBI, and/or AD/ADRD research field as well as persons with dementia and/or their support network.

Innovation: Applications must address research under one or more of the <u>PRARP IIRA Focus</u> <u>Areas</u> using innovative approaches that represent novel directions, ideas, or advances in the field. Innovative research may introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other highly creative qualities.

Relevance to Military Health: Projects must have relevance to military Service Members, Veterans, and/or their family members and care partners. Applicants are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with Department of Defense (DOD) and/or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) research laboratories and programs. Collaborations between researchers, at military or Veterans institutions and non-military institutions, are strongly encouraged. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOD and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in Appendix 2.

IIRA applications may focus on any phase of research from basic through translational. Permitted research includes preclinical studies in animal models (except where otherwise specified), research with human subjects, or human anatomical substances, as well as ancillary studies associated with an existing clinical trial. Inclusion of preliminary data is required. Use of animal models, if allowable, must be fully justified for relevance to human health. Clinical research applications are required to include a community collaboration research element.

Clinical trials are not allowed under this funding opportunity. 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.

Clinical research is defined as: (1) Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, and (d) development of new technologies. (2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies. (3) Outcomes research and health services research. Note: Studies that meet the requirements for Institutional Review Board (IRB) Exemption 4 are not considered CDMRP-defined clinical research. IRB Exemption 4 refers to research involving the collection or study of existing de-identified specimens or data, if these sources are publicly available.

If the proposed research involves more than one institution, a written plan for single IRB review arrangements must be provided at the time of application submission or award negotiation. The lead institution responsible for developing the master protocol and master consent form should be identified and should be the single point of contact for regulatory submissions and requirements.

Optimizing Research Impact Through Community Collaboration: Research funded by the FY22 PRARP should be responsive to the needs of persons with AD/ADRD lived experience, family, and care provider communities. Through the establishment and utilization of effective and equitable collaborations and partnerships, the translational and impact potential of the proposed research can be maximized. For the FY22 PRARP IIRA, inclusion of collaborative community partner approaches is **required for all projects involving clinical research**.

Collaborative research approaches feature shared responsibility and ownership for the research project to ensure non-tokenistic involvement of community members within the research team. Collaborative research approaches such as community-based participatory research (CBPR), participatory action research, and integrated knowledge transition, generate partnerships between scientific researchers and community members to create knowledge useable by both sets of stakeholders. Recognizing the strengths of each partner, scientific researchers and community members must collaborate and contribute their expertise equitably on all aspects of the project, which may include needs assessment, planning, research intervention design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination. Research results are jointly interpreted, disseminated, fed back to affected communities, and may be translated into interventions or policy. These methods are critically important for community-level interventions and can also augment the potential impact of a research program on people living with dementia, their families, and/or their care partners.

These collaborative relationships are often established through integrating community members into research teams as co-researchers, advisors, and consultants. Some examples for community collaborations include:

• **Lived Experience Consultation:** The research team includes at least one project advisor with AD/ADRD experience who will integrate with the research team to provide consultation throughout the planning, implementation, and dissemination of the research project. Lived experience consultants (LECs) may include individuals with AD/ADRD, their family members, care partners, or others as appropriate.

- Partnership with a Community-Based Organization: The research team establishes partnerships with at least one community-based organization that provides consultation throughout the planning, implementation, and dissemination of the research project. Community-based organizations may include advocacy groups, service providers, policymakers, or other formal organizational stakeholders.
- Community Advisory Board (CAB): A CAB is composed of multiple community stakeholders and can take many forms, from a board of LECs to a coalition of community-based organizations or any combination thereof. As with LECs and organizational partners, the CAB provides consultation throughout the planning, implementation, and dissemination of the research project.

Additional information on CBPR can be found in:

- Wallerstein N and Duran B. 2010. Community-based participatory research contributions to intervention research: The intersection of science and practice to improve health equity. *American Journal of Public Health* 100(S1):S40-S46. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2009.184036.
- Jull J, Giles A, and Graham ID. 2017. Community-based participatory research and integrated knowledge translation: Advancing the co-creation of knowledge. *Implementation Science* 12(1):150. doi: 10.1186/s13012-017-0696-3.

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: The FY22 PRARP encourages applications that include meaningful and productive collaborations between investigators. In an effort to promote enhanced research capacity within the AD/ADRD field, the FY22 IIRA includes an option for an Early-Career Partnering Principal Investigator (PI). The PIs may have experience in similar or disparate scientific disciplines, but each PI is expected to bring distinct contributions to the application. The Partnering PI Option is structured to accommodate two PIs. One PI will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The other will be identified as a Partnering PI. Either PI can be the Early-Career Investigator PI. Both PIs should contribute significantly to the development of the proposed research project, including the Project Narrative, Statement of Work (SOW), and other required components. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named to an individual award within the recipient organization. For individual submission requirements for the Initiating and Partnering PI, refer to Section II.D.2, Content and Form of the Application Submission.

The types of awards made under the program announcement will be assistance agreements. An assistance agreement is appropriate when the federal government transfers a "thing of value" to a "state, local government," or "other recipient" to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring property or service for the direct benefit and use of the U.S. government. An assistance agreement can take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. The level of involvement on the part of the DOD during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement. If "no substantial involvement" on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a grant award will be made (31 USC 6304). Conversely, if substantial involvement on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a cooperative agreement will be made (31 USC 6305), and the

award will identify the specific substantial involvement. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration, participation, or intervention in the research to be performed under the award. The award type, along with the start date, will be determined during the negotiation process.

The anticipated total (direct plus indirect) costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY22 PRARP IIRA will not exceed \$750,000. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed funding information.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2023. For additional information refer to Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices.

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$6M to fund approximately eight FY22 PRARP Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific 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. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY22 funding opportunity will be funded with FY22 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2028.

Rigor of Experimental Design: All projects should adhere to accepted standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of preclinical research. Core standards are described in Landis, S.C., et al., A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research. *Nature* 2012, 490:187-191 (https://www.nature.com/articles/nature11556). While these standards are written for preclinical studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies. Applicants should consult the ARRIVE 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments) guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE 2.0 guidelines can be found at https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000410.

Research Involving Animals: All research funded by the FY22 PRARP IIRA involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Research Protections (ORP) Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. *Allow at least 3 to 4 months for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.* Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information. Projects that include research on animal models are required to submit an **Animal Research Plan** (Attachment 9) as part of the application package to describe how these standards will be addressed, and should likewise follow the ARRIVE 2.0 guidelines referenced above. For applications addressing Focus Area *Individual, caregiver, and family support*, animal studies are not permitted.

Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers: All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC ORP, Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is *not* required.

Allow up to 3 months to complete the HRPO regulatory review and approval process following submission of *all required and complete* documents to the HRPO. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the Human Research Protections Office Resources and Overview document available on the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page

 $(\underline{https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm})\ for\ additional\ information.$

Use of DOD or VA Resources: If the proposed research involves access to active-duty military or VA patient populations and/or DOD or VA 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. Refer to <u>Section II.D.2.b.ii</u>, <u>Full Application Submission Components</u>, for detailed information. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) Data Sharing: The DOD requires that awardees make TBI research data generated by this award mechanism available to the research community through the FITBIR Informatics System. The FITBIR Informatics System is a free resource designed to accelerate research progress by allowing the storage, reanalysis, integration, and rigorous comparison of multiple datasets. Currently, FITBIR-eligible research includes all studies generating prospectively collected human TBI subject data (e.g., clinical, demographic, phenotypic, imaging, and genomic).

Data reporting to FITBIR is an opportunity for investigators to facilitate their own research and to collaborate with others engaged in similar research. While there is no direct charge to users of the FITBIR Informatics System, a project estimation tool (https://fitbir.nih.gov/jsp/contribute/fitbir-costs.jsp) is available to help estimate costs and manpower needs that may be associated with data submission. FITBIR guidance and policies, as well as the considerable advantages of FITBIR participation to the researcher, are detailed at http://fitbir.nih.gov/.

In order to share data with FITBIR, three elements must be included in the proposed research:

- 1. Updated informed consent language that includes FITBIR data sharing. Sample consent language is included in <u>Appendix 3</u>.
- 2. Global Unique Identifier (GUID): FITBIR encourages collaboration between laboratories, as well as interconnectivity with other informatics platforms. Such community-wide sharing requires common data definitions and standards. FITBIR allows for de-identification and storage of data (medical imaging clinical assessment, environmental and behavioral history, etc.) of various types (text, numeric, image, time series, etc.). Use of FITBIR's GUID system facilitates repeated and multi-user access to data without the need to personally

identify data sources. In order to generate a GUID for a subject, the following personally identifiable information (PII) *must be collected in the proposed research:*

- Complete legal given (first) name of subject at birth
- Complete legal additional name of subject at birth (if subject has a middle name)
- Complete legal family (last) name of subject at birth
- Day of birth
- Month of birth
- Year of birth
- Name of city/municipality in which subject was born
- Country of birth

Note that this PII is never sent to the FITBIR system. PII cannot be extracted from the GUID. Information on GUID compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations can be found at https://fitbir.nih.gov/content/global-unique-identifier.

3. Common Data Elements (CDEs): Research data elements must be reported using the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) TBI CDEs or entered into the FITBIR data dictionary as new, unique data elements (UDEs). For the most current version of the NINDS TBI CDEs, go to http://www.commondataelements.ninds.nih.gov. Assistance will be available to help the researchers map their study variables to specific CDEs and ensure the formats of the CDEs collected are compatible with the FITBIR Informatics System. Use of the TBI CDEs is required wherever possible in an effort to create standardized definitions and guidelines about the kinds of data to collect and the data collection methods that should be used in clinical studies of TBI. Use of UDEs is strongly discouraged and subject to program approval.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: All organizations, including foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and international organizations, are eligible to apply.

Government Agencies Within the United States: Local, state, and federal government agencies are eligible to the extent that applications do not overlap with their fully funded internal programs. Such agencies are required to explain how their applications do not overlap with their internal programs.

As applications for this program announcement may be submitted by extramural and intramural organizations, these terms are defined below.

Extramural Organization: An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD, and research institutes.

Intramural DOD Organization: A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. Intramural Submission: An application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.

The USAMRAA makes awards to eligible organizations, not to individuals.

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

Independent investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent) may be named by the organization as the PI on the application.

II.C.1.c. Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option

The Early-Career Investigator must be an independent investigator within 10 years of their terminal degree by the time of the application submission deadline (excluding time spent in residency or on family medical leave) or new to the field. Investigators new to the field will have nominal, if any, publications or funding support in either TBI or AD/ADRD. Time spent as a postdoctoral fellow is not excluded. Lapses in research time or appointments as denoted in the biographical sketch should be explained in the application.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization.

The CDMRP strongly encourages all PIs to participate in a digital identifier initiative through Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc. (ORCID). Registration for a unique ORCID identifier can be done online at https://orcid.org/.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites in order to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3.

Refer to <u>Section II.H.2</u>, <u>Administrative Actions</u>, for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

II.D. Application and Submission Information

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).

II.D.1. eBRAP and Grants.gov

eBRAP (https://ebrap.org) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs to submit their preapplications, view and verify extramural full applications submitted to Grants.gov (https://grants.gov), receive communications from the CDMRP, and submit documentation during award negotiations and throughout the period of performance. eBRAP also allows intramural organizations to submit full applications following pre-application submission.

Grants.gov is a federal system required to be utilized by agencies to receive and process extramural grant applications. Full applications may only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.

Contact information for the eBRAP Help Desk and the Grants.gov Contact Center can be found in <u>Section II.G</u>, <u>Federal Awarding Agency Contacts</u>.

Extramural Submission:

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at Grants.gov.

Intramural DOD Submission:

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.

Note: Applications from an intramural DOD organization or from an extramural federal government organization may be submitted to Grants.gov through a research foundation.

II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

Submission is a two-step process requiring both *pre-application* (eBRAP.org) and *full application* (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov) as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Full application submission guidelines differ for extramural (Grants.gov) and intramural (eBRAP.org) organizations (refer to <u>Table 1, Full Application Guidelines</u>).

The application title, eBRAP log number, 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. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: The Initiating PI must complete the preapplication submission process and submit the contact information for the Partnering PI. The Partnering PI will then be notified of the pre-application submission separately by email. The Partnering PI must follow the link in the notification email in order to associate their full application package with that of the Initiating PI. After following the link, the Partnering PI must verify their contact information, organization, and designation as an extramural or intramural submission within eBRAP. If not previously registered, the Partnering PI must register in eBRAP. A new pre-application based on this research project should not be initiated by the Partnering PI. Applicants are urged to complete these steps as soon as possible. If they are not completed, the Partnering PI will not be able to view and modify their application during the verification period in eBRAP. If these steps are not completed, an intramural partner will not be able to submit the Partnering PI's required full application package components to eBRAP.

II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission Content

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique eBRAP log number is required during the full application submission process.

To begin the pre-application process, first select whether the submitting organization is extramural or intramural, then confirm your selection or cancel. **Incorrect selection of extramural or intramural submission type will delay processing.**

If an error has been made in the selection of extramural versus intramural and the pre-application submission deadline has passed, the PI or Business Official must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI (for single PI applicants) or Initiating PI (for applicants submitting under the Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option) through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/).

The applicant organization and associated PI(s) identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

PIs with an ORCID identifier should enter that information in the appropriate field in the "My Profile" tab in the "Account Information" section of eBRAP.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B, for additional information on pre-application submission):

• Tab 1 – Application Information

Submission of application information includes assignment of primary and secondary research classification codes, which may be found at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and confirm the codes prior to making their selection.

When starting the pre-application, applicants will be asked to select a "Mechanism Option." Applicants are responsible for selecting the appropriate option for the pre-application:

Applicant	eBRAP Mechanism Option
Single PI	No Option
Initiating PI (Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option)	Partnering PI

• Tab 2 – Application Contacts

Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization's Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the "person to be contacted on matters involving this application" in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form). The Business Official must be either selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the preapplication to be submitted.

Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and the contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form), and click on "Add Organizations to this Pre-application." The organization(s) must be either selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

It is recommended that applicants identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.

• Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel

Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application, including any LECs or representatives of community-based organizations involved in this project. Community collaborators should be entered under "Consumer."

<u>FY22 PRARP Programmatic Panel members</u> should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to <u>Section II.H.2.c</u>, <u>Withdrawal</u>, or contact the CDMRP Help Desk at <u>help@eBRAP.org</u> or 301-682-5507.

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: The Initiating PI must enter the contact information for the Partnering PI in the Partnering PI section.

• Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest

List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a conflict of interest in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

• Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Identify the FY22 IIRA PRARP Focus Areas(s) under which the application will be submitted. 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. An invitation to submit a full application is NOT required after LOI submission and applicants should not expect to receive such an invitation in order to proceed to submitting a full application.

Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission Content

The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (https://grants.gov/) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Guidelines

Extramural organizations must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Applicants must create a Grants.gov Workspace for submission, which allows the application components to be completed online and routed through the applicant organization for review prior to submission. Applicants may choose to download and save individual PDF forms rather than filling out webforms in Workspace. A compatible version of Adobe Reader **must** be used to view, complete, and submit an application package consisting of PDF forms. If more than one person is entering text into an application package, the *same version* of Adobe Reader software should be used by each person. Check the version number of the Adobe software on each user's computer to make sure the versions match. Using different versions of Adobe Reader may cause submission and/or save errors – even if each version is individually compatible with Grants.gov. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, and the "Apply For Grants" page of Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.

Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions			
Application Package Location				
Download application package components for W81XWH-22-PRARP-IIRA from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov) and create a Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows online completion of the application components and routing of the application package through the applicant organization for review prior to submission.	Download application package components for W81XWH-22-PRARP-IIRA from eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).			
Full Application Package Components				
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.	 Tab 1 – Summary: Provide a summary of the application information. Tab 2 – Application Contacts: This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative. 			
Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components: • Attachments • Research & Related Personal Data • Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) • Research & Related Budget • Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form • Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	Tab 3 – Full Application Files: Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components: • Attachments • Key Personnel • Budget • Performance Sites Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data: Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.			

Extramural Submissions

Intramural DOD Submissions

Application Package Submission

Create a Grants.gov Workspace.

Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.

Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.

An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the "Sign and Submit" button on the "Manage Workspace" page, under the "Forms" tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

Note: If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a "Changed/Corrected Application" with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID prior to the application submission deadline. Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.

Submit package components to eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).

Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application: After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to "Enter Your Password Here" and press the "Submit Full Application" button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official by email. Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.

Application Verification Period

The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form.

After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/ Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI(s) will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form. Your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the application verification deadline.

Further Information

Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package. After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the "Confirmation" page that is generated after submission.	
Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.	

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. Initiating and Partnering PIs will each be assigned a unique eBRAP log number. Each full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number. *Note: All associated applications (Initiating PI's and the Partnering PI's) must be submitted by the full application submission deadline.*

The full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.

II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

• Extramural Applications Only

SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.

Extramural and Intramural Applications

Attachments:

Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4.

For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Attachments will be rejected if the file names are longer than 50 characters or have incorrect file names that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, there are file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 megabytes (MB), and the file size for the entire full application package may not exceed 200 MB.

• Attachment 1: Project Narrative (15-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf". The page limit of the Project Narrative 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 (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- Background/Rationale: Present the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed research project. Clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support the proposed stage of research, including preliminary and/or published data. Cite relevant literature. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this project. Establish the relevance and applicability of the proposed research and findings to the intent of the mechanism (refer to Section II.B, Award Information), describe the impact and innovation of the project, and address at least one of the FY22 PRARP IIRA Focus Areas.
- **Hypothesis or Objective:** Clearly state the hypothesis to be tested or the objective(s) to be reached.
- Specific Aims: Concisely explain the project's specific aims. If the proposed research project is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this PRARP award would fund.
- Research Strategy and Feasibility: Describe the research strategy, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation of their appropriateness and feasibility. Describe the statistical plan as appropriate for the proposed research. Outline whether researchers, subjects, clinicians, data analysts, and/or others will be blinded during the study. Describe any other measures to be taken to reduce bias. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
 - For animal model studies, full details will be required in the *Animal Research Plan* (*Attachment 9*).
 - For clinical research, full details will be required in the Clinical Research Strategy Statement (<u>Attachment 10</u>). This award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.
 - If prospectively recruited human anatomical samples or data will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples or data. For all human anatomical sample or data projects, describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, racial, ethnic group, and other diversity measures including measures of health equity. Provide an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. Describe the availability of the proposed study population and past successes in recruiting similar populations. If active-duty military, military families, and/or Veteran populations or datasets will be used in the proposed research project, describe the feasibility of accessing the population(s)/dataset(s).

- Statistical Plan and Data Analysis: Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. If applicable, specify the approximate number of human subjects to be enrolled. If multiple study sites are involved, state the approximate number to be enrolled at each site. Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study and all proposed correlative studies.
 - Describe plans for the valid analysis of group differences on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity as appropriate for the scientific goals of the study. Ensure sufficient information is provided to allow thorough evaluation of all statistical calculations during review of the application.
 - 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.
 - 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).
 - If applicable, detail the regulatory strategy, including filing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or international regulatory agency. However, this award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.
- Outcome transition: If applicable, describe how outcomes from the proposed studies will progress to clinical, community, or commercial application.
- Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf". Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those 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 (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).

List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.

Quad Chart: Provide a Quad Chart for the proposed project. The format for the quad chart is available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether or not government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no 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 Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the independence of the PI as well as access to laboratory space, equipment, and other resources necessary for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.

Letters of Collaboration: Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that demonstrates that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.

Intellectual Property: Information can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.315 (2 CFR 200.315), "Intangible Property."

- Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations. Address any impact of intellectual property issues on product development and subsequent government access to products supported by this program announcement.
- Commercialization Strategy (if applicable): Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.

Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community, including the sharing of de-identified data with data repositories. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section K, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

Use of DOD Resources (if applicable): Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.

Use of VA Resources (if applicable): Provide a letter of support from the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. For VA PIs, if the VA non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant institution for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.

• Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as "TechAbs.pdf". The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. Do not include proprietary or confidential information. Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. The technical abstract should provide an appropriate description of the project's key aspects; clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important. Describe the proposed research project, including the following elements:

- Background/Rationale: Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed research project, including sufficient scientific evidence to support the proposed stage of research.
- Objective/Hypothesis: State the objective to be reached or the hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the proposed research project.
- Experimental Design: Briefly describe the experimental design, including appropriate controls.
- Impact and Innovation: Briefly describe how the proposed research project will impact the addressed <u>FY22 PRARP IIRA Focus Area(s)</u> and, if successful, will make important contribution(s) to AD/ADRD and TBI research fields, patient care, and/or quality of life. Briefly describe the innovation of the research.

- Relevance to Military Health: Briefly describe the relevance of the proposed research project to Service Members, Veterans, and/or military beneficiaries.
- Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as "LayAbs.pdf". The lay abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. *Do not include proprietary or confidential information*. *Do not duplicate the technical abstract*. Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below. Minimize use of acronyms and abbreviations, where appropriate. The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to lived experience subject matter experts (consumers).

- State the <u>FY22 PRARP IIRA Focus Area(s)</u> to be addressed by the proposed research.
- Describe the objectives and rationale for the proposed research in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
- Describe the types of patients that will be helped by the research and how it will help them.
- Describe potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks.
- Describe the projected timeline to achieve the expected patient-related outcome.
- Describe the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advance knowledge, treatments, or quality of life of individuals with TBI and/or AD/ADRD/dementia.
- Describe how the proposed project will impact the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, and/or military beneficiaries.
- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (five-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf". The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

For the FY22 PRARP IIRA, refer to either the "Suggested SOW Strategy Clinical Research" or "Suggested SOW Strategy Generic Research", whichever format is most appropriate for the proposed effort, and use the blank SOW format titled "Suggested SOW Format". The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

The SOW should include a list of major tasks that support the proposed specific aims, followed by a series of subtasks outlined related to the major tasks and milestones within

the period of performance. The SOW should describe only the work for which funding is being requested by this application and, as applicable:

- Include the name(s) of the key personnel and contact information for each study site/subaward site. The contributions of the key personnel, including the Initiating PI, and Partnering PI (if applicable), and collaborative research partners (e.g., LECs) should be noted for each task.
- Indicate the number (and type, if applicable) of research subjects (animal or human) and/or human anatomical samples projected or required for each task and at each site.
- Allocate time within the period of performance to obtain local IACUC/IRB and federal ORP approval. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information regarding regulatory requirements.
- For studies with prospective accrual of human subjects, indicate quarterly enrollment targets.
- Identify cell line(s) and commercial or organizational source(s) to be used.
- If applicable, indicate timelines required for regulatory approvals relevant to animal or human subjects research
- For FITBIR-eligible research include:
 - FITBIR investigator and study registration within the first 30 days of the award
 - Sharing of draft data collection forms with FITBIR
 - Annual FITBIR data submissions

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW.

- Attachment 6: Community Collaboration Plan (if applicable, required for all projects with clinical research): Combine and upload as a single file named "Collaboration.pdf".
 - Collaborative Research Statement (suggested three-page limit): Include the names of at least one community partner (e.g., LEC, representative of community-based organization) who will provide advice and consultation throughout the planning and implementation of the research project. The individual's role in the project should be independent of their employment, and they should not be employees of any of the organizations participating in the application.
 - Describe the collaborative research approach that will be used (e.g., Lived Experience Consultation, partnership with community-based organization, CAB,

- co-researcher model) including a justification for the approach as well as when the approach will be used within the research project.
- Indicate the input from the partner that has been or will be captured and how this input will be meaningfully integrated and incorporated into the needs assessment, planning, design, execution, analysis, and dissemination of the research.
- Describe the resource allocation, decision-making, and equitable participation processes to be employed.
- Describe any training, co-learning, or capacity-building actives that will be provided to both scientific researchers and community members on collaborative research approaches, decision-making, and equitable participation.
- Describe the process measures used to assess the effectiveness of the chosen collaborative approach.
- Letters of Community Collaboration, (suggested two-page limit per letter): Provide a letter signed by each community partner (e.g., LEC, representative of community-based organization) confirming their role and commitment to participate on the research team. If a community-based organization will be engaged, the letter of commitment should be signed by BOTH the organization point of contact leading the engagement and the organization's leadership endorsing the collaboration. The letter should include the qualifications and background of the individual and describe the relevance of those qualifications to the individual's role within the team and to the proposed research project.
- Attachment 7: Impact Statement (three-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf". This attachment should be written in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
 - Describe the near-term scientific impact: Detail the anticipated outcome(s) or knowledge/materiel product(s) that will make important scientific advances and improve the understanding, prevention, and/or treatment of AD, ADRD, and/or TBI health outcomes.
 - Describe the near-term and long-term community impact: Explain how the research and/or outcomes will impact the field of study and/or the lives of individuals living with TBI, AD/ADRD, and/or their communities.
 - Describe the long-term scientific impact: Explain the anticipated long-term benefits
 from this research in the clinic or field. Discuss how the proposed materiel or
 knowledge product represents an improvement to currently available interventions,
 resources, pharmacological agents, devices, or clinical practice guidelines, if
 applicable.
 - Describe potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed research and strategies that may be employed to overcome those issues.

- Attachment 8: Relevance to Military Health (three-page limit): Upload as "Military.pdf".
 - Demonstrate how the proposed research project is applicable to the healthcare needs and quality of life military Service Members, Veterans, and/or their family members and care partners. If active-duty military, Veteran, or military family population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed research, and the feasibility of using the population. If applicable, describe how the study team composition is able to provide military-relevant subject matter expertise to the proposed research. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the relevant military population.
- Attachment 9: Animal Research Plan (if applicable; required for all studies utilizing animals; five-page limit): Upload as "AnimRschPln.pdf". When the proposed study involves animals, the applicant is required to submit a plan describing the animal research that will be conducted. For applications addressing Focus Area Individual, caregiver, and family support, animal studies are not permitted and will be withdrawn. Applicants should not submit a verbatim replica of the protocol(s) to be submitted to the IACUC as the Animal Research Plan. The Animal Research Plan should address the following points for each proposed animal study:
 - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Provide evidence that the chosen animal model(s) is validated and well-justified in the literature. Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and the relevance to human biology. Specify why an animal model is necessary to address the study aims, why the specific animal AD/ADRD and/or TBI model was chosen over other models, and how it is optimal for addressing the study aims. The model's relevance to human TBI and/or AD/ADRD should also be detailed.
 - Summarize the procedures to be conducted and how the study will be statistically controlled.
 - Describe approaches that will be undertaken to validate or corroborate findings from animal studies to relevant human data sources/populations. This could include, but is not limited to, validation of animal transcriptomic data using publicly available human transcriptomic datasets, confirmation of histological findings in a human postmortem case series, and validation against fluid-based or imaging biomarkers. Describe how the approach(es) de-risk the possibility the animal findings may not translate to human populations.

- o Attachment 10: Clinical Research Strategy Statement (no page limit): Upload as "Clinical.pdf". (Attachment 10 is only applicable and required for applications that are recruiting human subjects.)
 - Describe the study procedures and outcomes, and detail the clinical research plan.
 Describe how participants will benefit from the study and how participation impacts their daily lives.
 - **Study Population and recruitment:** Describe the target population (to whom the study findings will be generalized) and the nature, approximate number, and pertinent demographic characteristics of the accessible population at the study site(s). Provide a table of anticipated enrollment counts at each study site, if applicable. Demonstrate and detail the research team's access and plan to recruit the proposed study population at each site, and describe the efforts that will be made to achieve accrual and retention goals. Describe how the study impacts the daily lives of participants. Explain methods for identification of potential human subjects (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, healthcare provider identification). Furthermore, discuss past efforts in recruiting human subjects from the target population for previous clinical research, if applicable. Explain the informed consent process and steps taken to safeguard vulnerable populations (e.g., persons with dementia). Identify any potential barriers to accrual/retention and provide mitigation plans for addressing unanticipated delays (e.g., slow accrual, attrition). Identify ongoing clinical research/trials that may compete for the same patient population and how they may impact enrollment progress. Provide justification related to the scientific goals of the proposed study for limiting inclusion of any group by age, race, ethnicity, or sex/gender. For clinical research proposing to include military personnel, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for more information.
 - Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria: List the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the proposed clinical research. Describe how the inclusion and exclusion criteria meet the needs of the proposed clinical research. Inclusion/exclusion criteria should take into consideration the specific risk profile of the studies to be conducted and the standard of care for that patient population. Provide detailed justification for exclusions.
 - Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. The Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report is a three-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.
- Attachment 11: Partnership Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Partnership.pdf". (Attachment 11 is only applicable and required for applications submitted under the Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option.) Describe the experience of the Initiating and Partnering PIs. Describe the contribution and the time commitment of each PI toward the proposed research project and indicate how the award will help to enhance research capacity in the TBI and/or AD/ADRD fields. Describe how

the partners' combined experience will better address the research question and explain why the work should be done together rather than through separate efforts.

- Attachment 12: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf". All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- Attachment 13: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as "MFBudget.pdf". If a military facility (Military Health System facility, research laboratory, medical treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DOD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using "Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format", available for download on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm), including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

• Extramural and Intramural Applications

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681[a] et seq.), the DOD is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must include the following forms completed as indicated.

Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

o PI Biographical Sketch (six-page limit): Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf". The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in uneditable PDF format.

- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support LastName.pdf".
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (six-page limit each): Upload as "Biosketch LastName.pdf".
 - Biographical sketches, or an equivalent document, should also be included for community partners (e.g., LEC, representative of community-based organization), if applicable, to demonstrate background and experience relevant to their role in the proposed research project.
- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as "BudgetJustification.pdf". The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1.

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Initiating PI should not include budget information for the Partnering PI even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed information.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

• Extramural Applications Only

Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- Extramural Subaward: Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.
- o Intramural DOD Collaborator(s): Complete the "Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format" and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as Attachment 13. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) Each Intramural DOD Collaborator should include costs per year on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

Application Components for the Partnering PI if applying under the Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option

The Partnering PI must follow the link in the email from eBRAP and, if not registered in eBRAP, complete the registration process prior to the application submission deadline in order to associate their full application package with that of the Initiating PI.

For the Partnering PI, the Initiating PI must identify if the Partnering PI will be named on an extramural or intramural application (in accordance with the guidelines in <u>Section II.C.1.a</u>, <u>Organization</u>) and the appropriate mode of submission (Grants.gov for extramural and eBRAP for intramural). The Partnering PI must verify their contact information and mode of submission within eBRAP to ensure proper submission of their application.

The application submission process for the Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package that includes:

Extramural and Intramural Applications

Attachments:

- Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf". Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used.
 - Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the independence of the PI as well as access to laboratory space, equipment, and other resources necessary for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.

- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.
- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (five-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf". Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, for detailed information on completing the SOW. Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW. The contributions of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI should be noted for each task.
- Attachment 12: Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf". All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/ public/Program.htm). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- Attachment 13: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as "MFBudget.pdf". Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov) refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- o PI Biographical Sketch (six-page limit): Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf". The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP. The NIH Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in the PDF format that is not editable.
- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support LastName.pdf".
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (six-page limit each): Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf". Biographical sketches, or an equivalent document, should also be included for community partners (e.g., LEC, representative of community-based organization), if applicable, to demonstrate background and experience relevant to their role in the proposed research project.
- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support LastName.pdf".

Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as "BudgetJustification.pdf".

Initiating and Partnering PIs must each submit a budget and justification specific to their own portion of the efforts as part of their separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Research & Related Budget for the Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed information.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

Extramural Applications Only

Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form:

- Extramural Subaward: Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.)
- Intramural DOD Collaborator(s): Complete a separate DOD military budget, using Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format (available for download on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page [https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm]), and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as Attachment 13. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.)

II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (https://www.sam.gov/SAM/) and receive confirmation of an "Active" status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. As published in the Federal Register, July 10, 2019, (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/10/2019-14665/unique-entity-id-standard-for-awards-management), the UEI for awards management generated through SAM will be used

instead of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as of April 2022. All federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI. USAMRDC will transition to use of the UEI beginning with FY22 announcements and utilize the latest SF424, which includes the UEI. The DUNS will no longer be accepted. Applicant organizations will not go to a third-party website to obtain an identifier. During the transition, your SAM registration will automatically be assigned a new UEI displayed in SAM. (For more information, visit the General Services Administration: https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update). Current SAM.gov registrants are assigned their UEI and can view it within SAM.gov. Authorized Organizational Representatives with existing eBRAP accounts should update their organizational profile to include the UEI prior to submission of the full application to Grant.gov (see below). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated in <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>. Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants: eBRAP allows an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the "Full Application Files" tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

Extramural Submission: The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package, with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form, may be modified.

Intramural DOD Submission: After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI(s) will receive email notification of the status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package, with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form, may be modified. The Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve the application package prior to the application verification deadline.

For All Submissions: Verify that subaward budget(s) with budget justification are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is 3 years.

Single PI Option: The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed \$750,000. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the government exceeding \$750,000 total costs or using an indirect cost rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.

Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI will not exceed \$750,000. 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. The combined budgeted direct costs approved by the government will not exceed \$750,000 or use an indirect cost rate exceeding each organization's negotiated rate.

- A separate award will be made to each PI's organization.
- The PIs are expected to be partners in the research, and direct cost funding should be divided accordingly unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

All direct and indirect costs of any subaward or contract must be included in the total 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 3 years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs must be requested for:

• Travel costs for the PI(s) to present project information or disseminate project results at one DOD Meeting (such as a PRARP In-Progress Review meeting, Military Health System Research Symposium, or other appropriate DOD-sponsored meeting) during the period of performance. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meeting will be held in

year two of the award in the National Capital Area. These travel costs are in addition to those allowed for annual scientific/technical meetings.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multidisciplinary collaborations.
- Costs associated with data and research resource sharing.
- Costs associated with the collaborative research approach (e.g., consultant costs, equitable participating training, capacity-building exercises).
- Career development costs for the Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI. Maximum allowable funding is \$30,000 per year in direct costs.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the required meeting described above. The intent of travel costs to scientific/technical meetings is to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY22 PRARP IIRA.

Must not be requested for:

• Clinical trial costs

For extramural awards with an intragovernmental component, direct transfer of funds from an extramural award recipient to a DOD or other federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Funding to intramural DOD and other federal agencies will be managed through a direct funds transfer. Intramural applicants are responsible for coordinating through their agency's procedures the use of contractual or assistance funding awards or other appropriate agreements to support extramural collaborators.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. For federal agencies or organizations collaborating with federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for detailed formatting guidelines.

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**, which are listed in decreasing order of importance:

Research Strategy and Feasibility

- To what extent the relevance of the proposed research and applicability of the anticipated findings adhere to the intent of the mechanism and at least one of the <u>FY22 PRARP IIRA</u> <u>Focus Areas</u> is addressed.
- How well the scientific rationale, relevant literature, preliminary and/or published data are sufficient to support the research project.
- o To what extent the research strategy, methods, and analyses are appropriate and feasible.
- To what extent the application demonstrates innovation and/or creativity.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problem areas and provides alternative methods and approaches.
- As applicable, how well the input from the community partner(s) is meaningfully integrated and incorporated into the planning, design, execution, and dissemination of the research.
- o If applicable, how well the study is designed to achieve the scientific objectives, and how well-justified the chosen animal model is over other models, including its relevance to human TBI and/or AD/ADRD, and the extent to which approaches are to validate or corroborate findings from animal studies to human data sources/populations.
- o If applicable, how well the application describes the proposed clinical research strategy and the endpoints to be measured.
- o If applicable, whether the application includes sufficient evidence to support successful recruitment of and access to human subjects, data, and samples.
- If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.
- Whether the regulatory strategy is adequate and details data will be appropriately reported and documented to support a regulatory filing with the FDA or international regulatory agency, if applicable.
- How well the statistical plan, including sample size projections and power analysis, is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study and all proposed correlative studies.
- How well the data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community, including the sharing of de-identified data with data repositories, are described.

• Impact

- To what extent a successful outcome will make important scientific advances and improve the understanding, prevention, and/or treatment AD, ADRD, and/or TBI health outcomes.
- If applicable, to what extent the community collaboration approach(es) employed impactful equitable participation and decision-making process(es).
- How likely it is that a successful outcome of the proposed research will impact the lives in individuals living with TBI and/or AD/ADRD.
- To what degree the proposed research, outcome(s), or product(s) will benefit military health

• Research Team

- o To what extent the background and experience of the PI, Partnering PI (if applicable), and other key personnel are appropriate to accomplish the proposed research project.
- o To what degree the levels of effort by the PI, Partnering PI (if applicable), and other key personnel are appropriate to ensure successful conduct of the proposed work.
- If applicable, to what extent the study team composition is able to provide military-relevant subject matter expertise to the proposed research.
- To what extent the community collaborative research partners are appropriate and integrated into the study, if applicable.
- Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: How well the partners' combined experience will better address the research question. Whether the Early-Career Investigator meets the <u>eligibility requirements</u>.

• Ethical Considerations (for research involving human subjects)

- Whether the strategy for the inclusion of diverse populations, including women and minorities, is appropriate to the objectives of the study.
- Whether the distribution of the proposed enrollment on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity is appropriate for the proposed research.
- Whether the population selected to participate in the study stands to benefit from the knowledge to be gained as a result of the proposed research.
- How the level of risk to human subjects is minimized and how the safety monitoring and reporting are appropriate for the level of risk.
- To what extent the proposed clinical research might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study.

 To what degree the process for seeking informed consent is appropriate and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.

In addition, the following **unscored criteria** will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

Budget

- Whether the **total** costs exceed the allowable total costs as published in the program announcement.
- Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- For the Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option, whether the funding is equitably distributed proportional to the project and each individual's effort.

Environment

o If applicable, to what degree the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.

• Application Presentation

• To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

II.E.1.b. 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 the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program and FY22 PRARP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Relative impact and innovation
 - Program portfolio composition
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism

II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

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

General, USAMRDC. 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 II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review. Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the PRARP will be provided to the PI(s) and posted on the CDMRP website.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

II.E.3. 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 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 Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

An applicant organization may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available in FAPIIS.

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.

II.E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated in <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>.

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

Awards supported with FY22 funds are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2023. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

After email notification of application review results through eBRAP, and if selected for funding, a representative from the USAMRAA will contact the Business Official authorized to negotiate on behalf of the PI's organization.

Pre-Award Costs: An institution of higher education, hospital, or non-profit 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds. 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.

Federal Government Organizations: Funding made to federal government organizations (to include intramural DOD organizations) will be executed through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

II.F.1.a. PI Changes and Award Transfers

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section B, for general information on organization or PI changes.

II.F.2. 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.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest <u>DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions</u>; the <u>USAMRAA</u> <u>General Research Terms and Conditions with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Non-Profit Organizations: Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions; and the <u>USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions with For-Profit Organizations</u>, for further information.</u>

New Requirement: Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources. The proposing entity must comply with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which requires that the PI, Partnering PI (if applicable), and all key personnel:

- Certify that the current and pending support provided on the application is current, accurate, and complete;
- Agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and
- Have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act.

False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (18 USC 1001).

II.F.3. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements. If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing USAMRAA-sponsored awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report, including quad charts with each, will be required.

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify if more frequent reporting is required.

Award Expiration Transition Plan: An Award Expiration Transition Plan must be submitted with the final progress report. Use the one-page template "Award Expiration Transition Plan," available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) under the "Progress Report Formats" section. The Award Expiration Transition Plan must outline if and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (*only required for clinical research studies*): Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on the

"Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in 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 FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with 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 (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

Questions related to program announcement content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the pre-application or intramural application submission through eBRAP should be directed to the eBRAP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to extramural application submission through Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. federal holidays). Note that the eBRAP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for "send me change notification emails" by following the link on the "Synopsis" page for the program announcement or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

II.H. Other Information

II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 702b. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 702.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of applications, the following administrative actions may occur:

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Budget is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An FY22 PRARP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. A list of the FY22 PRARP Programmatic Panel members can be found at https://cdmrp.army.mil/prarp/pscs/psc22.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).

- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY22, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.
- 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.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.
- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The application does not address at least one of the <u>FY22 PRARP IIRA Focus Areas</u>.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- For applications involving animal research, a project addressing Focus Area *Individual*, *caregiver*, *and family support* is proposed.
- If applicable, for applications proposing clinical research:
 - o Community Collaboration Plan (Attachment 6) is missing.
 - The application does not include a minimum of one collaborative community partner.
 - Clinical Research Strategy Statement (<u>Attachment 10</u>) is missing.
- Early-Career Investigator Partnering PI Option: Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.

II.H.2.d. 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 USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

Application Components	Action	Single or Initiating PI Completed	Partnering PI Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance (extramural submissions only)	Complete form as instructed	•	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) (intramural submissions only)	Complete tabs as instructed		
Attachments	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf" Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf" Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf" Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf" Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf" Community Collaboration Plan: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Collaboration.pdf" if applicable Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Impact.pdf" Relevance to Military Health: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "Military.pdf" Animal Research Plan: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "AnimRschPln.pdf" if applicable Clinical Research Strategy Statement: Upload as Attachment 10 with file name "Clinical.pdf" if applicable Partnership Statement: Upload as Attachment 11 with file name "Partnership.pdf" if applicable Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 12 with file		
	name "RequiredReps.pdf"		

Application Components	Action	Single or Initiating PI Completed	Partnering PI Completed
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military		
	Facility Budget Format: Upload as		
	Attachment 13 with file name		
	"MFBudget.pdf" if applicable		
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed		
	Attach PI Biographical Sketch		
	(Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the		
	appropriate field		
	Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending		
D 1 0 D 1 4 1	Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the		
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	appropriate field		
	Attach Biographical Sketch		
	(Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each		
	senior/key person to the appropriate field		
	Attach Previous/Current/Pending		
	(Support_LastName.pdf) for each		
	senior/key person to the appropriate field		
Research & Related	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget		
Budget (extramural	Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to		
submissions only)	the appropriate field		
Budget (intramural	Complete the Suggested DOD Military		
submissions only)	Budget Format, including justification		
Project/Performance	Complete form as instructed		
Site Location(s) Form			
Research & Related	Complete form as instructed		
Subaward Budget			
Attachment(s) Form			

APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACOS/R&D Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development

ACURO Animal Care and Use Review Office

AD Alzheimer's Disease

ADRD Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias

ARRIVE Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments

CAB Community Advisory Board

CBPR Community-Based Participatory Research

CDE Common Data Element

CDMRP Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

DHHS U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

DOD Department of Defense

DoDGARs Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations

DUNS Data Universal Numbering System

eBRAP Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal

EC Ethics Committee

ET Eastern Time

FAD Funding Authorization Document

FAPIIS Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System

FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration

FITBIR Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research

FY Fiscal Year

GUID Global Unique Identifier

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HRPO Human Research Protection Office

IACUC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IPR In-Progress Review

IRB Institutional Review Board
LEC Lived Experience Consultant

LOI Letter of Intent

M Million
MB Megabytes

MIPR Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

NIH National Institutes of Health

NINDS National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

ORCID Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.

ORP Office of Research Protections
PDF Portable Document Format

PHS Public Health Service
PI Principal Investigator

PII Personally Identifiable Information

PRARP Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research Program

SAM System for Award Management

SOW Statement of Work

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics

TBI Traumatic Brain Injury
UDE Unique Data Element
UEI Unique Entity Identifier
URL Uniform Resource Locator

USAMRAA U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

USAMRDC U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command

USC United States Code

VA Department of Veterans Affairs

APPENDIX 2: DOD AND VA WEBSITES

PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOD and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with DOD or VA investigators is also encouraged. Below is a list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about DOD and VA areas of research interest, ongoing research, or potential opportunities for collaboration.

Air Force Office of Scientific Research https://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/afosr/

Air Force Research Laboratory https://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute https://afrri.usuhs.edu/home

Combat Casualty Care Research Program https://ccc.amedd.army.mil

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

https://cdmrp.army.mil

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency https://www.darpa.mil/

Defense Health Agency https://health.mil/dha

Defense Suicide Prevention Office https://www.dspo.mil/

Defense Technical Information Center

https://www.dtic.mil

Defense Threat Reduction Agency https://www.dtra.mil/

Military Health System Research Symposium https://mhsrs.amedd.army.mil/SitePages/

Home.aspx

Military Infectious Diseases Research Program https://midrp.amedd.army.mil

Military Operational Medicine Research Program

https://momrp.amedd.army.mil

Naval Health Research Center

https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Research-Center/Naval-Health-Research-

Center/

Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery https://www.med.navy.mil/

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-Marine-Corps-Public-Health-Center

Naval Medical Research Center

https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-

Research-Center/

Office of Naval Research https://www.onr.navy.mil/

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics https://www.acq.osd.mil/

Psychological Health Center of Excellence https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Centers-of-Excellence/Psychological-Health-Center-of-Excellence

Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center https://www.tatrc.org/

Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Centers-of-Excellence/Traumatic-Brain-Injury-Center-of-Excellence

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

https://www.usuhs.edu/research

U.S. Air Force 59th Medical Wing https://www.59mdw.af.mil/

U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory

https://www.usaarl.army.mil/

U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command https://www.army.mil/ccdc

U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research https://usaisr.amedd.army.mil

U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity

https://www.usammda.army.mil/

U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command https://mrdc.amedd.army.mil/

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases https://www.usamriid.army.mil/

U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine https://www.usariem.army.mil/

U.S. Army Research Laboratory https://www.arl.army.mil

U.S. Army Sharp, Ready and Resilient Directorate https://www.armyresilience.army.mil/sharp/i

U.S. Department of Defense Blast Injury Research Program https://blastinjuryresearch.amedd.army.mil/

ndex.html

U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office https://www.sapr.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development https://www.research.va.gov

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory https://www.nrl.navy.mil

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research https://www.wrair.army.mil

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE CONSENT LANGUAGE

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR DISCUSSION OF FITBIR IN INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENTS

Data from this study may be submitted to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury (FITBIR) informatics system. FITBIR is a computer system run by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that allows researchers studying traumatic brain injury to collect and share information with each other. With an easier way to share, researchers hope to learn new and important things about traumatic brain injury more quickly than before.

During and after the study, the researchers will send information about your or your child's health and behavior, and in some cases your or your child's genetic information, to FITBIR. However, before they send it to FITBIR, they will remove information such as name, date of birth, and city of birth, and replace that information with a code number. Other researchers nationwide can then file an application to obtain access to your study data for research purposes. Experts who know how to protect health and science information will look at every request carefully to minimize risks to your privacy.

You or your child may not benefit directly from allowing your information to be shared with FITBIR. The information provided to FITBIR might help researchers around the world treat future children and adults with traumatic brain injury so that they have better outcomes. FITBIR will report on its website about the different studies that researchers are conducting using FITBIR data; however, FITBIR will not be able to contact you or your child individually about specific studies.

You may decide now or later that you do not want to share your or your child's information using FITBIR. If so, contact the researchers who conducted this study, and they will tell FITBIR, which can stop sharing the research information. However, FITBIR cannot take back information that was shared before you changed your mind. If you would like more information about FITBIR, this is available online at https://fitbir.nih.gov.

LANGUAGE TO BE USED TO DESCRIBE CERTIFICATES OF CONFIDENTIALITY (THREE VERSIONS)

1. Language for new studies that will be consenting subjects for the first time or for ongoing studies that will be re-consenting subjects because they are applying for a Certificate of Confidentiality for the study

To help protect you and/or your child's privacy the investigators of this study [have applied for]/[have obtained] a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), an agency of the U.S. government.

With this Certificate, we, the investigators, cannot be forced (e.g., by court subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings. Be aware that disclosure of your and/or your child's identity may be found necessary, however, upon request of DHHS for the purpose of audit or evaluation.

You should also understand that a Confidentiality Certificate does not prevent you or a member of your family from **voluntarily** releasing information about your child, yourself, or your involvement in this research. Note, however, that if an insurer or employer learns about your and/or your child's participation and obtains your consent to receive research information, then the investigator may not use the Certificate of Confidentiality to withhold this information. This means that you and your family must also actively protect your own privacy.

We are also asking your consent to provide research data and related findings to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) informatics system. FITBIR is a biomedical informatics system and data repository, created by the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to assist biomedical researchers working to develop a better understanding of traumatic brain injury and/or to develop more effective methods to diagnose, treat and prevent traumatic brain injuries.

Data entered into FITBIR will be kept confidential, with FITBIR being designed for access by qualified researchers only. Data provided to FITBIR as part of your and/or your child's participation in this research study will be de-identified—i.e., your and/or your child's name will be separated from the data. However, since this institution and others submitting data to FITBIR will retain individually identifying information related to the data they provide, NIH has issued a legislatively authorized "Certificate of Confidentiality" that will help FITBIR and participating institutions avoid being forced to disclose information that may identify you as a FITBIR participant in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings.

Finally, you should understand that we, the investigators, are not prevented from taking steps, including reporting to authorities, to prevent serious harm to you, your child, or others. With respect to you and/or your child's participation in FITBIR, we do not plan to make voluntary disclosures except if there were severe threats to the public health or safety.

2. Language for studies that already have a Certificate and will be re-consenting subjects about FITBIR

With your consent, this study will collect and provide research data and related findings to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) informatics system. FITBIR is a biomedical informatics system and data repository created by the Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health (NIH)—part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), an agency of the U.S. government—to assist biomedical researchers working to develop a better understanding of traumatic brain injury and/or to develop more effective methods to diagnose, treat and prevent traumatic brain injury.

Data entered into FITBIR will be kept confidential, with FITBIR being designed for access by researchers only. Data provided to FITBIR as part of your and/or your child's participation in this research study will be de-identified—i.e., your and/or your child's name will be separated from the data. However, since this institution and others submitting data to FITBIR will retain individually identifying information related to the data they provide, NIH has issued a legislatively authorized "Certificate of Confidentiality" to help FITBIR and participating institutions avoid being forced (e.g., by court subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you as a FITBIR participant in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative,

legislative, or other proceedings. Be aware that disclosure of your and/or your child's identity may be found necessary, however, upon request of DHHS for the purpose of audit or evaluation.

As you know, we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from NIH that enables us to keep the individually identifiable information that you provide as a research subject private. With this Certificate, we, the investigators, cannot be forced to disclose research information collected in this study that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings. This protection will continue to protect your and/or your child's privacy, even though we are providing de-identified data to FITBIR.

You should also understand that a Confidentiality Certificate does not prevent you or a member of your family from **voluntarily** releasing information about your child, yourself, or your involvement in this research. Note, however, that if an insurer or employer learns about you and/or your child's participation, and obtains your consent to receive research information, then the investigator may not use the Certificate of Confidentiality to withhold this information. This means that you and your family must also actively protect your own privacy.

Finally, as we explained when we told you about this privacy protection before, we, the investigators, are not prevented from taking steps, including reporting to authorities, to prevent serious harm to you and/or your child or others based on information they learn during this study. With respect to you and/or your child's participation in FITBIR, we do not plan to make voluntary disclosures except if there were severe threats to the public health or safety.

3. Language for studies without a Certificate of their own

With your consent, this study will collect and provide research data and related findings to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) informatics system. FITBIR is a biomedical informatics system and data repository created by the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), an agency of the U.S. government—to assist biomedical researchers working to develop a better understanding of traumatic brain injury and/or to develop more effective methods to diagnose, treat and prevent traumatic brain injury.

Data entered into FITBIR will be kept confidential, with FITBIR being designed for access by researchers only. Data provided to FITBIR as part of your or your child's participation in this research study will be de-identified—i.e., your and/or your child's name(s) will be separated from the data. However, since this institution and others submitting data to FITBIR will still retain individually identifying information related to the data provided, the NIH has issued a legislatively authorized "Certificate of Confidentiality" to help FITBIR and participating institutions avoid being forced (e.g., by court subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you as an FITBIR participant in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings.

Finally, you should understand that we, the investigators, are also permitted to make voluntary disclosures with respect to information that is submitted to FITBIR, but do not plan to do so except in the event of severe threats to public health or safety. If, as part of your participation in this research study itself, we learn about serious harm to you, your child or someone else, we would take steps to prevent that harm including notifying appropriate authorities like the police or child welfare.