



**Program Announcement for the Department of Defense
Defense Health Program**

Breast Cancer Research Program Era of Hope Scholar Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942525BCRPEOHS

Pre-Application Due: June 13, 2025

Application Due: June 27, 2025

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version [CD25_01](#).

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Before You Begin

- **Active SAM.gov, eBRAP.org, and Grants.gov registrations are required for application submission.** User registration for each of these websites can take several weeks or longer. Each applicant must ensure their registrations are active and up to date prior to application preparation.
- **Read the funding opportunity announcement in the order it is written before beginning to prepare application materials.** It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine whether the proposed research meets the intent of the funding opportunity and that all parties meet eligibility requirements.

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507

help@eBRAP.org

*Questions regarding funding
opportunity submission
requirements,
as well as technical assistance
related to pre-application or
intramural application submission.*

Grants.gov Contact Center

800-518-4726

International: 1-606-545-5035

support@grants.gov

*Questions regarding
Grants.gov registration
and Workspace.*

This document uses internal links; you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + left arrow key (Windows) or command + left arrow key (Macintosh) on your keyboard.

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1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: Supports individuals who are early in their careers with significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. As the intent of the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals rather than projects, the central features of the award are the demonstrated ability of the Principal Investigator (PI) to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the innovative contributions that they can make toward ending breast cancer. PIs should be exceptionally talented scientists that are among “the best and the brightest” in their field(s), have demonstrated experience forming effective partnerships and collaborations, and exhibit strong potential for future leadership in breast cancer research. Applications must address one of the FY25 BCRP overarching challenges, unless adequate justification for exception is provided.

Distinctive Features:

- The PI must commit a minimum of 25% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award.
- The research team must include two or more breast cancer consumer advocates.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot approximately \$10.85 million (M) to fund two Era of Hope Scholar Award applications with direct cost caps of \$3.50M. The maximum period of performance is four years. It is anticipated that the award made from this FY25 funding opportunity will be funded with FY25 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2031. An award supported with FY25 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2026.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), June 13, 2025
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, June 27, 2025
- **Confidential Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 2, 2025
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 2, 2025
- **Peer Review:** September 2025
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 1:** November 2025
- **Invitation for Oral Presentation:** December 2025
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 2:** January 2026

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942525BCRPEOHS

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

Extramural and intramural organizations are eligible to apply, ***including foreign and domestic organizations, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and public or private entities.***

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

Intramural DOD Organization: Refers specifically to DOD organizations, including DOD laboratories, DOD military treatment facilities, and/or DOD activities embedded within a civilian medical center.

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

The PI must be an independent and non-mentored investigator within six years of their last training position as of the application submission deadline (excluding time spent on family medical leave). The PI may articulate lapses in research time or appointments denoted in the biographical sketch within the application. Examples of training positions include postdoctoral fellowship, medical residency, and clinical fellowship. Postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows (including residents and interns), and other researchers currently in training positions are not eligible.

The PI must commit a minimum of 25% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award.

Individuals affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named as PI regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status.

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

Awards are made to eligible ***organizations***, not to individuals. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional recipient qualification requirements.

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3. Program Description

The U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) is the program office managing this FY25 funding opportunity as part of the BCRP. Congress initiated the BCRP in FY92 to support innovative, high-impact research, with a mission of ending breast cancer for Service Members and their Families, Veterans, and the general public. Appropriations for the BCRP from FY92 through FY24 totaled \$4.39 billion. The FY25 appropriation is \$130M.

The BCRP challenges the scientific community to design research that will address the urgency of ending breast cancer. Specifically, the BCRP seeks to accelerate high-impact research with clinical relevance, encourage innovation and stimulate creativity, and facilitate productive collaborations.

The BCRP prepared a brief overview, [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#), that describes what is currently known about the most pertinent topics that are consistent with the BCRP's mission of ending breast cancer. Considering the current breast cancer landscape and the program's mission, the BCRP seeks to invest in research that addresses the following overarching challenges:

- Prevent breast cancer (primary prevention)
- Identify determinants of breast cancer initiation, risk, or susceptibility
- Distinguish deadly from non-deadly breast cancers
- Conquer the problems of overdiagnosis and overtreatment
- Identify what drives breast cancer growth; determine how to stop it
- Identify why some breast cancers become metastatic
- Determine why/how breast cancer cells lie dormant for years and then re-emerge; determine how to prevent lethal recurrence
- Revolutionize treatment regimens by replacing them with ones that are more effective, less toxic, and impact survival
- Eliminate the mortality associated with metastatic breast cancer

3.1. Intent of the Era of Hope Scholar Award

The FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award supports individuals early in their careers who have demonstrated significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. These individuals should be exceptionally talented scientists who have shown that they are the “best and brightest” in their field(s) through extraordinary creativity, vision, innovation, and productivity. They should have demonstrated experience in forming effective partnerships and collaborations and must exhibit strong potential for future leadership in breast cancer research.

As the intent of the FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals rather than projects, the central features of the award are the demonstrated ability of the individual named as the PI in the application (1) to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and (2) to make innovative and meaningful contributions

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toward ending breast cancer. The PI's vision should challenge current dogma and demonstrate an ability to look beyond tradition and convention.

3.1.1. Key Elements for the Era of Hope Scholar Award

Experience in breast cancer research is not required; however, the application must focus on breast cancer, and the PI must commit a minimum of 25% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award. The BCRP encourages individuals from other disciplines who apply novel concepts to breast cancer to submit.

Overarching Challenges: Considering the current breast cancer landscape and the BCRP's mission, all applications must address at least one of the above [overarching challenges](#) unless adequate justification for exception is provided.¹ Applicants are strongly urged to read and consider [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#) before preparing their applications.

Personnel: The PI must assemble a research team that will provide the necessary expertise and collaborative efforts toward accomplishing the research goals.

Consumer Advocates: The PI's research team must include two or more breast cancer consumer advocates. As lay representatives, the consumer advocates must be individuals who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and are actively involved in a breast cancer advocacy organization. Their role should be independent of their employment, and they cannot be employees of any organizations participating in the application. The consumer advocates should have a high level of knowledge of current breast cancer issues and the appropriate background and/or training in breast cancer research to contribute to the project. Their role should be focused on providing objective input throughout the research effort and its potential impact for individuals with, or at risk for, breast cancer.

3.1.2. Other Important Considerations for the Era of Hope Scholar Award

An ***invited*** oral presentation is a requirement for application review of FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award projects, as described in [Section 4.4](#).

Clinical trials are allowed.

A clinical trial is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46.102 (45 CFR 46.102) as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes. An ***intervention*** includes both physical procedures by which information or biospecimens are gathered and manipulations of the subject or the subject's environment that are performed for research purposes.

Studies that do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention are not considered clinical trials.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research. Clinical research encompasses research with

¹ Alternatively, with adequate justification, applications may identify and address another overarching challenge related to The Breast Cancer Landscape. Justification must be provided in the application.

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human data, human specimens, and/or interaction with human subjects. Clinical research is observational in nature and includes:

(1) Research conducted with human subjects and/or material of human origin such as data, specimens, and cognitive phenomena for which an investigator (or co-investigator) does **not** seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention. Research meeting this definition may include but is not limited to: (a) mechanisms of human disease; (b) diagnostic or detection studies (e.g., biomarker or imaging); (c) health disparity studies; and (d) development of new technologies.

(2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies that do **not** seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention.

(3) Outcomes research and health services research that do not fit under the definition of clinical trial.

Excluded from the definition of clinical research are in vitro studies that utilize human data or specimens that cannot be linked to a living individual and meet the requirements for exemption under [§46.104\(d\)\(4\) of the Common Rule](#).

The proposed research must be relevant to Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and/or the American public. Applications from investigators within the DOD and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the DOD, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure, and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families.

3.2. CDMRP-Wide Encouragements

The following encouragements are broadly applicable across many CDMRP programs, including the BCRP. Investigators are encouraged to consider addressing these areas in their applications if doing so is appropriate for their line of research and meets the intent of this funding opportunity.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, CDMRP encourages applicants to review the [recommendations](#) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY25 BCRP priorities.

Innovative research involving nuclear medicine and related techniques to support early diagnosis, more effective treatment, and improved health outcomes of Service Members and their Families is encouraged. Such research could improve diagnostic and targeted treatment capabilities through noninvasive techniques and may drive the development of precision imaging and advanced targeted therapies.

3.3. Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for awards made under the program announcement will be grants (31 USC 6304).

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3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **four** years.

Cost Cap: The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$3.5M**. 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.

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

The appropriateness of the budget for the proposed research will be assessed during peer review.

Direct Cost Restrictions: For this award mechanism, direct costs:

Must be requested for:

- Costs associated with meetings described in [Section 8.3](#).

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- If applicable, research subject compensation and reimbursement for study-related out-of-pocket costs (e.g., travel, lodging, parking, costs associated with caregiving, resources/equipment to enable participation).
- Costs for three investigators to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year, in addition to the required meetings described in [Section 8.3](#). The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award.

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

Application submission is a two-step process requiring both a **pre-application** submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal ([eBRAP](#)) and a **full application** submitted through eBRAP or Grants.gov. Depending on the submission portal, certain aspects of the application will differ.

Intramural DOD organizations submitting a full application should follow instructions for submission through eBRAP.

Extramural organizations submitting a full application must follow instructions for submission through Grants.gov.

4.2. Step 1: Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the overarching challenge(s) under which the application will be submitted.

List of Individuals Providing Confidential Letters of Recommendation: Enter contact information for three individuals who will provide letters of recommendation. Each individual will receive an email generated from eBRAP containing specific instructions on how to upload their letter.

4.3. Step 2: Full Application Components

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. See [Appendix 1](#) for a checklist of the full application components.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form (*Grants.gov Submissions only*): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(a), for detailed information.

IMPORTANT: When completing the SF424 R&R, enter the eBRAP log number assigned during pre-application submission into Block 4a – Federal Identifier.

(b) Attachments:

Each attachment of 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 2.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (six-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 that expands the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

The Project Narrative should clearly state the PI’s ***vision for ending breast cancer*** and ***why this application meets the objectives of this unique program description***. As

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the intent of the FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals, rather than projects, the central features of the award are the demonstrated ability of the PI to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the innovative and meaningful contributions that the named PI can make toward ending breast cancer.

The following items should be addressed specifically by the PI:

- **Vision:** Clearly state your vision of the future of breast cancer. Describe your views of the major problems or barriers in breast cancer that must be solved to accelerate progress toward ending breast cancer. Describe what you foresee as the critical approaches that will most likely produce breakthrough thinking and discoveries to ultimately solve the major problems or barriers.
- **Accomplishments:** Describe what you have accomplished that demonstrates your extraordinary creativity, vision, and productivity. Describe how these accomplishments have had an impact beyond your own laboratory or research setting into the broader scientific, clinical, and/or patient community.
- **Leadership:** Describe the experience you have that suggests a strong potential for leadership in breast cancer. Describe your plans for leadership as an Era of Hope Scholar within the broader breast cancer community, beyond your own laboratory or institution.
- **Research Goals:** State explicitly which [FY25 BCRP Overarching Challenge\(s\)](#) your research will address. If addressing another overarching challenge related to [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#), provide justification. Without describing specific research methodology, list the key research goals you propose to pursue. Describe what you aim to accomplish during the award period. Explain why/how your goals are innovative and distinct within your field and within the broader field of breast cancer research. Briefly describe how your proposed research is relevant to Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.
- **Research Barriers:** Aside from funding, what barriers exist that could inhibit your research goals, and what strategies will you employ to overcome these barriers?
- **Commitment:** Explain how you will commit a minimum of 25% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award.
- **Research Environment:** Describe the environment in which you work. How will this environment facilitate your development as an innovator and leader in breast cancer research?
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf”.** Start each document on a new page. 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.

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

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 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 Support: Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI meets [eligibility criteria](#) and the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic or administrative responsibilities and allowed to pursue their own goals. If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOD collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOD resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.

Consumer Advocate Letters of Commitment: Provide a letter signed by each consumer advocate confirming their commitment to participate in the proposed project.

Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.

Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resources to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe how data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities. Provide a milestone plan for data/results dissemination, including when data and resources will be made available to other users. Refer to the CDMRP [Policy on Data & Resources Sharing](#) for more information about the CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

- **Attachment 3: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Refer to eBRAP for the ["Suggested SOW Format"](#).

For the FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award, refer to the ["Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work"](#) document for guidance on preparing the SOW.

- **Attachment 4: Research Team Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Team.pdf".** Describe how the PI's and research team's combined backgrounds and breast cancer-related technical and administrative expertise will contribute to accomplishing the research goals and/or their ability to manage this award. Provide the names of at least two consumer advocates and their affiliation with a breast cancer advocacy

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organization(s). Describe how the consumer advocates' knowledge of current breast cancer issues and how their background and/or training in breast cancer research will contribute to the proposed research. Explain how the consumer advocates will be integrated into the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the research.

- **Attachment 5: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the ["Required Representations"](#) document that is available on eBRAP. For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B, Representations.
- **Attachment 6: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (*if applicable*): Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".** If an [intramural DOD organization](#) will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the ["Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget"](#) form that is available for download on eBRAP. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(c), for instructions and considerations.
- (c) **Research & Related Personal Data:** For detailed instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(a); and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(a).
- (d) **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** Complete a Profile for each person who will contribute in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of the proposed research project. A biographical sketch and full description of each PI and senior/key person's current/pending support information must be attached to the individual's profile in the Attach Biographical Sketch and Attach Current & Pending Support fields, respectively. ***Biographical sketches or equivalent must be submitted for the breast cancer consumer advocates.***
 - **Biographical Sketch: Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf".**

For the PI biographical sketch, highlight any products, patents, licenses, publications in high-impact journals, presentations at international scientific meetings, and/or awards or other forms of acknowledgement for the PI's achievements.

The CDMRP staff and reviewers use biosketches to evaluate whether research teams are equipped with the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed research.

Biosketches must conform to the federal-wide Biographical Sketch Common Form. To prepare their biosketch attachments, applicants may use the instructions provided in the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(b), for Grants.gov submissions; or General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(b), for eBRAP submissions; or may use a pdf form created in [SciENCy](#) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).
 - **Current/Pending Support: Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".**

Current and pending (other) support information are used to assess the capacity or any [conflicts of commitment](#) that may impact the ability of the individual to carry out the research effort as proposed. The information also helps to assess any potential scientific and budgetary overlap/duplication with the project being proposed.

Current and pending support documentation must conform to the federal wide format. To prepare their Current and Pending Support form, applicants may use the instructions provided in the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(b), for Grants.gov submissions; or General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(b), for eBRAP submissions; or may use a pdf form created in [SciENCy](#) for NIH or NSF.

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- (e) Research & Related Budget:** For detailed instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(c); and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(c).
 - **Budget Justification (no page limit):** For instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(c), Section L; and for eBRAP submissions, refer to General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(c), Budget Justification Instructions.
- (f) Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** For detailed instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(d); and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(d).
- (g) Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable, Grants.gov Submissions only):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(e), for detailed information.
 - **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form and upload it through Grants.gov.
 - **Intramural DOD Subaward:** Complete a separate ["Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form"](#) for each intramural DOD subaward. Combine them into a single document then upload the file to Grants.gov as an attachment named "IGBudget.pdf".

4.4. Other Application Elements

In addition to the complete application package, FY25 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award applications also require the following components:

- **Three Confidential Letters of Recommendations (two-page limit per letter suggested):**

Submission of **three confidential letters of recommendation** from the three individuals named during the pre-application process is required. Individuals should upload the signed letters, prepared on letterhead, as PDF files to eBRAP by 5:00 p.m. ET on the [application verification deadline](#). The PI should monitor letter receipt in eBRAP by viewing the status in the "Pre-Application Files" tab of the pre-application. The PI will not be able to view the letters.

Each letter should describe the PI's unique qualifications and accomplishments that highlight their potential for success in pursuing highly innovative research avenues. Specifically, each letter should offer the writer's perspective on the PI's:

 - Creative and original accomplishments.
 - Likelihood of continued innovation and productivity.
 - Potential for leadership in the breast cancer community.
 - Likelihood of establishing a successful career at the forefront of breast cancer research.
 - Ability to manage the technical and administrative aspects of this award.
- **Oral Presentation:** PIs named in applications selected for Programmatic Review, Stage 2, will be required to give an oral presentation (see [Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#)). This presentation will take place in the National Capital Area or virtually, at the discretion of the government, and is tentatively scheduled for January 2026.

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Each presentation will include a 10-minute talk by the PI, followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer session with Programmatic Panel members. The questions below will be the topics for discussion during the PI's talk and the question-and-answer session. Invited PIs must prepare a presentation consisting of no more than four slides that specifically address the following four questions (one question per slide):

- What conceptual or intellectual barriers do you consider the most urgent to overcome in order to end breast cancer?
- How does your vision for breast cancer research challenge current dogma within the broader field of breast cancer research?
- Without addressing any specifics of the project, how do you envision your research contributing to the next leap forward toward ending breast cancer?
- How will you use your leadership skills to develop your vision for preventing and treating breast cancer beyond your laboratory and institution?
- If recommended for funding, applicants will be requested to provide Technical and Lay abstracts prior to award.
- If recommended for funding, a data management plan compliant with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instruction 3200.12](#) will be requested.
- The government reserves the right to request a revised budget, budget justification and/or additional information for applications recommended for funding.

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

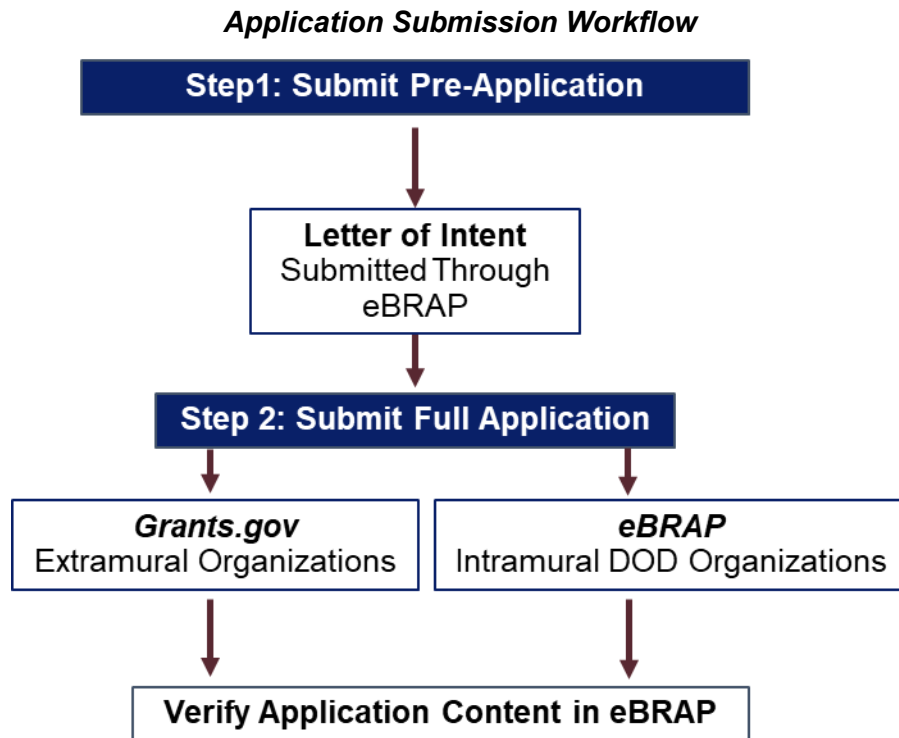
Download the application package components for HT942525BCRPEOHS from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in the System for Award Management (SAM), [SAM.gov](#), and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the unique entity identifier generated by the SAM in applications to this funding opportunity and maintain an active registration in the SAM at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration. More information regarding SAM registration can be found in the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.

5.3. Submission Instructions

The CDMRP uses two portal systems to accept pre- and full application submissions.



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP.

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During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during [the full application submission process](#). The eBRAP log number, application title, 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.

No change in PI will be allowed after the pre-application deadline. If any other changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding pre-application submission.

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

Grants.gov Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through the Grants.gov Workspace. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding Grants.gov submissions.

eBRAP Submissions: Only intramural DOD organizations may submit full applications through eBRAP. Full applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal organizations, received through eBRAP will be withdrawn. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding eBRAP submissions.

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of submission portal, once the full application is submitted, it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP; the transmission to eBRAP may take up to 48 hours. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. Verification is strongly recommended but not required. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in the “Full Application Files” tab in eBRAP. However, eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review all application components and ensure the proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted through the appropriate portal prior to the full application submission deadline.*** Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the end of the [application verification period](#). The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and full application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated in this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in

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application rejection. ***The USAMRAA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant.***

All submission dates and times are indicated in [Section 1, Basic Information](#) above.

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

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6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

Submitting applications that propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and funding cycle is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

While it is allowable to propose similar research projects to different programs within CDMRP or to other organizations, duplication of funding or accepting funding from more than one source for the same research is prohibited. See the [CDMRP's full position on research duplication](#).

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, Section B.

Members of the FY25 BCRP Programmatic Panel should not be involved in any pre-application or full application, including but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation, including personal letters of support/recommendation for the research and/or PI. Programmatic panel members **may** provide [letters](#) to confirm [PI eligibility](#) and access to laboratory space, equipment, and other resources necessary for the project if that is part of their regular roles and responsibilities (e.g., as Department Chair). **A list of the [FY25 BCRP Programmatic Panel members](#) can be found on the CDMRP website.**

Additional restrictions and associated administrative responses are outlined in [Section 9.2, Administrative Actions](#).

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

Pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be screened.

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

To determine technical merit, all applications will be individually evaluated according to the following **scored criteria** (the Principal Investigator and Research Goals criteria are of equal importance, followed by the Research Team and Environment):

- **Principal Investigator**
 - How the PI's record of accomplishments demonstrates their extraordinary creativity, vision and productivity.
 - How the application provides sufficient evidence that suggest that the PI will become a leader in breast cancer, including a plan for leadership within the broader breast cancer community, beyond their own laboratory or institution.
 - How the PI's accomplishments have had an impact beyond their own laboratory or research setting into the broader scientific, clinical and/or patient communities.

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- Whether any products, patents, or licenses have resulted from the PI's work.
- Whether the PI work has resulted in publications in high-impact journals and/or presentations at international scientific meetings.
- Whether the PI has received awards or other forms of acknowledgment for their achievements.
- Whether the PI has the necessary technical and administrative expertise and/or ability to manage this award.
- Whether the application demonstrates that the PI will commit a minimum of 25% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award.
- **Research Goals**
 - How well the application clearly states the PI's vision for the future of breast cancer.
 - To what degree the proposed research will likely produce a breakthrough and discoveries to ultimately solve the major problems or identified barriers.
 - To what degree the proposed research goals suggest innovative, creative thinking that will make progress toward ending breast cancer.
 - To what degree the proposed research goals are distinct within the PI's field and within the broader field of breast cancer research.
 - How well the application identifies barriers that could inhibit the research goals and proposes appropriate strategies to overcome these barriers.
 - Whether the application explicitly states which overarching challenge(s) the research will address.
- **Research Team and Environment**
 - How well the combined backgrounds and breast cancer-related technical and administrative expertise of the research team will contribute to accomplishing the research goals and/or ability to manage this award.
 - Whether two or more consumer advocates are named in the application and meet the criteria according to the program announcement.
 - How well the consumer advocates are integrated into the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of the research.
 - How well the consumer advocates' knowledge of current breast cancer issues, and how their background and/or training in breast cancer research, will contribute to the proposed research.
 - Whether the environment will facilitate the PI's growth as an emerging innovator and leader.
 - Whether appropriate documentation of institutional support is provided that reflects the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic or administrative responsibilities and allowed to pursue their goals.
 - If applicable, to what degree the Intellectual and Material Property Plan is appropriate.

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In addition, the following criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application, but will not be individually scored and are therefore termed **unscored criteria**:

- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. 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 priorities of the FY25 BCRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - **Stage 1:** During the first stage of programmatic review, applications will be selected for Stage 2 using the following criteria:
 - Relative innovation
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - **Stage 2 (Oral Presentation):** During the second stage of programmatic review, the following criteria will be used:
 - Understanding of barriers in breast cancer
 - Articulation of a realistic vision with a high potential to impact breast cancer
 - Leadership skills to develop a vision for preventing and treating breast cancer beyond the PI's laboratory and institution

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

There is no review and selection process for pre-applications submitted to this funding opportunity. ***The CDMRP will NOT provide an invitation to submit a full application after pre-application submission.*** Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full application components concurrently and submit a full application AFTER successful submission of the pre-application.

6.3.2. Full Application

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 programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General,

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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 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#).*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the [CDMRP website](#).

Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program, the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by peer 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.

6.4. Risk, 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 SAM.

An applicant organization may review SAM and submit comments on any information currently available about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered. 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.

In accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DoD must be evaluated for affiliations with foreign entities. All applicant organizations must disclose foreign affiliations of all key personnel named on applications. Failure to disclose foreign affiliations of key personnel shall lead to withdrawal of recommendations to fund applications. Applicant organizations may be presented with an opportunity to mitigate identified risks, particularly those pertaining to influence from foreign entities specified in law. Implementation of mitigation discussions and utilization of the [OUSD R&E Decision Matrix](#) must decrease risk of foreign influence in accordance with the above-mentioned laws and guidance prior to award.

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7. Federal Award Notices

For each full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within six weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the BCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website.

If an application is recommended for funding, after the email notification is posted to eBRAP, a government representative will contact the person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the recipient organization.

Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds to an extramural organization. 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 (i.e., assistance agreement).***

Intra-DOD obligations of funding will be made according to the terms of a negotiated Inter-Agency Agreement and managed by a CDMRP Science Officer.

Funding obligated to ***intragovernmental and intramural DOD organizations*** will be sent through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), Funding Authorization Document (FAD), or Direct Charge Work Breakdown Structure processes. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intragovernmental and intramural DOD investigators and collaborators must coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

An 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. For additional information about pre-award costs for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section I.D, Pre-Award Costs section; and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section 1.D, Pre-Award Costs section.

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8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. 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 7, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest [DoD R&D Terms and Conditions](#) and the [USAMRAA Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D Terms and Conditions](#) for further information.

If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing CDMRP awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

Funded clinical trials are required to post a copy of the informed consent form used to enroll subjects on a publicly available federal website in accordance with federal requirements described in 32 CFR 219. Additionally, the CDMRP requires all funded [Applicable Clinical Trials](#) to register on [ClinicalTrials.gov](#). Additional data reporting requirements will also apply to Applicable Clinical Trials supported under this funding opportunity. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, Section F, for further details.

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal and DOD animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO) prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board, or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for additional information.

8.2. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports as well as a final technical progress report will be required. For applications proposing a clinical trial, Quarterly and Annual Technical Reports, as well as a final technical report, will be required. Annual and final technical reports must be prepared in accordance with the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify whether additional and/or more frequent reporting is required.

Award Expiration Transition Plan: An [Award Expiration Transition Plan](#), using the template available on eBRAP, must be submitted with the final progress report.

Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Reporting (***Required for research proposing clinical research and/or clinical trials***): Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The [PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report](#) is available on eBRAP.

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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 SAM about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent five-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 8, Section B).

8.3. Additional Requirements

The PI is required to attend a DOD meeting during years 1 and 3. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meetings will be held in the National Capital Area.

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The organizational transfer of an award supporting a clinical trial is strongly discouraged and, in most cases, will not be allowed. Approval of a transfer request will be on a case-by-case basis.

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 7, Section H, for general information on organization or PI changes.

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9. Other Information

9.1. 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 CD25_01c. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code CD25_01.

9.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of full applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

9.2.1. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the full application:

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

9.2.2. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to review for all documents.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

9.2.3. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the full application:

- A member of the FY25 BCRP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes.
- Applications that include names of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For FY25, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found on the [CDMRP website](#).
- 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.
- Applications submitted by a federal government organization (including an intramural DOD organization) if: (1) the organization cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY25 funds; and/or (2) the federal government organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.

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- 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.
- Application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and funding cycle.
- The application does not address at least one of the [FY25 BCRP Overarching Challenges](#) and did not provide adequate justification for exception.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- Application fails to include two consumer advocates on the research team as required by this program announcement.
- Application does not include three confidential letters of recommendation.

9.2.4. 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.

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Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance (<i>Grants.gov submissions only</i>)	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) (<i>eBRAP submissions only</i>)	☐
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”	☐
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as “Support.pdf”	☐
Statement of Work – Attachment 3, upload as “SOW.pdf”	☐
Research Team Statement – Attachment 4, upload as “Team.pdf”	☐
Representations (<i>Grants.gov submissions only</i>) – Attachment 5, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (<i>if applicable</i>) – Attachment 6, upload as “IGBudget.pdf”	☐
Research & Related Personal Data	☐
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch for PI and Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐
Attach Current and Pending (Other) Support for PI and Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐
Budget Include Budget Justification	☐
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (<i>if applicable</i>)	☐
Additional Application Components	
Confidential Letters of Recommendation	☐

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

BCRP	Breast Cancer Research Program
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EOHS	Era of Hope Scholar Award
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NSF	U.S. National Science Foundation
OHARO	Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (previously Office of Research Protections)
OUUSD R&E	Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SAM	System for Award Management
SciENCv	Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae
SOW	Statement of Work
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	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs