

# **I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**Program Announcement for the Department of Defense**

**Defense Health Program**

**Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**

**Breast Cancer Research Program**

**Innovator Award**

**Announcement Type: Initial**

**Funding Opportunity Number: HT9425-23-BCRP-INNOV-2**

**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 29, 2023
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** August 2, 2023
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, September 26, 2023
- **Confidential Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 29, 2023
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 29, 2023
- **Peer Review:** November 2023
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 1:** January 2024
- **Invitation for Oral Presentation:** February 2024
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 2:** February 2024

*This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 803. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) funding opportunity announcement by selecting the “Package” tab, clicking “Preview,” and then selecting “Download Instructions.”*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
II.A.	Program Description.....	3
II.A.1.	The Breast Cancer Landscape .....	3
II.A.2.	FY23 BCRP Overarching Challenges .....	3
II.B.	Award Information .....	4
II.C.	Eligibility Information.....	7
II.C.1.	Eligible Applicants .....	7
II.C.2.	Cost Sharing.....	8
II.C.3.	Other .....	8
II.D.	Application and Submission Information.....	8
II.D.1.	eBRAP and Grants.gov .....	9
II.D.2.	Content and Form of the Application Submission .....	9
II.D.3.	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) .....	22
II.D.4.	Submission Dates and Times.....	23
II.D.5.	Funding Restrictions.....	24
II.D.6.	Other Submission Requirements .....	24
II.E.	Application Review Information .....	25
II.E.1.	Criteria .....	25
II.E.2.	Application Review and Selection Process.....	27
II.E.3.	Integrity and Performance Information.....	27
II.E.4.	Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates.....	28
II.F.	Federal Award Administration Information .....	28
II.F.1.	Federal Award Notices.....	28
II.F.2.	Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	29
II.F.3.	Reporting.....	29
II.G.	Federal Awarding Agency Contacts.....	30
II.G.1.	eBRAP Help Desk.....	30
II.G.2.	Grants.gov Contact Center .....	30
II.H.	Other Information.....	31
II.H.1.	Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions.....	31
II.H.2.	Administrative Actions.....	31
II.H.3.	Application Submission Checklist .....	34
<b>APPENDIX 1:</b>	<b>ACRONYM LIST .....</b>	<b>36</b>

## II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) 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 BCRP was initiated in FY92 to support innovative, high-impact research, with a mission of ending breast cancer for Service Members, Veterans, and the general public. Appropriations for the BCRP from FY92 through FY22 totaled \$4.09 billion. The FY23 appropriation is \$150 million (M).

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.

#### II.A.1. The Breast Cancer Landscape

The BCRP has 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. Applicants are strongly urged to read and consider *The Breast Cancer Landscape* before preparing their applications. *The Breast Cancer Landscape* may be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/bcrp/pdfs/BreastCancerLandscape2022.pdf>.

#### II.A.2. FY23 BCRP Overarching Challenges

Considering the current [breast cancer landscape](#) and the BCRP's mission, all FY23 BCRP Innovator Award applications must address at least one of the following overarching challenges unless adequate justification for exception is provided.\*

- 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

\*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.

## II.B. Award Information

The Innovator Award supports *visionary individuals* who have demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovative work, and paradigm-shifting leadership in any field including, but not limited to, breast cancer. The Innovator Award will provide these individuals with the funding and freedom to pursue their most novel, visionary, high-risk ideas that could accelerate progress to ending breast cancer.

Because the intent of the Innovator Award mechanism is to recognize these remarkably creative and innovative visionary individuals, rather than projects, the central feature of the award is the innovative contribution that the Principal Investigator (PI) can make toward ending breast cancer. The PI should have a record of challenging the status quo, shifting paradigms by changing a field of research or approach to patient care, exhibiting high levels of creativity, and demonstrating promise for continued innovation in future work. These rare individuals will be able to articulate a vision for ending breast cancer that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention. The PI is also expected to be established in their field and have demonstrated success at forming and leading effective partnerships and collaborations. To further the development of innovative individuals and spark the generation of novel ideas, applications are required to incorporate the mentoring of promising junior investigators.

***Experience in breast cancer research is not required;*** however, the application must focus on breast cancer, and the PI must commit a minimum of 15% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award. Individuals from other disciplines who will apply novel concepts to breast cancer are encouraged to submit.

The PI is expected to assemble a research team that will provide the necessary expertise and collaborative efforts toward accomplishing the research goals. 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 of the 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 on the research and its potential impact for individuals with, or at a risk for, breast cancer.

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, the CDMRP encourages applicants to review the recommendations (<https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Congressional-Testimonies/2018/05/03/Metastatic-Cancer-Research>) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations, provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY23 BCRP priorities.

***The proposed research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and/or the American public.*** Collaborations between researchers at military or Veteran institutions and non-military institutions are strongly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure, and access to unique clinical populations that the partners bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing cancer research that is of significance to the Warfighter, military families, and the American public.

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 Department of Defense (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 direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY23 BCRP Innovator Award should not exceed \$7M. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed funding information.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2024. For additional information refer to [Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices](#).

***The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$10.9M to fund approximately one Innovator Award application. 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 FY23 funding opportunity will be funded with FY23 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2029.*

**Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human**

**Cadavers:** All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human data, human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO), Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of application submission is *not* required; however, local IRB/EC approval is necessary prior to OHRO review. Allow up to 3 months to complete the OHRO regulatory review and approval process following submission of *all required and complete* documents to the OHRO. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the OHARO web page [https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research\\_protections/hrpo](https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/hrpo) for additional information.

As of January 20, 2020, U.S. institutions engaged in non-exempt cooperative research *must* rely on a single IRB to review and approve the portion of the research conducted at domestic sites in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46.114(b) (45 CFR 46.114[b]). If the proposed, non-exempt research involves more than one U.S.-based 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.

*Clinical trials are allowed. A clinical trial is defined* as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes. Funded trials are required to post a copy of the IRB-approved informed consent form used to enroll subjects on a publicly available federal website in accordance with federal requirements described in 32 CFR 219.

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

*Clinical research* encompasses research with patient samples, data, and interaction with patients that may or may not be considered a clinical trial. ***For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research.*** Clinical research is observational in nature and includes: (1) Research that does not seek to evaluate the effects of interventions. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as data, tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects, but does not seek to assess the effects of an intervention, qualifies as clinical research. Patient-oriented research 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 study 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 tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. **Note:** Studies that meet the requirements for exemption under [§46.104\(d\)\(4\) of the Common Rule](#) are not considered clinical research as defined by CDMRP. Exemption category 4 refers to secondary research for which consent is not required.

**Research Involving Animals:** All research funded by the FY23 BCRP Innovator Award involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC OHARO 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.

**Guidelines for Animal Research:** All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of preclinical research. The standards are described in SC Landis et al., 2012, A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research, *Nature* 490:187-191 ([www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html)). 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. The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) can be found at <https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines>.

## **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**

PIs must be independent investigators at or above the level of Associate Professor (or equivalent) as of the application submission deadline.

The PI must commit a minimum of 15% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award.

Previous recipients of the BCRP Innovator Award are ineligible.

***Investigators who were invited to be named on an application submitted under funding opportunity HT9425-23-BCRP-INNOV are not eligible to submit a pre-application under the current funding opportunity.***

An investigator may be named as the PI on only one FY23 Innovator Award pre-application under this program announcement.

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 [Section II.H.2, Administrative Actions](#), 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 funding cycle is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).***



Inclusion of classified research data within the application and/or proposing research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security concerns may result in application withdrawal. Refer to the General Application Instructions Appendix 2, Section E.

### **II.D.1. eBRAP and Grants.gov**

The **electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP)** (<https://ebrap.org>) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications, 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 [Section II.G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts](#).

#### ***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 [Table 1, Full Application Guidelines](#)).

***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](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

#### **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](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>). Because the invitation to submit an application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

The applicant organization and associated PI identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. 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](mailto: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.

- **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 pre-application 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 PIs 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.

[FY23 BCRP Programmatic Panel members](#) should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal](#), or contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

- **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**

***Note: Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. eBRAP will not allow a file to be uploaded if the number of pages exceeds the limit specified below.***

- **Preproposal Narrative:** Provide responses in the appropriate data fields for the following:
  - Describe how your unique qualifications and accomplishments demonstrate that you are a visionary in your field. (2,000-character limit)
  - Describe your past record of challenging the status quo and shifting paradigms by changing a field of research or approach to patient care. (2,000-character limit)
  - Describe the future creativity and innovation that your proposed work will have in the field of breast cancer. (1,000-character limit)
  - Describe how you have demonstrated strong leadership skills. (1,000-character limit)
  - What BCRP overarching challenge(s) will the proposed research address? If “other,” state the overarching challenge and provide justification within the context of the [breast cancer landscape](#). (200-character limit)

- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application *must be uploaded as individual files* and are limited to the following:
  - **PI Biographical Sketch (no page limit):** The biographical sketch should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.
- **List of Individuals Providing Confidential Letters of Recommendation:** Enter 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.
- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

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

### **Pre-Application Screening**

- **Pre-Application Screening Criteria**

To determine the technical merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program (DHP) and the BCRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- The PI's accomplishments as a visionary in their field
- The PI's record of challenging the status quo and shifting paradigms by changing a field of research or approach to patient care
- The PI's potential for future innovation, especially in the field of breast cancer research
- The PI's past demonstration of leadership
- Whether the pre-application addresses at least one overarching challenge that meets the program's goals
- **Notification of Pre-Application Screening Results**

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-application. The estimated timeframe for notification of invitation to submit an application is indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Invitations to submit a full application are based on the Pre-Application Screening Criteria listed above.

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

Applications will not be accepted unless notification of invitation has been received.

***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**

<b>Extramural Submissions</b>	<b>Intramural DOD Submissions</b>
<b>Application Package Location</b>	
Download application package components for HT9425-23-BCRP-INNOV-2 from Grants.gov ( <a href="https://grants.gov/">https://grants.gov/</a> ) 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 HT9425-23-BCRP-INNOV-2 from eBRAP ( <a href="https://ebrap.org/">https://ebrap.org/</a> ).
<b>Full Application Package Components</b>	
<b>SF424 Research &amp; Related Application for Federal Assistance Form:</b> Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.	<b>Tab 1 – Summary:</b> Provide a summary of the application information.

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
	<b>Tab 2 – Application Contacts:</b> This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.
<p>Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Personal Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research &amp; Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Additional Application Components</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Tab 3 – Full Application Files:</b> Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Attachments</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Key Personnel</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Performance Sites</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Other</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data:</b> Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.</p>
Application Package Submission	
<p><b>Create a Grants.gov Workspace.</b> Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.</p> <p><b>Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> 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 <b>at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date</b> to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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 <i>prior to</i> the application submission deadline. <b><i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></b></p>	<p><b>Submit package components to eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a>).</b></p> <p><b>Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application:</b> 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. <b><i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></b></p>

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<b><u>Application Verification Period</u></b>	
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 <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form</i> .	After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI 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 <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research &amp; Related Budget Form</i> . 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.
<b>Further Information</b>	
<b>Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package.</b> After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is 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.	Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.

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 (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 to expand 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 applicant’s *vision for ending breast cancer* and *why this application meets the objectives of this unique program description*. The following items should be addressed specifically by the PI.

- **Current Status of Breast Cancer:** Describe your views of the major problems/barriers in breast cancer that must be solved or overcome to accelerate progress to end breast cancer. Include in your description the major challenges in breast cancer beyond your specific research area.
- **Vision of the Future of Breast Cancer:** Explain your vision of the future of breast cancer. Describe what you foresee as the critical approaches that will most likely produce breakthrough thinking and discoveries to ultimately solve or overcome the major problems/barriers and accelerate progress to end breast cancer. Describe how your vision challenges the status quo, shifts paradigms, or why it is different than current approaches.
- **Research Ideas:** State explicitly which BCRP overarching challenge(s) your research will address. If addressing another overarching challenge related to the [breast cancer landscape](#), provide justification. Summarize key examples of specific innovative ideas that you envision pursuing with the funding from this award. Explain why/how your ideas may challenge current assumptions and have a significant impact toward ending breast cancer. Describe what you hope to accomplish during the award period. This should not be a description of research methodology.
- **PI Commitment:** Describe the effort you will commit to this award. Explain how you will commit a minimum of 15% level of time and effort during the period of performance to conduct breast cancer research under this award. Explain specifically how you, as an innovator and leader, will mentor promising junior investigators.
- **PI Qualifications for This Award:** Explain how you are qualified to receive this award. Give examples of breakthrough creative thinking and leadership skills that



demonstrate your abilities as an innovator. Describe your record of challenging the status quo and shifting paradigms by changing a field of research or approach to patient care. Describe your success at forming and leading effective partnerships and collaborations, and as a thought leader in your field. Describe how your achievements reflect your capabilities as an innovator.

- **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.
- **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 Organizational Support:** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project and the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic or administrative responsibilities and allowed to pursue their goals. 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 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.
- **Consumer Advocate Letters of Commitment:** Provide a letter signed by each consumer advocate confirming their commitment to participate in the proposed project.
- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in 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.
  - **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. 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.
- **Data Management Plan (two-page limit):** Describe the data management plan in accordance with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instruction 3200.12](#).
  - For Extramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, Attachments Form, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
  - For Intramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.1, Application Component – Attachments, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
- **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.

- Not required at time of submission. Leave Attachment 3 space blank.
- **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.
- Not required at time of submission. Leave Attachment 4 space blank.
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** The suggested Statement of Work (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 Innovator Award mechanism, refer to the “***Suggested SOW Strategy Generic Research***” document for guidance on preparing the SOW and use the blank SOW format titled “Suggested SOW Format”. The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

- **Attachment 6: 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 expertise will contribute to accomplishing the research goals. Provide the names of at least two consumer advocates and their affiliation with a breast cancer advocacy 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 7: 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 8: 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.

- PI Biographical Sketch (no-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 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 (five-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch\_LastName.pdf”.
  - Include biographical sketches for team members, including consumer advocates.
- 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.

**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.
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete the “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format” and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as [Attachment 8](#). (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.

<b>Additional Application Components</b>
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In addition to the complete application package, Innovator Award applications also require the following components:

- **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. The three letters of recommendation should be written on letterhead, signed, and uploaded as PDF files to eBRAP by 5:00 p.m. ET on the application verification deadline. The PI should monitor whether the letters have been received 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. If confidential letters of recommendation cannot be submitted by any of the individuals named in the pre-application, the PI should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at [help@eBRAP.org](mailto:help@eBRAP.org) or 301-682-5507.

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
- Visionary and leadership qualities
- Success at forming and leading partnerships and collaborations
- Likelihood of innovation and productivity in breast cancer

- **Oral Presentation**

PIs named in applications selected for Programmatic Review, Stage 2, will be required to give an oral presentation (see [Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#)) that will be held in the National Capital Area or virtually, at the discretion of the government, and is tentatively scheduled for February 2024.

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. PIs who are selected 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 challenge current dogma and look beyond tradition and convention?
- 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 form partnerships and collaborations that will make an impact on breast cancer within your research efforts, as well as beyond?

### **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 of April 2022, all federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI generated through SAM.gov.* 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 [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). 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 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 4 years.

The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed \$7M. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate.

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

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

- Travel to attend a DOD-required meeting in years 1 and 3. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meetings will be held 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 for three investigators to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel costs to scientific/technical meetings is to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY23 BCRP Innovator Award.

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**, (the Principal Investigator and Research Ideas criteria are of equal importance, followed by Research Team and Environment):

- **Principal Investigator**
  - Whether the PI has exhibited a past record of breakthrough creative thinking, leadership, and achievements that demonstrates their abilities as an innovator.
  - To what degree the PI's record demonstrates that they have challenged the status quo and shifted paradigms by changing a field of research or approach to patient care.
  - To what degree the PI has demonstrated success at forming and leading effective partnerships and collaborations as a thought leader in their field.
  - Whether the PI will commit a minimum of 15% level of time and effort during the award period to conduct breast cancer research under this award.
  - Whether the application shows evidence that the PI will mentor promising young investigators.
- **Research Ideas**
  - To what degree the proposed research ideas challenge current assumptions and have a significant impact toward ending breast cancer.
  - How well the application communicates a clear plan of what innovative ideas will be pursued and what the PI hopes to accomplish during the award period.
  - Whether the application explicitly states which overarching challenge(s) the research will address.
- **Research Team and Environment**
  - How the combined background 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 innovator.
- 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.

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

- **Budget**

- Whether the **direct** costs exceed the allowable direct costs as published in the program announcement.
- 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.

### **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 DHP and FY23 BCRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - **Stage 1:** During the first stage of programmatic review, the application will be selected for the second stage 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 the barriers in breast cancer

- Articulation of a realistic vision with a high potential to impact breast cancer
- Leadership capabilities to form partnerships and collaborations that will impact breast cancer

## 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 programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding 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.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the BCRP will be provided to the PI 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 [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#).

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 FY23 funds are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2024. 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, other non-profit or for-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.

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 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 [DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) and the [USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) for further information.

**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 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 will be required.

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify if additional and/or 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 whether and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

**Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (*only required for clinical research studies and clinical trials*):** 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 (closed on most U.S. federal holidays). Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: [help@eBRAP.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 803a. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 803.

### **II.H.2. Administrative Actions**

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

#### **II.H.2.a. Rejection**

The following will result in administrative rejection of the pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative is missing.
- More than one pre-application is received in which the same investigator is named as the PI. Only the first pre-application received will be accepted; additional pre-applications will be administratively rejected.
- PI biographical sketch is missing.

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- 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 pre-application or application:

- An FY23 BCRP 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 FY23 BCRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/bcrp/panels/panels23>.*
- 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 FY23, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<https://cdmrp.health.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.
- Application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security will be considered for application withdrawal.
- 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 FY23 BCRP Overarching Challenges in Section II.A.2 and adequate justification for exception was not provided.
- 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.
- Three confidential letters of recommendation as required by this program announcement were not submitted.

#### **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	Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance ( <b>extramural submissions only</b> )	Complete form as instructed	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) ( <b>intramural submissions only</b> )	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: Not required; leave Attachment 3 blank	
	Lay Abstract: Not required; leave Attachment 4 blank	
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf"	
	Research Team Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Team.pdf"	
	Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf"	
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable	
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the 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	

<b>Application Components</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Research & Related Budget <b>(extramural submissions only)</b>	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field	
Budget <b>(intramural submissions only)</b>	Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed	
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable	Complete form as instructed	
<b>Additional Application Components</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Confidential Letters of Recommendation	Confirm upload to eBRAP	
Oral Presentation	Confirm ability to give an oral presentation in the National Capital Area or virtually, at the discretion of the government, that is tentatively scheduled for February 2024 (if selected for Stage 2)	

## APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting <i>In Vivo</i> Experiments
BCRP	Breast Cancer Research Program
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHP	Defense Health Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FY	Fiscal Year
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MB	Megabytes
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
OHARO	Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (previously Office of Research Protections)
OHRO	Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection Office)
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics
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