## I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

**Defense Health Program** 

**Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs** 

## **Lung Cancer Research Program**

# **Concept Award**

**Announcement Type: Initial** 

Funding Opportunity Number: HT9425-23-LCRP-CA

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), May 2, 2023

• **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, May 23, 2023

• End of Application Verification Period: 5:00 p.m. ET, May 26, 2023

• **Peer Review:** June 2023

Programmatic Review: August 2023

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 801. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the "Package" tab, clicking "Preview," and then selecting "Download Instructions."

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# II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

## **II.A. Program Description**

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) 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 LCRP was initiated in FY09 to promote innovative and competitive research focused on the development of integrated disciplines to identify, treat, and manage early curable lung cancer (excluding mesothelioma). Appropriations for the LCRP from FY09 through FY22 totaled \$195.5 million (M). The FY23 appropriation is \$25.0M.

The vision of the FY23 LCRP is to eradicate deaths and suffering from lung cancer to better the health and welfare of Service Members, Veterans, and the general public. As such, the LCRP will support and integrate research from multiple disciplines for risk assessment, prevention, early detection, diagnosis, management, and treatment for the control and cure of lung cancer.

#### II.A.1. LCRP Strategic Plan

The LCRP has prepared a brief synopsis, the LCRP Strategic Plan, which provides the background and an overview of the LCRP, describes the research and funding environment, and sets forth the strategic direction for the program. Applicants are strongly urged to read and consider the LCRP Strategic Plan before preparing their applications. The LCRP Strategic Plan may be found at <a href="https://cdmrp.army.mil/lcrp/pdfs/LCRP">https://cdmrp.army.mil/lcrp/pdfs/LCRP</a> Strategic Plan 30Aug21 FINAL.pdf.

#### II.A.2. FY23 LCRP Areas of Emphasis

The LCRP developed a strategy to address multiple issues in lung cancer research over the cancer continuum of care spectrum that will be considered for funding under the LCRP. These Areas of Emphasis are critical gaps in cancer research, care, and/or patient outcomes that, if addressed will lead to reduced suffering from lung cancer and improved quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and the general public. Simply identifying an Area of Emphasis is not sufficient. Applications must address at least one Area of Emphasis in a way that can lead to, or directly effect, a breakthrough and have a major impact.

#### • Care Delivery and Health Disparity Option:

- Health Outcomes and Survivorship
  - Identify and understand the long-term and cumulative effects of lung cancer and its treatment(s) with respect to the impact of comorbidities on patient care, and also, more broadly, in respect to their effects on patients and their quality of life including, but not limited to, physiological, psychosocial, cognitive, and financial effects.

#### Disparities

 Advance equity and reduce lung cancer disparities among underserved and underrepresented populations.

#### • Cancer Research Continuum Option:

- Biology and Etiology
  - Understand the molecular mechanisms of initiation and progression to lung cancer.
  - Understand contributors to lung cancer development other than tobacco.

#### Prevention

- Identify innovative strategies for prevention of the occurrence of lung cancer(s) or subsequent primaries.
- Identify innovative strategies for the prevention of recurrence or metastases from lung cancer.
- o Detection, Diagnosis, and Surveillance
  - Improve approaches to screening and early detection of lung cancer.
  - Identify strategies for prompt detection and/or characterization of progressive disease.
- Treatment and Prognosis
  - Identify innovative strategies for the treatment of lung cancer, including overcoming resistance.
  - Develop or optimize biomarkers to assist with therapeutic decision-making.
  - Enhance the treatment and understanding of brain metastases in lung cancer.

#### **II.B.** Award Information

The intent of the FY23 LCRP Concept Award is to *support innovative*, *non-incremental*, *high-risk/potentially high-reward research* that will provide new insights, paradigms, technologies, or applications in lung cancer. Studies supported by this award are expected to lay the groundwork for future avenues of scientific investigation. *The proposed research project should include a well-formulated*, *testable hypothesis* based on a sound scientific rationale and study design. *Research applications only in the area of mesothelioma will not be accepted*.

Inclusion of preliminary data is not required but is allowed. The strength of the proposed research should be based on sound scientific rationale and logical reasoning. The presentation of substantial preliminary data suggests that the proposed research project would

be more appropriately submitted to a different FY23 LCRP funding opportunity. The outcome of research supported by this award should be the generation of robust preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects. Absence of preliminary data will not negatively affect scientific or programmatic review of the application.

Care Delivery and Health Disparity Option: The FY23 LCRP Concept Award mechanism encourages applications that specifically address the comprehensive lung cancer care and/or health disparities FY23 LCRP Areas of Emphasis by offering a Care Delivery and Health Disparity option. Applications from the Care Delivery and Health Disparity option will be peer and programmatically reviewed separately from applications submitted to the Cancer Research Continuum option.

Relevance to Military Health: The LCRP seeks to support research that is relevant to the healthcare needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Relevance to military health will be considered in determining relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program (DHP) and FY23 LCRP during programmatic review. Investigators are strongly encouraged to consider the following characteristics as examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:

- Use of military or Veteran populations, biospecimens, data/databases, or programs in the proposed research
- Collaboration with Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators
- Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of lung cancer that has relevance or is unique to the military, Veterans, other Military Health System (MHS) beneficiaries, or family readiness of Service Members, including environmental exposures other than tobacco.

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 LCRP Areas of Emphasis.

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/or the American public.

Reviewers will be blinded to the identity of the Principal Investigator (PI), collaborator(s), and their organization(s). Due to the blinded nature of the review process, identifying or making references to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) in the Project Narrative; List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols; Data Management Plan; or Relevance to Military

Health Statement is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application. Refer to Section II.D.2.b.i, Full Application Guidelines, for more information.

The types of awards made under the program announcement will be assistance agreements. An assistance agreement is appropriate when the federal government transfers a "thing of value" to a "state, local government," or "other recipient" to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring property or service for the direct benefit and use of the U.S. government. An assistance agreement can take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. The level of involvement on the part of the DOD during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement. If "no substantial involvement" on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a grant award will be made (31 USC 6304). Conversely, if substantial involvement on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a cooperative agreement will be made (31 USC 6305), and the award will identify the specific substantial involvement. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration, participation, or intervention in the research to be performed under the award. The award type, along with the start date, will be determined during the negotiation process.

The anticipated direct] costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY23 LCRP Concept Award should not exceed \$100,000. 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 \$1.92M to fund approximately two Care Delivery and Health Disparity Concept Award applications and 10 Cancer Research Continuum Concept Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY23 funding opportunity will be funded with FY23 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2029.

Research involving human subjects or specimens must be either exempt under Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 219, Section 104(d) (32 CFR 219.104[d]) or eligible for expedited review (21 CFR 56.110). Exemption or expedited status is first determined by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record. Investigators must review their institutional requirements and guidelines for filing with the IRB for exempt or expedited status. Studies that do not qualify for exempt or expedited status will be administratively withdrawn.

Clinical trials are not 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 placebo or other control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes.

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

Investigators wishing to apply for funding to support a clinical trial should consider submitting an application to the FY23 LCRP Translational Research Award – Funding Level 2 mechanism (Funding Opportunity Number HT9425-23-LCRP-TRA).

*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 §.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 Human Data, 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 <a href="https://mrdc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research\_protections/hrpo">https://mrdc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research\_protections/hrpo</a> 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 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.

**Use of DOD or VA Resources:** If the proposed research involves access to active-duty military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOD or VA resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Refer to <a href="Section II.D.2.b.ii">Section II.D.2.b.ii</a>, Full Application Submission Components, for detailed information. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

Research Involving Animals: All research funded by the FY23 LCRP Concept 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.

All investigators applying to FY23 LCRP funding opportunities are encouraged to consider leveraging resources from the LCRP-funded Lung Cancer Biospecimen Resource Network (LCBRN) if retrospectively collected human anatomical substances and correlated clinical data are relevant to the proposed studies. Samples from the LCBRN are currently available through the Cooperative Human Tissue Network (CHTN). To request LCBRN samples, contact the Division Coordinator for the <a href="CHTN Mid-Atlantic division">CHTN Mid-Atlantic division</a> (email: <a href="CHTN-Mid-Atlantic division">CHTN-Mid-Atlantic division</a> (email: <a href="CHTN-Mid-Atlantic-Mid-A

# **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

All investigators at or above the level of postdoctoral fellow (or equivalent) are eligible.

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 <a href="https://orcid.org/">https://orcid.org/</a>.

## **II.C.2.** Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

#### II.C.3. Other

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

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

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

# **II.D.** Application and Submission Information

Submission of applications that are essentially identical or propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).

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

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

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

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

#### Extramural Submission:

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

#### Intramural DOD Submission:

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

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

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

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

The application title, eBRAP log number, and all information for the PI, Business Official, 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 <a href="help@eBRAP.org">help@eBRAP.org</a> 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 <a href="help@eBRAP.org">help@eBRAP.org</a> 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/).

The applicant organization and associated PI identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at <a href="https://help.com/help@eBRAP.org">help@eBRAP.org</a> 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.

When starting the pre-application, PIs should ensure that they have selected the appropriate application option.

- Concept Award Care Delivery and Healthy Disparity Option or
- Concept Award Cancer Research Continuum Option

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 <a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/</a>
<a href="public/Program.htm">public/Program.htm</a>. 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 preapplication to be submitted.

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

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

#### • Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel

Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.

FY23 LCRP 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 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

- Pre-Application Relevance Questions: Provide responses in appropriate eBRAP data fields for the following three questions. Due to the blinded nature of the review process, responses are used for administrative purposes only and will not be reviewed during either the peer or the programmatic review session.
  - 1. Is the applicant currently affiliated with the military and/or VA? (Yes/No)
  - 2. Does the proposed research include collaborations with a current military and/or VA investigator/institution? (Yes/No)
  - 3. Does the proposed research include the use of military and/or VA resources (e.g., data, patient samples)? (Yes/No) If yes, specify the resource and how the resource will be accessed to conduct the proposed research (500-character limit, including spaces).

**Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit):** Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions. An invitation to submit is *not* required.

## • Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application

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

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

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

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (<a href="https://grants.gov/">https://grants.gov/</a>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org/">https://ebrap.org/</a>) 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 (<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html</a>) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

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

**Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines** 

| Extramural Submissions  | Intramural DOD Submissions  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Application Package Location  |   |  |  |  |  |
| Download application package components for HT9425-23-LCRP-CA 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-LCRP-CA from eBRAP ( <a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a> ).   |  |  |  |  |
| Full Application Pac  | kage Components   |  |  |  |  |
| SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.   | Tab 1 – Summary: Provide a summary of the application information.  Tab 2 – Application Contacts: This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.                                      |  |  |  |  |
| Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:  • Attachments • Research & Related Personal Data • Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) • Research & Related Budget • Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form   | Tab 3 – Full Application Files: Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:  • Attachments • Key Personnel • Budget |  |  |  |  |

| Extramural Submissions | Intramural DOD Submissions   |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | • Performance Sites  Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data: Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre- populated from the Budget Form. |
|                        |  |

## **Application Package Submission**

## Create a Grants.gov Workspace.

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

Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.

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

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

Submit package components to eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org">https://ebrap.org</a>).

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

## **Application Verification Period**

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

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

| Extramural Submissions  | Intramural DOD Submissions   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Further Information   |  |  |  |  |
| Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package. 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,<br>Section IV, for further information regarding<br>eBRAP requirements. |  |  |  |
| Refer to the General Application Instructions,<br>Section III, for further information regarding<br>Grants.gov requirements.  |  |  |  |  |

## Reviewers will be blinded to the identity of the PI, collaborator(s), and their organization(s).

Due to the blinded nature of the review process, identifying or making references to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) in the Project Narrative, List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols, Data Management Plan, or the Relevance to Military Health Statement is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application. In addition, the use of "I," "we," "our," "this organization," or similar phrases that refer to the PI(s), collaborator(s), or their organization(s) through the references listed, or the use of formatting (e.g., bolding, underlining, names in headers/footers), inclusion of citations to unpublished manuscripts, inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators, or web addresses), or in any other way highlighting the names of the PI(s), collaborator(s), or their organization(s), is prohibited and will result in administrative rejection of the application and preclude invitation to submit a full application.

The following forms **are required** but will not be forwarded for peer review or programmatic review: Research & Related Budget, Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable), biographical sketch, previous/current/pending support, and Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form. These documents will be used for administrative purposes only.

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 (two-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf". The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. Due to the blinded nature of the review process, do not include information that identifies or refers to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s). While the inclusion of preliminary data is not prohibited, the strength of the application should not rely on preliminary data.

- Innovation: Describe how the proposed project is innovative in one or more of the following ways: challenges accepted paradigms, concepts or questions, research methods or technologies, adaptations of existing methods or technologies, or other ways and may lead to new areas of research. Innovation should be the primary feature of the proposed study and be more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing or published research.
- **Rationale:** Clearly articulate the rationale for the proposed research.
- Objectives: State concisely the specific aims and research strategy of the study.
   Projects involving human subjects or specimens must be either exempt under 32 CFR 219.104(d) or eligible for expedited review (21 CFR 56.110).
- Methods: Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses, including appropriate controls, if applicable. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
- Impact: Describe how the proposed research is relevant to at least one of the <u>FY23</u>
   <u>LCRP Areas of Emphasis</u> in a way that is consistent with the program's goals.
   Provide a brief statement describing the impact, either short-term or long-term, on

how this project will lead to an original and important contribution toward advancing basic, translational, or clinical lung cancer research, or on the quality of life of individuals with lung cancer. Describe how the research has the potential to generate preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.

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 (five-citation limit: 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). Do not include URLs that identify the PI(s), collaborator(s), or the organization(s) of the PI(s) or collaborator(s).
- List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
- **Data Management Plan (2-page limit):** Describe the Data Management Plan in accordance with Section 3.c. Enclosure 3, <u>DoD Instructions 3200.12</u>.
  - For Extramural Applications: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, Attachments Form, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
  - For Intramural Applications: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.1, Application Component Attachments, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.

Do not include information that identifies the PI, collaborator(s), or the organization(s) of the PI or collaborator(s).

- 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.

- If the application is under consideration for funding, the USAMRAA will request the Technical Abstract from the applicant. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from the request. An award document, signed by the Grants Officer, will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications as described in <a href="Section II.F">Section II.F</a>, <a href="Federal Award Administration Information">Federal Award Administration Information</a>.
- 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.
  - If the application is under consideration for funding, the USAMRAA will request the Lay Abstract from the applicant. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from the request. An award document, signed by the Grants Officer, will be provided to the applicant organization for successful applications as described in Section II.F, Federal Award Administration Information.
- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (one-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 (<a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at <a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>.

For the Concept 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.

The SOW should indicate a feasible plan and timeline to conduct the research. The SOW must include specific research milestones to be accomplished by the end of each year in the period of performance.

Attachment 6: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "MilRelevance.pdf". Do not include information that identifies the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s). The Relevance to Military Health Statement will be evaluated by the FY23 LCRP Programmatic Panel during programmatic review only. Identify how the proposed research will support mission readiness through filling a gap in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, quality of life, and/or survivorship that may have a profound impact on the health and well-being of Service Members, their families, Veterans, or other beneficiaries. Articulate how the proposed research will advance the knowledge and understanding of cancer, patient care, and/or treatment options in the MHS for the benefit of active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries. Describe the anticipated short- and/or long-term outcomes of the proposed research and their potential impact on the basic health,

welfare, and/or psychosocial wellness of active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries. If active-duty military, military families, and/or Veteran population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed study, and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the population simulates the targeted population (i.e., Armed Forces, their family members, and/or the Veteran population).

- Attachment 7: Use of DOD Resources (if applicable): Upload as
   "DODResources.pdf". Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.
- O Attachment 8: Use of VA Resources (if applicable): Upload as "VAResources.pdf". Provide a letter of support from the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. For VA PIs, if the VA non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant institution for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.
- Attachment 9: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf". All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (<a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- Attachment 10: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as "MFBudget.pdf". If a military facility (MHS 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 (<a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>), including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

#### Extramural and Intramural Applications

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

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

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

- o PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit): Upload as "Biosketch\_LastName.pdf". The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (<a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>) 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".
- 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.
- o Intramural DOD Collaborator(s): Complete the "Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format" and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as <a href="Attachment 10">Attachment 10</a>. (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.

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

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (<a href="https://www.sam.gov/SAM/">https://www.sam.gov/SAM/</a>) 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 <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>. Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

#### **Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP**

For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants: eBRAP allows an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the "Full Application Files" tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. If either the

Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

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

Intramural DOD Submission: After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI) 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 1 year.

The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed \$100,000. 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.

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum 1 year.

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

- Travel in support of multidisciplinary collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator 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 of the FY23 LCRP Concept Award.

Must not be requested for:

#### Clinical trial costs

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

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

#### **II.D.6.** Other Submission Requirements

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

## **II.E.** Application Review Information

#### II.E.1. Criteria

#### II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are of equal importance:

#### Innovation

- o To what extent the proposed research is innovative in one or more of the following ways: challenges accepted paradigms, concept or question, research methods or technologies, adaptations of existing methods or technologies, or other ways.
- To what extent exploring the concept may lead to new areas of research.
- Whether the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing or published research.

#### Impact

- How well the proposed research addresses at least one of the <u>FY 23 LCRP Areas of</u> Emphasis within the option selected.
- o To what extent the research has the potential to generate preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.

o To what extent the proposed research will, in the short or long term, lead to an original and important contribution toward advancing basic, translational, or clinical lung cancer research, or on the quality of life of individuals with lung cancer.

## • Research Strategy

- o To what degree the proposed research is supported by a sound scientific rationale.
- To what degree the experimental design and methodology are appropriate to address the stated objectives.

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

## • Application Presentation

o 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 LCRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - o Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
  - Program portfolio composition with consideration of the Care Delivery and Health Disparity option category and the Cancer Research Continuum option category
  - Relative impact, innovation, and relevance to military health

#### **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 <u>Section II.E.1.b</u>, <u>Programmatic Review</u>. 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 LCRP will be provided to the PI and posted on the CDMRP website. For this program announcement, reviewers at both tiers of review will be blinded to the identity of the PI, collaborator(s), and their organization(s).

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

### **II.E.3.** Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

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

The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient's qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARs), Section 22.415.

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

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

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

#### II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

#### **II.F.1. Federal Award Notices**

Awards supported with 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, or non-profit organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document.

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

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

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in PI or organization will be allowed at the discretion of the USAMRAA Grants Officer, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met.

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

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

#### **II.F.2.** Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DoDGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

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

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

Refer to full text of the latest <u>DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions</u> and the <u>USAMRAA</u> <u>General Research Terms and Conditions</u>: <u>Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions</u> 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, Partnering PIs (if applicable), and all key personnel:

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

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

## II.F.3. Reporting

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

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report will be required.

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 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 (<a href="https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm">https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm</a>) 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: <u>help@eBRAP.org</u>

### **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: <u>support@grants.gov</u>

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 801a. The program

announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 801.

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

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

## II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- The PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) are identified or referenced in the *Project Narrative*; *List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols; Data Management Plan; or Relevance to Military Health Statement.*
- Use of "I," "we," "our," "this organization," or similar phrases that refer to the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s) through the references listed, or the use of formatting (e.g., bolding, underlining, names in headers/footers), inclusion of citations to unpublished manuscripts, or in any other way highlighting (and therefore revealing) the names of the PI, collaborator(s), or their organization(s).

#### 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 LCRP 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 LCRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <a href="https://cdmrp.health.mil/lcrp/panels/panels23">https://cdmrp.health.mil/lcrp/panels/panels23</a>.
- 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 (<a href="https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess">https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess</a>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.
- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The proposed research project does not qualify for exempt status under 32 CFR 219.104(d) or is not eligible for expedited review (21 CFR 56.110).
- The application does not address at least one of the <u>FY23 LCRP Areas of Emphasis</u> within the selected option category.
- The application proposes only mesothelioma research.

#### 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

| <b>Application Components</b>  | Action   | Completed |
|--|--|-----------|
| SF424 Research & Related<br>Application for Federal<br>Assistance (extramural<br>submissions only) | Complete form as instructed  |           |
| Summary (Tab 1) and<br>Application Contacts (Tab 2)<br>(intramural submissions<br>only)            | Complete tabs as instructed  |           |
|  | Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf"  Supporting Documentation: Upload as |           |
| Attachments  | 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"   |           |
|  | Relevance to Military Health Statement:<br>Upload as Attachment 6 with file name<br>"MilRelevance.pdf"               |           |
|  | Use of DOD Resources: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "DODResources.pdf"                                       |           |
|  | Use of VA Resources: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "VAResources.pdf"   |           |
|  | Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf"              |           |
|  | Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 10 with file name                  |           |
| Research & Related Personal Data   | "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable  Complete form as instructed  |           |

| <b>Application Components</b>  | Action   | Completed |
|--|--|-----------|
|  | Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field                            |           |
| Research & Related<br>Senior/Key Person Profile<br>(Expanded)              | 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 |           |
| Research & Related Budget (extramural submissions only)                    | Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field     |           |
| Budget (intramural submissions only)                                       | Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification  |           |
| Project/Performance Site<br>Location(s) Form                               | Complete form as instructed  |           |
| Research & Related Subaward<br>Budget Attachment(s) Form, if<br>applicable | Complete form as instructed  |           |

#### **APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST**

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

ACURO Animal Care and Use Review Office

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

LCBRN Lung Cancer Biospecimen Resource Network

LCRP Lung Cancer Research Program

LOI Letter of Intent

M Million MB Megabytes

MHS Military Health System

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

VA Department of Veterans Affairs