

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense Defense Health Program

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program Idea Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942525PRCRPIA

Pre-Application Due: June 20, 2025

Application Due: September 25, 2025

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Before You Begin

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

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507 help@eBRAP.org

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

Grants.gov Contact Center

800-518-4726 International: 1-606-545-5035 support@grants.gov

> Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace.

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

<u>Basic Information</u> | Eligibility | Program Description | Application Contents and Format | Submission Requirements Application Review Information | Federal Award Notices | Post-Award Requirements | Other Information

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2025 (FY25) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Idea Award (IA) supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms, and/or basic cancer research. The advancement of knowledge in cancer research, patient care, and/or treatment options in the Military Health System (MHS) is critical to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, other military beneficiaries, and the American public.

Distinctive Features:

- The proposed project should demonstrate creative thinking and innovation.
- Incremental advances, the next logical step, or switching a model system from one cancer to another cancer are not appropriate for this award.
- Inclusion of preliminary data is not required; however, the project must be based on strong scientific rationale.

Funding Details: (New for FY25) Funding limits are now listed as <u>total cost limits</u>, which is the combination of both direct and indirect costs.

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot approximately \$14 million (M) to fund approximately 25 Idea Award applications with total cost caps of \$560,000. The maximum period of performance is 2 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY25 funding opportunity will be funded with FY25 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2031. Awards supported with FY25 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2026.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Preproposal) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), June 20, 2025
- Invitation to Submit an Application: July 23, 2025
- Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET, September 25, 2025
- End of Application Verification Period: 5:00 p.m. ET, September 30, 2025
- Peer Review: November 2025
- Programmatic Review: February 2026

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942525PRCRPIA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

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

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

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

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

To be named as the Principal Investigator (PI) on application, the PI must have a faculty-level appointment or equivalent. Industry titles may not be analogous to the faculty hierarchy in academia. For industry, investigators at or above an independent scientist level may be named by the company as the PI on the application.

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

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

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

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3. Program Description

The U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) is the program office managing this FY25 funding opportunity as part of the PRCRP. Congress initiated the PRCRP in 2009 to provide support for research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the PRCRP from FY09 through FY24 totaled \$1.04 billion. The FY25 appropriation is \$130M.

Congressional language stipulates the FY25 PRCRP must be relevant to Service Members, and address at least one of the congressionally directed FY25 PRCRP topic areas listed below.

- Bladder cancer
- Blood cancers
- Brain cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Germ cell cancers
- Kidney cancer

- Liver cancer
- Lung cancer
- Lymphoma
- Mesothelioma
- Metastatic cancers
- Myeloma
- Neuroblastoma
- Neuroendocrine tumors

- Pancreatic cancer
- Pediatric, adolescent, and young adult cancers¹
- Pediatric brain tumors
- Sarcoma
- Stomach cancer
- Thyroid cancer

Research proposed to the PRCRP must not address research in melanoma, or cancers originating in the breast, prostate, or ovary. In addition, FY25 PRCRP funds must not be used to study rare cancers except FY25 PRCRP topic area cancer types that are rare by definition.

FY25 PRCRP Portfolios and Strategic Goals

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, all applications for FY25 PRCRP funding must specifically address one of the FY25 PRCRP topic areas as directed by the U.S. Congress and have direct relevance to military health. Additionally, the PRCRP implements a portfoliodriven approach by grouping related topic areas with strategic goals as a framework within which to address critical gaps in cancer research and patient care. All applications must address one of the FY25 PRCRP strategic goals as it relates to the portfolio-assigned FY25 PRCRP topic area. Topic areas may be included in more than one portfolio, but the application must be aligned to the strategic goals of the portfolio in which a topic area is included. If the proposed research does not specifically address one FY25 PRCRP topic area and one FY25 PRCRP strategic goal from a single portfolio, then the government reserves the right to administratively withdraw the application. The government reserves the right to reassign

¹ The definition of adolescents and young adults is derived from the National Cancer Institute (https://www.cancer.gov/types/aya). Research should be targeted toward pediatric (ages 0-14 years), adolescents (ages 15-24 years), and/or young adults (ages 25-39 years).

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the application's topic area if submitted to an incorrect topic area. The table below lists the FY25 PRCRP topic areas and strategic goals in each PRCRP portfolio category.

Portfolio: Bloo	d Cancers
	s under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal
listed below.	lood, Lymphoma, Myeloma
Strategic Goal	
Prevention and Etiology	 Improve risk assessment of precancerous conditions Develop early intervention strategies to prevent initiation and/or
	 Investigate autoimmune disorders as risk factors for lymphoma to inform surveillance strategies
	 Understand the role of cancer stem cells and the tumor microenvironment in the development of blood cancers
Diagnosis and	 Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation, and/or therapeutic stratification
Prognosis	Develop more cost-effective molecular diagnostics
	Identify biomarkers to predict progression from indolent disease
	 Identify unique prognostic factors in pediatric, adolescent, and young adult malignancies
Treatment	Develop new, less toxic therapies
	 Develop methods to predict therapeutic vulnerabilities
	Develop therapies that don't require hospitalization
	Develop therapies employing gene editing technologies and cell therapies
	 Identify contribution of immune niche to initial treatment response and relapse
	Develop therapeutic options for patients who fail last line therapies
Survivorship	Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities
	 Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers
	 Identify long-term effects of gene editing and cell therapies and develop risk-based standards for surveillance of treated patients
	Improve understanding of the effects of long-term immunosuppression
Epidemiology	 Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy

Section Shortcuts

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Portfolio: Gastroenterological Cancers						
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.						
Topic Areas: Colorectal, Esophageal, Liver, Stomach, Pancreatic cancer						
Strategic Goals						
Prevention and Etiology	 Identify modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors to inform prevention strategies 					
	 Identify factors driving the increasing rates of early-age onset disease 					
	 Identify environmental and genetic factors associated with an increased cancer risk 					
	Identify key drivers of conversion from precancerous lesions into cancer					
	 Explore the interplay between the microbiome and infectious agents in cancer initiation and progression 					
	 Conduct integrative studies that analyze stool, blood, and the microbiome as they impact disease onset and patient outcomes 					
Diagnosis and	 Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation, and/or therapeutic stratification 					
Prognosis	Develop cost-effective and minimally invasive tools for early detection					
	Develop preclinical models to study disease development					
Treatment	Develop new, less toxic therapies					
	Develop effective treatments for advanced disease					
	 Develop immunotherapies and novel targeting therapies 					
	Identify combination therapies to improve patient outcomes					
	Identify predictive biomarkers to determine treatment response					
	 Develop integrated treatment plans to address short and long-term impacts of cancer 					
Survivorship	Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities					
	 Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers 					
	Improve post treatment surveillance guidelines					
	 Develop validated tools to measure patient quality of life 					
Epidemiology	 Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy 					
	 Implement systems to analyze disease patterns and track patient outcomes to inform best practices 					
	 Examine the influence of familial genetics and geographic location on disease onset and treatment outcome 					

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Portfolio: Neurological Cancers				
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal				
Iisted below. Topic Areas: Brain cancer, Pediatric Brain Tumors				
Strategic Goals:				
Prevention and Etiology	•	Identify biological and environmental exposures, including maternal exposures during pregnancy, that increase risk		
Diagnosis	•	Develop early detection methods that avoid diagnostic uncertainties		
and Prognosis	•	Develop effective monitoring for recurrence/refractory disease		
	•	Develop less invasive diagnostic procedures		
Treatment	•	Develop new, less toxic therapies		
	•	Prevent or overcome treatment resistance		
	•	Develop personalized oncological care and synergistic multi-modal therapies		
	•	Identify protective therapies to be used in conjunction with toxic therapies to reduce treatment-related damage		
	•	Develop less invasive treatment options		
	•	Develop therapies that cross the blood-brain-barrier		
Survivorship	•	Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities		
	•	Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers		
	•	Develop effective screening, monitoring, and provision of psychosocial support/care for the patient and family		
	•	Develop care for patients as they transition from pediatric to adult survivors		
Epidemiology	•	Analyze and assess the incidence/prevalence of brain tumors over time to identify changes in trends		
Technology Development	•	Advance the development or adoption of technologies in areas including artificial intelligence and machine learning, human microbiota, genomics, nanoparticles, and robotics		

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Portfolio: Pedi	atric Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers (PAYAC)
All application	s under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal
listed below.	DAVAC Comme cell company Novymoblectomes Company Thymaid company
Strategic Goal	AYAC, Germ cell cancers, Neuroblastoma, Sarcoma, Thyroid cancer
Prevention	Determine the molecular basis of cancer predisposition syndromes
and Etiology	 Determine the extent to which development of disease is attributable to genetic versus environmental differences
	 Increase understanding of epigenetic influences on cancer development and progression
	 Identify biological and environmental exposures, including maternal exposures during pregnancy, that increase risk
	Investigate the role of microbiome composition in cancer risk and outcomes
Diagnosis and	 Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation, and/or therapeutic stratification
Prognosis	Develop noninvasive techniques for monitoring progression and recurrence
	Identify biomarkers present in early-stage disease
	Develop preclinical models that accurately mimic disease
	 Improve accurate and rapid diagnosis of sub-types of disease
Treatment	Develop new, less toxic therapies
	 Develop treatments for relapse/recurrence, metastatic and advanced disease
	 Increase the number of clinical trials, including ones that may not be curative but may improve the quality of life for terminal patients
	 Generate evidence-based treatment and surveillance strategies to preserve fertility
	Reduce secondary cancers arising from treatment regimen
Survivorship	Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities
	Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers
	 Develop strategies to improve the full implementation of survivorship guidelines
	 Develop survivorship guidelines based on current/modern therapeutic agents
Epidemiology	Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy

Section Shortcuts

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Portfolio: Solid Tumors			
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal listed below.			
	ladder cancer, Endometrial cancer, Mesothelioma, Sarcoma, Germ cell bid cancer, Kidney cancer, Lung cancer, Neuroendocrine tumors		
Strategic Goals	s:		
Prevention	Develop methods that mitigate or identify risk		
and Etiology	Develop prevention strategies		
	 Explore the mechanistic relationship between novel and known risk factors and oncogenesis 		
	 Identify convergent etiologies underlining the development of malignancies 		
Diagnosis and	 Improve methods for early detection, prognostic evaluation, and/or therapeutic stratification 		
Prognosis	 Investigate the interactions of pre-existing autoimmune disease and cancer 		
Treatment	Develop new, less toxic therapies		
	Develop feasible precision medicine approaches		
	 Identify ways to tailor therapeutic strategies to minimize toxicity 		
Survivorship	Develop strategies to minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities		
	Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers		
Epidemiology	Design population-based studies to identify and characterize risk factors related to malignancy		

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Portfolio: Metastatic Disease				
All applications under this portfolio must address one topic area and one strategic goal				
listed below.				
Topic Area: Metastatic Cancers, limited to PRCRP topic area cancers Strategic Goals:				
Prevention and	•	Identify biomarkers in primary disease that could predict metastatic potential		
Etiology	•	Prevent immune evasion by circulating tumor cells		
	•	Identify how dormant, disseminated tumor cells (DTCs) persist		
	•	Identify drivers that initiate DTCs progression to metastatic colonies		
	•	Prevent metastatic colonization by maintaining dormancy of DTCs		
	•	Investigate clonal divergence of primary tumor cells between metastatic sites to immunological disease		
Diagnosis	•	Improve early detection of metastasis and dormant residual disease		
and Prognosis	•	Develop biomarkers that predict and monitor treatment efficacy		
Treatment	•	Develop new, less toxic therapies		
	•	Revert metastatic cells to a dormant state		
	•	Identify strategies to prevent or overcome treatment resistance		
	•	Investigate abscopal effects of primary disease treatment		
	•	Determine optimal sequencing of treatments		
	•	Eliminate chemotherapy-induced metastasis		
Survivorship	•	Develop strategies to alleviate treatment toxicities		
	•	Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers		

Metastatic cancer is cancer that has spread from its original location to another place in the body, representing what are known as stage III and stage IV cancer diagnoses. While recent research has revealed that there is a genetic basis for susceptibility or resistance to metastasis, more research is needed to develop a comprehensive understanding of this complex process.

Applications submitted under any PRCRP topic area, including the Metastatic Cancers topic area, may not address or include research focused on melanoma or cancers that originate in the breast, prostate, or ovaries, or rare cancers (excluding relevant subtypes of the FY25 PRCRP topic areas) as part of the research study; such applications will be administratively withdrawn.

FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas

It is central to the Vision and Mission of the PRCRP that applications are related to military health and mission readiness, and investigators must demonstrate how the proposed research will decrease the burden of cancer on Service Members, their dependents, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries (i.e., Retirees and their Family members) (https://cdmrp.health.mil/pubs/video/prc/prcrp_vision_video).

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In addition to addressing at least one of the required FY25 PRCRP Topic Areas and FY25 Strategic Goals, applications for the FY25 Idea Award must define how the research is relevant to Service Members and their Families by addressing at least one of the FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus areas listed below.

FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus areas:

Environmental exposure risk factors associated with cancer

Environmental and/or occupational risk factors should be relevant to activities specific to the military, such as assigned duties or deployments that may lead to exposures to potential carcinogens (ionizing radiation, chemicals, infectious agents, etc.). For more information on military-related exposures and risk factors for cancer, applicants should refer to Exposure-Related Health Concerns at https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/health-concerns.asp or to the PRCRP website (https://cdmrp.health.mil/prcrp/default).

• Mission Readiness and Gaps in Cancer Research

- Gaps in cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, and/or treatment that may impact mission readiness and the health and well-being of military members, Veterans, their beneficiaries and the general public.
- Gaps in quality of life and/or survivorship that may impact mission readiness and the health and well-being of military members, Veterans, their beneficiaries, and the general public.

Mission readiness under the FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus areas refers to the impact of cancer on the Service Member. Decreasing the impact of cancer on active-duty Service Members and/or their Families protects the overall military missions. Some examples of relevant research to decrease the impact on mission readiness may include, but are not limited to:

- Studies on the improvement in survival while minimizing effects that would allow an activeduty Service Member to return to full duty;
- Treatments to minimize a cancer patient's (either a Service Member's or their Family member's) time in the hospital, thus maximizing the time the Service Member is on duty;
- Effective ways to minimize cancer relapse for Service Members or their Families; and
- Research into improvements in cancer detection that would lead to earlier diagnosis, thus allowing for improved treatment of the Service Member and early return to duty.

For more information on military health and cancer:

- PRCRP Vision Video (https://cdmrp.health.mil/pubs/video/prc/prcrp_vision_video)
- PRCRP (https://cdmrp.health.mil/prcrp/default)
- MHS (<u>https://www.health.mil</u>)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (https://www.va.gov/)

Investigators are strongly encouraged to collaborate, integrate, and/or align their research projects with DOD and/or VA research laboratories and programs (Refer to Appendix 3).

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3.1. Intent of the Idea Award

The FY25 PRCRP Idea Award supports innovative, untested, high-risk/potentially high-reward concepts, theories, paradigms, and/or basic cancer research.

The intention of the Idea Award is to fund innovative basic research that may introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other highly creative qualities. The Idea Award is not intended to support a logical progression of an already established research project or line of research. Incremental advances, the next logical step, or switching a model system from one cancer to another cancer are not considered innovative. The proposed research project should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis based on strong scientific rationale and study design and generate robust preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.

3.1.1. Key Elements for the IA

- Innovation is a key element of the Idea Award. Research deemed innovative may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. This award is not intended to support advanced research.
- Relevance to Military Health: Relevance to the health care needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families is a key feature of this award. Investigators are encouraged to consider the following characteristics as examples of how a project may demonstrate relevance to military health:
 - Explanation of how the project addresses an aspect of the target disease that has direct relevance to the health of military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.
 - Description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the proposed research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to benefit the civilian population and also address a military need.
 - Use of military or Veteran populations, samples, or datasets in the proposed research, if appropriate.
 - Collaboration with DOD or VA investigators or consultants. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOD and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration within the FY25 PRCRP topic areas can be found in <u>Appendix 3</u>.

It is the responsibility of the PI to select the funding opportunity that is most appropriate for the research proposed. Advanced research with robust preliminary data is more appropriate for the FY25 PRCRP Impact Award (HT942525PRCRPIPA).

3.1.2. Other Important Considerations for the IA

Applications from investigators within the military services and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military services, the VA, and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families. If the proposed research relies on access to unique 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.

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Clinical trials are not allowed.

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

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

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research. Clinical research encompasses research with human data, human specimens and/or interaction with human subjects. Clinical research is observational in nature and includes:

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

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

3.2. CDMRP-wide Encouragements

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

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

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

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The CDMRP encourages research on health areas and conditions that affect women uniquely, disproportionately, or differently from men. Such research should relate anticipated project findings to improvements in women's health outcomes and/or advancing knowledge for women's health.

3.3. Funding Instrument

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

3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **2** years.

New for FY25: Funding limits are now listed as total cost limits, which is the combination of both direct and indirect costs. This is a change from prior years which listed funding limits for direct costs only.

Cost Cap: The application's **total costs** budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$560,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **2** years.

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

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

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

 Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY25 PRCRP Idea Award.

Must **not** be requested for:

- Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
- Clinical trial costs.

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

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

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

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

4.2. Step 1: Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

When starting the pre-application, applicants will be asked to select the following:

- Select the FY25 PRCRP portfolio addressed by the proposed research.
- Select the primary FY25 PRCRP topic area addressed by the proposed research.
- Select the FY25 portfolio classification and strategic goal to be studied.
- When applicable, a secondary FY25 PRCRP topic area should be selected. The secondary topic area may be any topic regardless of selected portfolio. Examples include, (not allinclusive):
 - Applications addressing more than one cancer type should select the two most applicable.
 - Applications addressing a topic area that is the subtype of another topic area (e.g. Lymphoma and Blood Cancers) should select both.
 - Applications addressing a cancer type in PAYAC populations, should select both the cancer type and the PAYAC topic area.
 - Applications addressing metastatic disease in a cancer type should select both the metastatic disease and cancer type category.
- Select the FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area to be studied.

Note: Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted.

Preproposal Narrative (one-page limit): The Preproposal Narrative page limit 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 Preproposal Narrative and could
confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative
withdrawal of the pre-application.

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

Background: State the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area(s)</u> and <u>FY25 PRCRP Strategic Goal</u> to be studied.

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- Research Idea: Describe the rationale and hypothesis and how these support the study's objectives and specific aims. Describe how the methodology and experimental design support the project's goals.
- Innovation: Explain how the project is innovative (i.e., how it may lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities).
- Impact: Describe how the research will lead to a breakthrough or make an impact in the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area</u> to be addressed.
- Relevance to Military Health: Explain how the proposed research will lead to promising outcomes for one or more of the selected FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s).
- 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:
 - References Cited (one-page limit): List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).
 - List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.
 - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches: All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file. Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.

4.3. Step 2: Full Application Components

Applicants must receive an invitation to submit a full application. Uninvited full application submissions will be rejected.

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

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

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

(b) Attachments:

Each attachment of the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2.

Attachment 1: Project Narrative (six-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf". The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information that expands the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

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Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- Background: Describe how the proposed project addresses an FY25 PRCRP topic area and corresponding FY25 PRCRP strategic goal. Briefly state how the project addresses an FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus area(s). Additional Detail about the Military Health focus area must be described in <u>Attachment 6</u>.
- Hypothesis or Objective: State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.
- Rationale: State concisely the rationale for the proposed research. Preliminary data is not required.
- Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
- Relevance to the Idea Award Intent: Describe how the research that may introduce a new paradigm, challenge existing paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other highly creative that may result in a new research avenue in the laboratory. Additional details on Innovation must be provided in Attachment 7.

Research Strategy:

- Describe the proposed study in sufficient detail to evaluate its appropriateness and feasibility to test the hypothesis and reach the final objective.
- Articulate how the proposed research will have the potential to generate robust preliminary data that can be used as a foundation for future research projects.
 Preliminary data is discouraged.
- Describe all animal studies and how the studies are designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used, if applicable. Additional detail on animal studies must be described in Attachment 9.
- Describe any human use. Demonstrate the availability of tissue, data, or human subjects for the collection of samples, if applicable. If human subjects or human anatomical samples will be used, include a plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples and document the experience of the PI(s) and/or key collaborators in recruiting human subjects for similar projects. This award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.
- Describe potential problems and potential pitfalls and address alternative approaches.
- Statistical Plan and Data Analysis must be submitted in Attachment 10.
- Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf". Start each document on a new page. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

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- References Cited: List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format.
- List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.
- Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.
- Publications and/or Patents: Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.
- Letters of Support: Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI(s) meet eligibility criteria. If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOD collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases, or DOD resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space.
- Sex as a Biological Variable Strategy (two-page limit is recommended: Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable. This strategy should include a brief discussion of what is currently known regarding sex differences in the applicable research area. Clearly articulate how sex as a biological variable will be factored into the data analysis plan and how data will be collected and disaggregated by sex. If needed, provide a strong rationale for proposing a single-sex study, based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations. Refer to the CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research for additional information.
- Inclusion Enrollment Plan (only required if clinical research is proposed): Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report, a three-page fillable PDF form, that can be downloaded from eBRAP. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race, and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, sex, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.
- Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe how data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the

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research community and other affected communities. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed clinical trial will be archived, if applicable. If a public repository will not be used for data or resource sharing, provide justification. Provide a milestone plan for data/results dissemination including when data and resources will be made available to other users, including dissemination activities with a particular focus on feeding back the data to affected communities and/or research participants. Refer to CDMRP's Policy on Data & Resources Sharing for more information about CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

- Use of DOD Resources or VA Resources (if applicable): If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOD or VA resources or databases, describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Also include a plan for obtaining any required data sharing, memorandum of understanding, or other agreements required to access and publish data. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for additional considerations.
- 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. Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY
 keyboard; spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics
 are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.

- Background: State the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area(s)</u> and <u>Strategic Goal</u> to be addressed by the proposed research. Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
- Hypothesis/Objective(s): State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached
- Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
- Study Design: Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.
- Innovation: Briefly describe how the proposed project is innovative.
- Impact: Briefly describe how the proposed project will have an impact on at least one of the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area</u>.
- Relevance to Military Health: Identify the <u>FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus</u> area(s) to be studied. Briefly describe how the proposed research is relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries.
- Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as "LayAbs.pdf". The lay abstract is used by all reviewers and addresses issues of particular interest to the affected community. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard; spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters and symbols. Graphics are not allowed. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.

Lay abstracts should address the points outlined below *in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine*. Avoid overuse of scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations.

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- State the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area(s)</u> and <u>FY25 Strategic Goal</u> to be addressed by the research project.
- Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
- Describe what types of patients will the research help and how it will help them. What are the potential clinical applications, benefits and risks?
- Describe the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of cancer research and/or patient care.
- State the <u>FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area(s)</u> to be addressed by the research project. Describe how the proposed research is relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries.
- Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf". Refer to eBRAP for the "Suggested SOW Format".
 - For the Idea Award, refer to <u>"Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work"</u>, for guidance on preparing the SOW.
- Attachment 6: Relevance to Military Health Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "MilHealth.pdf". The Relevance to Military Health Statement will be evaluated by the FY25 PRCRP Programmatic Panel during programmatic review only.
 - State the FY25 PRCRP Military Health focus area(s) to be addressed in the study.
 - Based on published literature of the impact of cancer on military populations, articulate the relevance of the research proposed and show how it will decrease the burden of cancer on Service Members, their Families, and Veterans.
 - If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
 - Identify the environmental and/or occupational exposure risk factors associated with the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Area(s)</u> to be studied and their short- and long-term impact on the basic health, welfare and/or psychosocial wellness of active-duty Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.

or

- 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 activeduty Service Members, Veterans and other military beneficiaries.
- Describe the anticipated short-term 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.
- Attachment 7: Innovation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Innovation.pdf".
 - Describe how the proposed research is innovative.

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- Describe how the research may introduce a new paradigm, challenges existing paradigms, looks at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other highly creative qualities.
- Describe how the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing research and published data.
- Attachment 8: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf". The Impact Statement should be written in plain language for lay persons.
 - Explain how the proposed research project will address a critical problem for the one
 of the FY25 PRCRP Strategic Goals in a FY25 PRCRP Topic Area(s).
 - Describe how the proposed research project, if successful, will make important scientific advances in the relevant field of research and advance patient care for the target population in the near term.
 - If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- Attachment 9: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf". (Attachment 9 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)

If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. Consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 can be found at https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study:

- Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why
 the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific
 objectives and, where appropriate, the study's relevance to human biology.
- Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.
- Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
- Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.
- Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- Attachment 10: Statistical Plan and Data Analysis (five-page limit): Upload as
 "Stats.pdf". All applicants are required to submit a Statistical Plan and Data Analysis.
 - Describe the statistical methodology and plan including how it supports the stated hypothesis or objective.

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- If an existing dataset is to be used, describe the dataset and how it supports the aims of the project.
- State the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the subjects with sound rationale for the criteria, if applicable.
- Describe the power analysis and whether it determined population numbers; if not, justify why the power analysis is not essential to the statistical evaluation.
- State whether the study will include univariate, bivariate or multivariate analyses.
- State the variables to be used in the main analysis; include covariates and how the data will be adjusted to account for covariates, if applicable.
- Stratification of data (if applicable) should be described and justified.
- Describe how the study will conform to HIPAA, the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, if applicable.
- Explain data capture, verification, disposition, if applicable.
- Describe how data will be evaluated for reproducibility and adjusted for confounding variables.
- Articulate how large datasets will be evaluated, if applicable. For laboratory projects, describe the organization and maintenance of large datasets, if applicable.

Attachment 11: Post-Award Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".

Describe/discuss the methods and strategies proposed to move the research products to the next phase of development after successful completion of the award. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization's Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan. Pls are encouraged to explore developing relationships with industry and/or other funding agencies to facilitate moving the product into the next phase of development. The post-award transition plan should include the components listed below:

- Details of the funding strategy to transition to the next level of development. Include a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
- For knowledge products, a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development, including proposed development or modification of clinical practice guidelines and recommendations, provider training materials, patient brochures, and other clinical support tools, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and applications. (A "knowledge product" is a non-materiel product that addresses an identified need, topic area, or capability gap; is based on current evidence and research; aims to transition into medical practice, training or tools or to support materiel solutions [systems to develop, acquire, provide, and sustain medical solutions and capabilities]; and educates or impacts behavior throughout the continuum of care, including primary prevention of negative outcomes.)
- A brief schedule and milestones for transitioning the intervention to the next level of development.

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- Ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award and the government's ability to access such products or technologies in the future.
- Attachment 12: Representations (Grants.gov submissions only): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf". All extramural applicants must complete and submit the "Required Representations" document that is available on eBRAP. For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B, Representations.
- Attachment 13: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (if applicable): Upload as "IGBudget.pdf". If an intramural DOD organization will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the "Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget" form that is available for download on eBRAP. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(c), for instructions and considerations.
- (c) Research & Related Personal Data: For detailed instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(a); and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(a).
- (d) Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): Complete a Profile for each person who will contribute in a substantive, meaningful way to the scientific development or execution of the proposed research project. A biographical sketch and full description of each PI and senior/key person's current/pending support information must be attached to the individual's profile in the Attach Biographical Sketch and Attach Current & Pending Support fields, respectively.
 - Biographical Sketch: Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf".
 - The CDMRP staff and reviewers use biosketches to evaluate whether research teams are equipped with the expertise necessary to carry out the proposed research.
 - Biosketches must conform to the federal-wide Biographical Sketch Common Form. To prepare their biosketch attachments, applicants may use the instructions provided in the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(b), for Grants.gov submissions; or General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(b), for eBRAP submissions; or may use a pdf form created in Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).
 - Current/Pending Support: Upload as "Support LastName.pdf".
 - Current and pending (other) support information are used to assess the capacity or any <u>conflicts of commitment</u> that may impact the ability of the individual to carry out the research effort as proposed. The information also helps to assess any potential scientific and budgetary overlap/duplication with the project being proposed.
 - Current and pending support documentation must conform to the federal wide format. To prepare their Current and Pending Support form, applicants may use the instructions provided in the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(b), for Grants.gov submissions; or General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(b), for eBRAP submissions; or may use a pdf form created in SciENcv for NIH or NSF.
- (e) Research & Related Budget: For detailed instructions for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.C.(c); and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.B.(c).

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

4.4. Other Application Elements

- If recommended for funding, a data management plan compliant with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, <u>DoD Instructions 3200.12</u> will be requested.
- The government reserves the right to request a revised budget, budget justification and/or additional information for applications recommended for funding.

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942525PRCRPIA from <u>Grants.gov</u> or <u>eBRAP</u>, depending on which submission portal will be used.

5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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

5.3. Submission Instructions

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

Step1: Submit Pre-Application Preproposal Submitted Through eBRAP Receive Invitation to Submit Full Application Step 2: Submit Full Application Grants.gov Extramural Organizations Verify Application Content in eBRAP

Application Submission Workflow

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5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

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

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during the full application submission process. The eBRAP log number, application title, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire preapplication and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

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

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

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

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

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

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

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

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

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

All submission dates and times are indicated in <u>Section 1, Basic Information</u> above.

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

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6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

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

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

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

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

Additional restrictions and associated administrative responses are outlined in <u>Section 9.2</u>, <u>Administrative Actions</u>.

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

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

- Whether the proposed project addresses at least one of the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic Areas</u> and at least one corresponding <u>FY25 PRCRP Strategic Goal</u>, and to what degree the research will lead to a breakthrough or make an impact.
- How well the rationale, hypothesis, proposed methodology, and experimental design support the study's objectives and specific aims.
- Whether the proposed research is innovative (i.e., how it may lead to a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities).
- To what degree the proposed research may lead to promising outcomes for one or more of the selected FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas.

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6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

Research Strategy and Feasibility

- How well the hypothesis, specific aims, the scientific rationale, experimental design, methods, data collection procedures, and analyses are developed and support completion of the proposed aims.
- If preliminary data are presented, whether the preliminary data demonstrates support for an early research investigation or demonstrates the investigation is mature beyond early research.
- If animal studies are included, how well they are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model and the endpoints/outcomes to be measured.
- If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, how well the studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results and whether the application provides evidence of availability of, and access to, the necessary study populations and/or resources.
- Whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objectives of the study or whether the justification for a single sex study is sufficiently strong.
- To what degree the statistical analysis plan, including power analysis if applicable, is appropriate for the experimental methodology being used.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problems and addresses potential pitfalls and alternative methods and approaches.

Innovation

- To what degree the research introduces innovative new paradigms, novel challenges to existing paradigms, interrogates existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibits other highly creative qualities.
- To what extent the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance beyond ongoing research and published data.

Impact

- To what extent the project impacts a critical problem or question in the PI-selected <u>FY25</u> <u>PRCRP Topic Area</u>.
- To what extent the proposed research project addresses the PI-selected FY25 PRCRP portfolio-specific strategic goal.
- To what extent the results of the research will impact the field of study and/or improve patient care.
- If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.

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Personnel

 How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.

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

Budget

- Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- Whether there may be significant overlap with existing or pending awards of the PI or research team.

Environment

 To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project, to include the quality and level of institutional support and the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.

Application Presentation

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

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers.
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY25 PRCRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity.
 - Relative innovation.
 - Program portfolio composition.
 - Programmatic relevance to the <u>FY25 PRCRP Military Health Focus Areas.</u>
 - Programmatic relevance to the <u>FY25 PRCRP Strategic Goals</u> as outlined in the FY25 PRCRP portfolio categories.

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit full applications. The estimated date when PIs can expect to receive notification of an invitation to submit a full application is indicated in Section 1, Basic Information about the Funding Opportunity. No feedback (e.g., a critique of the pre-application's strengths and weaknesses) is provided at this stage. Because the invitation to submit a full 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.

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6.3.2. Full Application

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General, 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 6.2.3</u>, <u>Programmatic Review</u>. Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the <u>CDMRP website</u>.*

Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program, the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by peer and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds.

6.4. Risk, Integrity, and Performance Information

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

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

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

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7. Federal Award Notices

For each full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within 6 weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the PRCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website.

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

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

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

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

An organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. For additional information about pre-award costs for Grants.gov submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section I.D, Pre-Award Costs section; and for eBRAP submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section 1.D, Pre-Award Costs section.

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8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

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

Refer to full text of the latest <u>DoD R&D Terms and Conditions</u> and the <u>USAMRAA Research</u> <u>Terms and Conditions</u>: Addendum to the <u>DoD R&D Terms and Conditions</u> for further information.

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

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

8.2. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports as well as a final technical progress report will be required. Annual and final technical reports must be prepared in accordance with the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).

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

Award Expiration Transition Plan: <u>An Award Expiration Transition Plan</u>, using the template available on eBRAP, must be submitted with the final progress report.

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

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than \$10M are required to provide information to SAM about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 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 8, Section B).

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8.3. Additional Requirements

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in the PI or organization will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, 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 7, Section H, for general information on organization or PI changes.

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9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code CD25_01d. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code CD25_01.

9.2. Administrative Actions

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

9.2.1. Rejection

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

Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.

9.2.2. Modification

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

9.2.3. Withdrawal

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

- A member of the FY25 PRCRP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the preapplication or application processes.
- Applications that include names of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For FY25, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found on the CDMRP website.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP.

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- Applications submitted by a federal government organization (including an intramural DOD organization) if: (a) the organization cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY25 funds; and/or (b) the federal government organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.
- Application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- The invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the preapplication.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the <u>FY25 PRCRP Topic</u> Areas.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the <u>FY25 PRCRP Military</u> Health Focus Areas.
- The pre-application or application does not address at least one of the <u>FY25 PRCRP</u> <u>Strategic Goals</u> as outlined in the FY25 PRCRP portfolio categories.
- The application addresses an FY25 strategic goal from a portfolio that does not include the FY25 topic area being addressed.
- The pre-application or application does not adhere to congressional language and includes a cancer that originates in the breast, prostate, or ovary, or rare cancers (excluding relevant subtypes of the FY25 PRCRP topic areas), or melanoma as part of the research study.
- A clinical trial is proposed.

9.2.4. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

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Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance (Grants.gov submissions only)	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) (eBRAP submissions only)	
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	
Supporting Documentation - Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	
Technical Abstract - Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	
Lay Abstract - Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	
Statement of Work - Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	
Relevance to Military Health Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "MilHealth.pdf".	
Innovation Statement – Attachment 7, upload as "Innovation.pdf"	
Impact Statement – Attachment 8, upload as "Impact.pdf"	
Animal Research Plan - Attachment 9, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"	
<u>Statistical Plan and Data Analysis</u> – Attachment 10, upload as "Stats.pdf"	
Post-Award Transition Plan - Attachment 11, upload as "Transition.pdf"	
Representations (Grants.gov submissions only) – Attachment 12, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	
<u>Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form</u> (if applicable) – Attachment 13, upload as "IGBudget.pdf"	
Research & Related Personal Data	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	
Attach Biographical Sketch for PI and Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	
Attach Current and pending (other) support for PI and Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	
Budget Include budget justification	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable)	

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments

CDMRP Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

DOD Department of Defense

DoDGARs Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations

DTC Disseminated Tumor Cells

eBRAP Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal

EC Ethics Committee ET Eastern Time

FAD Funding Authorization Document

FY Fiscal Year

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

IA Idea Award

IACUC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IRB Institutional Review Board

M Million

MIPR Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

NIH National Institutes of Health

NSF U.S. National Science Foundation

OHARO Office of Human and Animal Research (previously Office of Research

Protections)

OUSD R&E Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

PDF Portable Document Format
PHS Public Health Service

PI Principal Investigator

PRCRP Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
RPPR Research Performance Progress Report

SAM System for Award Management

SciENcv Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae

SOW Statement of Work
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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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Appendix 3. DOD and VA Websites

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/

Air Force Research Laboratory

https://www.afrl.af.mil/

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute

https://afrri.usuhs.edu/home

Combat Casualty Care Research Program

https://cccrp.health.mil/

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

https://cdmrp.health.mil/

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

https://www.darpa.mil/

Defense Health Agency

https://health.mil/About-MHS/OASDHA/Defense-Health-Agency/

Defense Suicide Prevention Office

https://www.dspo.mil/

Defense Technical Information Center

https://www.dtic.mil/

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

https://www.dtra.mil/

Military Health System Research Symposium

https://mhsrs.health.mil/sitepages/home.aspx

Military Infectious Diseases Research Program

https://midrp.health.mil/

Military Operational Medicine Research Program

https://momrp.health.mil/

Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

https://www.med.navy.mil/

Naval Health Research Center

https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Research-Command/R-D-Commands/Naval-Health-

Research-Center/

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center

https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Force-Health-Protection-Command/

Naval Medical Research Command

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

Office of Naval Research

https://www.med.navy.mil/

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

https://www.acq.osd.mil/

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

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences https://www.usuhs.edu

U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory https://usaarl.health.mil/

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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