I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program

Clinical Translational Research Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-22-TSCRP-CTRA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical Research and Development

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), June 30, 2022

- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, July 28, 2022

- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 4, 2022

- **Peer Review:** September 2022

- **Programmatic Review:** December 2022

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

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II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRP) are being solicited by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 2358 (10 USC 2358). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). The TSCRP was initiated in 2002 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit and to promote innovative research focused on decreasing the clinical impact of tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC). Appropriations for the TSCRP from FY02 through FY21 totaled $97 million (M). The FY22 appropriation is $8M

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

II.A.1. TSCRP Strategic Plan

The TSCRP has prepared a Strategic Plan that describes the TSCRP's background and overview, the research and funding environment, and strategic direction for the program. Applicants are strongly urged to read and consider the TSCRP Strategic Plan, especially the Strategic Goals and Range of Research Areas, before preparing their application. The TSCRP Strategic Plan can be found at https://cdmrp.army.mil/tscrp/pdfs/TSCRP%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf.

II.A.2. FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas

The FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award encourages applications in biomarkers, therapeutics, and patient-centered studies that address one or more of the following Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas:

- Understanding and treating the features of TSC-Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders (TAND) and reducing their impact, including pharmacological, behavioral, and surgical interventions

- Strategies for eradicating tumors associated with TSC and TSC-associated lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM), including gaining a deeper mechanistic understanding of TSC signaling pathways and tumor microenvironment

- Preventing epilepsy, improving treatment, and mitigating neurodevelopmental outcomes associated with TSC-related seizures

If the proposed research project does not address one or more of the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas, justification that the proposed research project

addresses another important problem or unmet need related to TSC research and/or patient care should be provided.

II.A.3. Award History

The TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award mechanism was first offered in FY17. Since then, 17 Clinical Translational Research Award applications have been received, and 6 have been recommended for funding.

II.B. Award Information

The Clinical Translational Research Award supports studies that will move promising, well-founded preclinical and/or clinical research findings closer to clinical application, including diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC. Projects supported by this award mechanism may include, but not limited to:

- Studies moving from preclinical to clinical research and/or the reverse, analyzing human anatomical substances and/or data associated with completed clinical trials (such as correlative studies that investigate the correlation of a set of genetic and/or environmental factors with disease progression, or the effect of an intervention on the disease outcomes, etc.)

- Studies advancing clinical trial readiness through development of biomarkers, clinical endpoints, and validation of pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics.

- Pilot clinical trials where *limited* clinical testing (e.g., small sample size) of a novel intervention is necessary to inform the next step in the continuum of translational research.

Preclinical studies may be appropriate but must include a clinical component. ***Projects that are strictly animal research will not be considered for funding and should consider other FY22 TSCRP funding opportunities.***

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

Clinical research is defined as: (1) Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, and (d) development of new technologies. (2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies. (3) Outcomes research and health services research. *Note:* Studies that

meet the requirements for IRB Exemption 4 are not considered CDMRP-defined clinical research. IRB Exemption 4 refers to research involving the collection or study of existing de-identified specimens or data, if these sources are publicly available.

The following are important aspects of the Clinical Translational Research Award:

- **Translation:** The application should clearly state how the proposed research project will expand upon promising, preclinical, and/or clinical research findings to move the field closer to a clinical application by the end of the study.

- **Impact:** Proposed studies should have the potential to improve the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC by:

  ○ Likely having a major impact on TSC patients by applying promising and well-founded laboratory or other preclinical or clinical research findings to the care of patients, and/or

  ○ Leveraging information from completed clinical trials to address knowledge gaps in resulting outcomes, validate key research findings and expand upon potentially transformative results, or investigate novel findings.

- **Feasibility:** The application should demonstrate that the investigators have access to the necessary specimens, data, intervention, and patient population, as applicable.

- **Preliminary Data:** Unpublished results from the laboratory of the Principal Investigator (PI) or collaborators named on the application, and/or data from the published literature that are relevant to TSC and the proposed research project, *are required*.

Collaborations between clinicians and research scientists are strongly encouraged.

For projects including correlative studies: The FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award may support correlative studies that are associated with a completed clinical trial. *The application should demonstrate access to the necessary specimens and/or data of the proposed cohort. Appropriate access must be confirmed at the time of application submission.* See Attachment 9, Letter(s) Confirming Access to Specimens and/or Data.

For projects including a pilot clinical trial, the application must:

- Demonstrate availability of, and access to, a suitable patient population that will support a meaningful outcome for the study. The application should discuss how accrual goals will be achieved and how standards of care may impact the study population.

- Demonstrate documented availability of and access to the drug/compound, device, and/or other materials needed, as appropriate. The quality of the product should be commensurate with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) manufacturing standards applicable to the type and phase of product being developed (i.e., Quality System Regulation, Good Manufacturing Practices).

- Clearly describe the steps that will be taken to advance the intervention into the next stage of development following the conclusion of the work proposed in this award.

- Provide specific regulatory milestones, e.g., submission of an application to the FDA for obtaining Investigational New Drug (IND) or Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) approval, and a feasible plan for achieving the milestones.

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

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award will not exceed **$1,000,000**. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed funding information.

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

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately $3.2M to fund approximately two Clinical Translational Research Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY22 funding opportunity will be funded with FY22 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2028.

Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers: All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. Allow up to 3 months to complete the HRPO regulatory review and approval process following submission of *all required and complete* documents to the HRPO.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the Human Research Protections Office Resources and Overview document available on the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) for additional information.

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

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

Research Involving Animals: All research funded by the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC ORP Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. ***Allow at least 3 to 4 months for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies.*** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

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

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

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

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

Intramural DOD Organization: A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. ***Intramural Submission:* An**

application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.

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

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

Independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) are eligible to be named as a PI on applications.

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

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

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

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

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

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

II.D. Application and Submission Information

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

II.D.1. eBRAP and Grants.gov

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

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

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

Extramural Submission:

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

- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at Grants.gov.

Intramural DOD Submission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All pre-application components must be submitted by the Initiating PI through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/).

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

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

When starting the pre-application, PIs should ensure that they have selected the appropriate application category:

- Clinical Translational Research Award **(CTRA)**

- Clinical Translational Research Award *with Correlative Study* **(CTRA-CS)**

- Clinical Translational Research Award *with Pilot Clinical Trial* **(CTRA-PCT)**

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

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**

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

- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**

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

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

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

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel**

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

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

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

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

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

  Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Area(s) or another important problem or unmet need in TSC research and/or patient care to be addressed.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

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

LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions. An invitation to submit a full application is *not* required. Applicants that have completed the pre-application step can submit full applications directly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines

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

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
• Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form • Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	• Performance Sites **Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data:** Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.
Application Package Submission	
Create a Grants.gov Workspace. Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission. **Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package.** An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the "Sign and Submit" button on the "Manage Workspace" page, under the "Forms" tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package **at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date** to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission. *Note:* If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a "Changed/Corrected Application" with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID *prior to* the application submission deadline. ***Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.***	**Submit package components to eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).** **Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application:** After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to "Enter Your Password Here" and press the "Submit Full Application" button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official by email. ***Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.***
Application Verification Period	
The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form***.	After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/ Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official and PI will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form***. Your Resource Manager/ Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
	and to approve prior to the application verification deadline.
Further Information	
Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package. After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the "Confirmation" page that is generated after submission. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.	Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.

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

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

- **Extramural Applications Only**

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

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

  Attachments:

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

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

  - **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (15-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".** The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an

unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

– **Background/Scientific Rationale:** Present the ideas and rationale behind the proposed research project, including a well-formulated, testable hypothesis and clear mechanistic underpinning. Include relevant literature citations. Describe previous experience and expertise most pertinent to the proposed research project. ***Inclusion of preliminary and/or published data that are relevant to TSC and the proposed research project is required.***

– **Hypothesis/Objective:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.

– **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project's specific aims to be funded by this award.

– **Research Strategy and Feasibility:**

  ▪ *For all applications:*

    ❖ Describe the experimental design and methods, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization, and power analysis to achieve reproducible and rigorous results.

    ❖ Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.

    ❖ Describe how data will be collected, handled, and analyzed in a manner that is consistent with the study objectives. Describe the statistical analysis plan appropriate for the proposed research project. Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.

    ❖ Describe how data will be reported and how it will be assured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the FDA, if applicable.

    ❖ If human subjects or human anatomical samples will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. For clinical research, describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, racial, and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects.

- ▪ *In addition, for applications including correlative studies:*

  - ❖ Describe the proposed pre-existing cohort and its relevance to TSC or LAM, including the type of data and/or specimens available.

  - ❖ Describe the size of the pre-existing cohort, including subjects and controls, and the expected statistical power of the study.

  - ❖ Explain how the cohort is appropriate for the study objective.

- ▪ *In addition, for applications including a pilot clinical trial: (Note: The Project Narrative is not the formal clinical trial protocol. If recommended for funding, the clinical trial protocol will be requested.)*

  - ❖ Describe the type of pilot clinical trial to be performed and outline the proposed methodology in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action.

  - ❖ Briefly identify the intervention to be tested, projected outcomes, study variables, controls, and endpoints.

  - ❖ Describe the method that will be used to recruit human subjects from the accessible population, including the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

  - ❖ Describe the availability of, and access to, the proposed intervention and/or other materials needed, as appropriate.

  - ❖ If applicable, describe how the pilot clinical trial is clearly linked to the laboratory research studies that will also be performed through this award.

  - ❖ Describe how the pilot clinical trial is only proposing limited clinical testing of a novel intervention necessary to inform the next step in the continuum of translational research.

  - ❖ Outline a regulatory strategy, including a plan for applying for and obtaining IND/IDE, as appropriate.

  - ❖ **Ethical Considerations:** Describe the process for seeking informed consent. Clearly identify all study risks and describe the safety measures that will be utilized to minimize risks to human subjects and study personnel.

- ○ **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf".** Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

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

References Cited: List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).

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

Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether or not government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.

Publications and/or Patents: Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.

Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.

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

Intellectual Property: Information can be found in the 2 CFR 200.315, "Intangible Property."

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

- **Commercialization Strategy (if applicable):** Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.

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

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

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

Inclusion Enrollment Report (if applicable): Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. The suggested Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report format is a one-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

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

  Of particular importance, programmatic reviewers may not have access to the full application and therefore rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project's key aspects. Therefore, clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important.

  The technical abstract should be structured to include the following points:

  – **Background/Scientific Rationale:** State the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Area(s) or another important problem or unmet need in TSC

research and/or patient care to be addressed. Present the ideas and rationale behind the proposed research project.

- **Hypothesis/Objective:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the hypothesis/objective.

- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the proposed research project.

- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

- **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed research project will have a short- and long-term impact on TSC research and/or patient care.

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

The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the advocate community. Minimize use of acronyms and abbreviations, where appropriate.

The lay abstract should be written using the outline below.

- Explain how the proposed research addresses one or more of the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas or an important problem or unmet need in TSC research and/or patient care. 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 the ultimate applicability of the research.

  - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?

  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?

  - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?

  - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to improving the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC?

○ **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** The suggested Statement of Work (SOW) format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

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

○ **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".** Explain why the proposed research project is important and the impact it will have on one or more of the [FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas](#). If the project does not address an FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Area, provide justification that the proposed research project addresses another important problem or unmet need in TSC research and/or patient care. Describe how the proposed research project has the potential to improve the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC by:

   – Likelihood of having a major impact on therapy by applying promising and well-founded laboratory or other preclinical or clinical research findings to the care of patients, and/or

   – Leveraging information from completed clinical trials to address knowledge gaps in resulting outcomes, validate key research and expand upon potentially transformative results, or investigate novel findings.

   Short-term impact: Detail the anticipated outcomes that will make an important contribution toward advancing TSC research.

   Long-term impact: Explain the anticipated long-term gains from the proposed research project, including how the new understanding may ultimately contribute to the goal of advancing TSC research and/or patient care.

○ **Attachment 7: Clinical Translation Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Translation.pdf".** Describe the translational aspects of the proposed research. The ultimate goal of translational research is to move an observation forward into clinical application and accelerate the introduction of healthcare products, technologies, or practice guidelines for clinical use. State explicitly how the proposed research project is translational in nature and describe how it will help to move an observation forward into clinical practice. If the proposed research includes both preclinical research and a pilot clinical trial, explain how the preclinical research and pilot clinical trial aims are connected and necessary to advance the research toward clinical implementation. Include a clear description of the next step in the translation of the results of this research after the end of the project.

○ **Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit)** *(only required if proposed research project involves animals)***: Upload as "AnimalPlan.pdf".** When the proposed study involves animals, the applicant is required to submit a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted. Applicants should not submit a verbatim replica of the protocol(s) to be submitted to the IACUC as the Animal Research Plan. The

Animal Research Plan should address the following points for each proposed animal study:

- Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. 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 and endpoints/outcomes to be measured. 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 9: Letter(s) Confirming Access to Specimens and/or Data** *(only required if a correlative study is included).* **Upload as "Access.pdf".** If the application includes a correlative study, provide a letter of support, signed by the appropriate institution official who has the authority to confirm access to the proposed cohort specimens and/or data necessary to carry out the study.

○ **Attachment 10: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/ public/Program.htm). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.

○ **Attachment 11: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as "MFBudget.pdf".** If a military facility (Military Health System facility, research laboratory, medical treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DOD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using "Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format", available for download on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm), including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

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

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

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

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

  ○ PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".

    – For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.

    – For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

  ○ Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each): Upload as "Biosketch_LastName.pdf".

  ○ Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf".

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

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

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

- **Extramural Applications Only**

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

  ○ **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

  ○ **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete the "Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format" and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as Attachment 11. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) Each Intramural DOD Collaborator should include costs per year on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

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

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (https://www.sam.gov/SAM/) and receive confirmation of an "Active" status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. As published in the Federal Register, July 10, 2019, (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/10/2019-14665/unique-entity-id-standard-for-awards-management), the UEI for awards management generated through SAM will be used instead of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as of April 2022. *All federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI.* USAMRDC will transition to use of the UEI beginning with FY22 announcements and utilize the latest SF424, which includes the UEI. The DUNS will no longer be accepted. Applicant organizations will not go to a third-party website to obtain an identifier. During the transition, your SAM registration will automatically be assigned a new UEI displayed in SAM. (For more information, visit the General Services Administration: https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update). Current SAM.gov registrants are assigned their UEI and can view it within SAM.gov. *Authorized Organizational Representatives with existing eBRAP accounts should update their organizational profile to include the UEI prior to submission of the full application to Grant.gov (see Section II.D.4, Submission Dates and Times below.)* Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated in Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity. Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application

submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

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

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

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

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

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **$1,000,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in

accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the government exceeding **$1,000,000** direct costs or using an indirect cost rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.

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

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs must be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations, including travel

- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translation Research Award

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

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

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

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

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following **scored criteria**, where each scored criterion is of equal importance:

- **Clinical Translational Potential**

  ○ To what extent the proposed research project is translational in nature and will help to move an observation forward into clinical practice.

- ○ If the proposed research includes both preclinical research and a pilot clinical trial, to what extent the preclinical research and pilot clinical trial aims are connected and necessary to advance the research toward clinical implementation.

  - ○ How well the application has described the next step in the translation of the results of this research after the end of the project.

- **Impact**

  - ○ How well the proposed research project addresses one or more of the [FY22 TSCRP Clinical Translational Research Award Focus Areas](#) or another important problem or unmet need in TSC research and/or patient care.

  - ○ To what extent the proposed research project has the potential to improve the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC by applying promising and well-founded laboratory or other preclinical or clinical research findings to the care of patients, and/or leveraging information from ongoing or completed clinical trials.

  - ○ *Assuming the objectives/goals of the proposed research project are realized:*

    - – To what extent the anticipated short-term outcomes will make an important contribution toward advancing TSC research.

    - – To what extent the anticipated long-term outcomes will make a significant contribution toward improving the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of TSC.

    - – To what extent the data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community.

- **Rationale**

  - ○ How well the scientific rationale, including a well-formulated, testable hypothesis and clear mechanistic underpinning, supports the proposed research project.

  - ○ To what extent the provided preliminary data support the proposed research project.

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

  - ○ *For all applications, the following criteria apply:*

    - – How well the study (or studies) is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization, and power analysis.

    - – To what extent the statistical analysis plan is appropriate for the proposed research project.

    - – How well the handling, collection, and analysis of data are consistent with the study objectives.

- If applicable, whether data will be appropriately reported and documented to support a regulatory filing with the FDA.

- If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.

- If applicable, how well the proposed animal studies are designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.

- To what extent the proposed research project is feasible as described.

- How well the application identifies potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.

○ *Additionally, for applications including correlative studies, the following criteria apply:*

- How well the application demonstrates access to the proposed pre-existing cohort specimens and/or data.

- To what extent the proposed pre-existing cohort is appropriate for the objective of the study.

- To what extent the proposed pre-existing cohort is well-characterized and adequately controlled.

- To what extent the statistical power of the study is appropriate, given the size of the cohort.

○ *Additionally, for studies including a pilot clinical trial, the following criteria apply:*

- How well the study design (including inclusion/exclusion criteria, access to patients, access to the intervention/diagnostic, recruitment/consent plan, data collection and analysis methods, and outcomes/endpoints) supports the objective of the proposed pilot clinical trial.

- To what extent the strategies for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment, if applicable, are appropriate for the proposed research.

- To what extent the proposed pilot clinical trial is feasible as described.

- How well the proposed pilot clinical trial is linked to the laboratory research studies that also will be performed through this award.

- How well the regulatory strategy is outlined, including, if applicable, how appropriate the plan is for applying for and obtaining IND/IDE approval.

- **Personnel**

  ○ To what degree the PI and research team's experience, expertise, and record of accomplishment demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the proposed research project.

  ○ To what extent the levels of effort by the PI and other key personnel are appropriate to ensure success of the proposed research project.

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

- **Ethical Considerations** *(for studies including a pilot clinical trial)*

  ○ How well the application identifies potential study risks and outlines safety steps to protect study subjects and staff.

- **Environment**

  ○ To what degree the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research project.

  ○ How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).

  ○ To what degree the quality and extent of institutional support/commitment are appropriate for the proposed research project.

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

- **Budget**

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

  ○ Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

- **Application Presentation**

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

II.E.1.b. Programmatic Review

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

- Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers

- Relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program and FY22 TSCRP, as evidenced by the following:

    ○ Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism

    ○ Program portfolio composition

    ○ Relative clinical translational potential and impact

II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#).*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the TSCRP will be provided to the PI and posted on the CDMRP website.

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

II.E.3. Integrity and Performance Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

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

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

Pre-Award Costs: An institution of higher education, hospital, or non-profit organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

II.F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

- Certify that the current and pending support provided on the application is current, accurate, and complete;

- Agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and

- Have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act.

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

II.F.3. Reporting

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

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

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

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement *(only required for clinical research studies)*: Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on the "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP.

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than $10M are required to provide information to FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Representations (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

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

> Phone: 301-682-5507

> Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

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

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

> Email: support@grants.gov

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

II.H. Other Information

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

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

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

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

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.

- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.

- Project Narrative is missing.

- Budget is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.

- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An FY22 TSCRP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *A list of the FY22 TSCRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at https://cdmrp.army.mil/tscrp/panels/panels22.*

- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.

- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).

- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY22, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (https://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.

- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.

- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.

- Attachment 8, Animal Research Plan, is missing (if applicable).

- For projects including a correlative study, Attachment 9, Letter(s) Confirming Access to Specimens and/or Data, is missing.

- The PI does not meeting the eligibility criteria.

- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

- Projects that are strictly animal research and do not include a clinical component.

II.H.2.d. Withhold

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

II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

Application Components	Action	Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance **(extramural submissions only)**	Complete form as instructed	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) **(intramural submissions only)**	Complete tabs as instructed	
Attachments	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	
	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf"	
	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf"	
	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf"	
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf"	
	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf"	
	Clinical Translation Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Translation.pdf"	
	Animal Research Plan: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "AnimalPlan.pdf" if applicable	
	Letter(s) Confirming Access to Specimens and/or Data: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "Access.pdf" if applicable	
	Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 10 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf"	
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 11with file name "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable	
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed	

Application Components	Action	Completed
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field	
	Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
	Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field	
Research & Related Budget **(extramural submissions only)**	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field	
Budget **(intramural submissions only)**	Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed	
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable	Complete form as instructed	

APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACOS/R&D	Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development
ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CTRA	Clinical Translational Research Award
CTRA-CS	Clinical Translational Research Award with Correlative Study
CTRA-PCT	Clinical Translational Research Award with Pilot Clinical Trial
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
HRPO	Human Research Protection Office
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LAM	Lymphangioleiomyomatosis
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MB	Megabyte
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.
ORP	Office of Research Protections
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics
TAND	TSC-Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders
TSC	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
TSCRP	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier

URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRDC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
USC	United States Code
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs