



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Breast Cancer Research Program Era of Hope Scholar Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526BCRPEOHS

Pre-Application Due: June 24, 2026

Application Due: July 8, 2026

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version [CD26_01](#).

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Before You Begin

- **Active [SAM.gov](#), [eBRAP.org](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations are required for application submission.** User registration for each of these websites can take several weeks or longer. Each applicant must ensure their registrations are active and up to date prior to application preparation.
- **Read this 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 this funding opportunity and that all parties meet eligibility requirements.
- **To support application preparation, additional resources are available** including an application process [FAQ](#), a [Guide for Intragovernmental & Intramural Applicants](#) and a [CDMRP Video Series](#) detailing the application process.

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 Support 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 the Alt + left arrow keys (Windows) or command + left arrow keys (Macintosh) on your keyboard.

Click  to be taken to additional guidance and instructions within the General Application Instructions (GAI).

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1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Era of Hope Scholar Award supports individuals who are early in their careers with significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. As the Intent of the FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals rather than projects, the award's central features include the Principal Investigator's (PI's) demonstrated ability to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the innovative and meaningful contributions that they can make toward ending breast cancer. The Era of Hope Scholar Award requires exceptionally talented scientists that are among "the best and the brightest" in their field(s), with demonstrated experience forming effective partnerships and collaborations and strong potential for future leadership in breast cancer research. All applications must address at least one of the FY26 BCRP overarching challenges or provide adequate justification for exception.

Distinctive Features:

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

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$4.9 million (M) to fund approximately one Era of Hope Scholar Award application with total cost cap of \$4.9M per award. The maximum period of performance is four years. It is anticipated that the award made from this FY26 funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. The award supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), June 24, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, July 8, 2026
- **Confidential Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 13, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 13, 2026
- **Peer Review:** September 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** November 2026
- **Invitation for Oral Presentation:** November 2026
- **Programmatic Review, Stage 2:** December 2026

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526BCRPEOHS

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

[Extramural](#) and [intramural U.S. Department of War \(DOW\)](#) organizations are eligible to apply, ***including foreign and domestic organizations, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and public or private entities.***

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

Independent investigators affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named PI on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

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

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

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 GAI for additional [recipient qualification requirements](#).

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3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the BCRP. The CDMRP is located within the Defense Health Agency Research and Development (DHA R&D), which is a part of the Department of Defense, DOD, herein referred to using the secondary title Department of War, DOW. Congress initiated the BCRP in FY92 to support innovative high-impact research with a mission of ending breast cancer for Service Members and their Families, Veterans, and the general public. Appropriations for the BCRP from FY92 through FY25 totaled \$4.52 billion. The FY26 appropriation is \$145M.

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

The BCRP brief overview called [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#) describes what is currently known about the most pertinent topics that are consistent with the BCRP's mission of ending breast cancer. Considering the current breast cancer landscape and the program's mission, the BCRP seeks to invest in research that addresses the following **FY26 BCRP overarching challenges**:

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

3.1 Intent of the Era of Hope Scholar Award

The intent of the FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to support individuals early in their careers with significant potential to effect meaningful change in breast cancer. The award requires exceptionally talented scientists that are the "best and brightest" in their field(s), with demonstrated experience in forming effective partnerships and collaborations and strong potential for future leadership in breast cancer research. The PIs must exhibit extraordinary creativity, vision, innovation, and productivity.

As the intent of the FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals rather than projects, the award's central features include the PI's demonstrated ability to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the innovative and

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

3.1.1. Key Elements for the Era of Hope Scholar Award

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

Overarching Challenges: Considering the current breast cancer landscape and the BCRP's mission, all applications must address at least one of the above [overarching challenges](#) or provide adequate justification for exception.¹ Simply identifying an overarching challenge is not sufficient. The BCRP strongly urges applicants to read and consider [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#) before preparing their applications.

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

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

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

The FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award application review requires an *invited* oral presentation, as described in [Section 4.4](#).

[Clinical research](#) including projects involving human data, human anatomical substances, and/or interaction with human subjects are permitted. **Clinical trials are allowed, but not required, within this funding opportunity.**

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, CDMRP does not support the conduct of painful research (U.S. Department of Agriculture pain category D or E) involving domestic cats or dogs, except for studies relating to military or service animals.

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of clinical and preclinical research, such as those described in the [STROBE](#), [CONSORT](#), [SPIRIT](#) and [ARRIVE 2.0](#) guidelines.

The proposed research must be relevant to Service Members, Veterans, their Families and/or the American Public. PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOW and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with the DOW and/or VA is also encouraged. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional

¹ With adequate justification, applications may identify and address another overarching challenge related to [The Breast Cancer Landscape](#). Investigators must provide justification in the application.

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information about ongoing DOW and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in [Appendix 10](#) of the GAI.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, the CDMRP encourages applicants to review the task force [recommendations](#) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and align with the FY26 BCRP priorities.

3.2. Funding Instrument

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

3.3. Funding Details

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

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$4.9M**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

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

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

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

Must be requested for:

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

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- If applicable, research subject compensation and reimbursement for study-related out-of-pocket costs (e.g., travel, lodging, parking, costs associated with caregiving, and resources/equipment to enable participation).
- Costs for three investigators to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the required meetings described in [Section 8.3](#). The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award.

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

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

Intramural DOW 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. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

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

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

4.3. Full Application Components

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

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form (Grants.gov submissions only):



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](#) in the GAI.
- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (six-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.**




The Project Narrative should clearly state the PI’s **vision for ending breast cancer** and **why this application meets the objectives of this unique program description**. As the intent of the FY26 BCRP Era of Hope Scholar Award is to recognize creative and innovative individuals, rather than projects, the central features of the award include the PI’s demonstrated ability to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the innovative and meaningful contributions that they can make toward ending breast cancer.

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The PI should specifically address the following items:

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

There are no page limits for these components unless otherwise noted. Include only 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 in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format (include URLs, if available).
- **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; include 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 the original or present government award under which the facilities or

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equipment items are now accountable. There is not a standardized 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 meet [eligibility criteria](#) and the extent to which the PI will be relieved of academic or administrative responsibilities and allowed to pursue their own goals. If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOW collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOW resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.
- **Consumer Advocate Letters of Commitment:** Provide a letter signed by each consumer advocate confirming their commitment to participate in the proposed project.
- **Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable):** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, including clinical research participants. If applicable, include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived. Identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources that will not be shared (e.g., for intellectual property, feasibility, cost or other considerations). The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer/third-party intellectual property. Provide a milestone plan for disseminating data/results including when data and resources will be made available to other users. In cases where the study participant could potentially derive medical or other benefit from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with the participant or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

Do not submit a copy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Management and Sharing Plan or duplicate the Data Management Plan which will be requested only after a recommendation for funding is made.



Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on Sharing Data and Research Resources](#) for more information about the CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

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



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- **Attachment 4: Research Team Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Team.pdf”.**
Describe how the PI’s and research team’s combined backgrounds and breast cancer-related technical and administrative expertise will contribute to accomplishing the research goals and/or their ability to manage this award. Provide the names of at least two consumer advocates and their affiliation with a breast cancer advocacy organization(s). Describe how the consumer advocates’ knowledge of current breast cancer issues and how their background and/or training in breast cancer research will contribute to the proposed research. Explain the integration of the consumer advocates into the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of the research.
- **Attachment 5: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 
- **Attachment 6: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (*if applicable*): Upload as “IGBudget.pdf”.** If an [intramural DOW 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 available on eBRAP. 

(c) Additional Application Materials:

The following are additional forms for application submission. Follow the instructions specific to the submission portal, as found within the GAI.



Grants.gov



eBRAP.org

i. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

- **Biographical Sketch**
Biographical sketches or equivalent must be submitted for the breast cancer consumer advocates.
- **Current/Pending Support**
Intragovernmental applicants must include their internally supported research and development programs.

ii. Research & Related Budget

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

iv. Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) (*if applicable, Grants.gov submissions only*)

4.4. Other Application Elements

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

Submission of **three confidential letters of recommendation** from the three individuals named during the pre-application process is required. Individuals should upload the signed letters, prepared on organizational letterhead, as PDF files to eBRAP by 5:00 p.m. ET on the [application verification deadline](#). The PI should monitor letter receipt in eBRAP by viewing the

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status in the “Pre-Application Files” tab of the pre-application. The PI will not be able to view the letters.

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

- Creative and original accomplishments.
- Likelihood of continued innovation and productivity.
- Potential for leadership in the breast cancer community.
- Likelihood of establishing a successful career at the forefront of breast cancer research.
- Ability to manage the technical and administrative aspects of this award.

Oral Presentation: PIs named in applications selected for Programmatic Review, Stage 2, to give an oral presentation (see [Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#)). This presentation will take place in the National Capital Area or virtually, at the discretion of the government, and is tentatively scheduled for December 2026.

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

- What conceptual or intellectual barriers do you consider the most urgent to overcome in order to end breast cancer?
- How does your vision for breast cancer research challenge current dogma within the broader field of breast cancer research?
- Without addressing any specifics of the project, how do you envision your research contributing to the next leap forward toward ending breast cancer?
- How will you use your leadership skills to develop your vision for preventing and treating breast cancer beyond your laboratory and institution?

If recommended for funding, applicants will be requested to provide Technical and Lay abstracts prior to award.

If recommended for funding, a data management plan compliant with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instructions 3200.12](#) will be requested.



The government reserves the right to request a revised budget, budget justification and/or additional information for applications recommended for funding.

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526BCRPEOHS from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

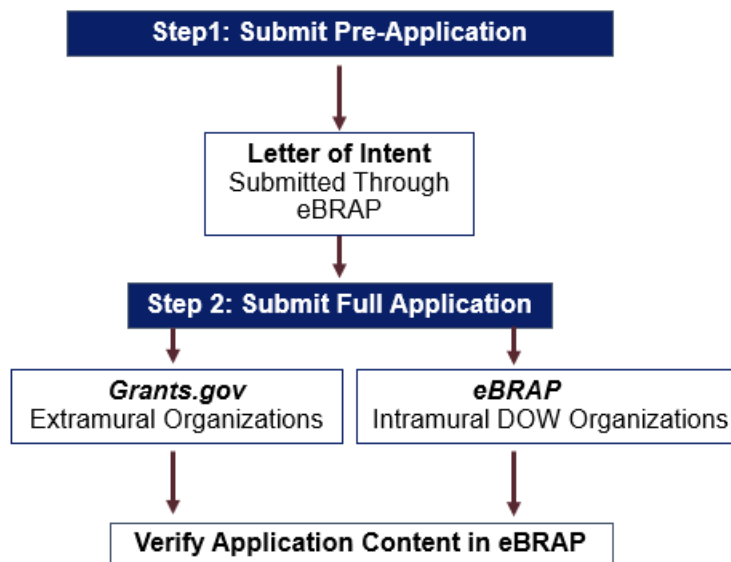
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in the System for Award Management (SAM), [SAM.gov](#), and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the unique entity identifier (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. i

5.3. Submission Instructions

The CDMRP uses two portal systems to accept pre- and full application submissions. The workflow below shows which portal system to use for pre- and full application submissions, respectively.

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through [eBRAP](#). i


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

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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. Contact the [eBRAP Help Desk](#) if any changes need to be made.

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

Grants.gov Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations *must* be submitted through the Grants.gov Workspace. 

eBRAP Submissions: Only [intramural DOW organization](#) may submit full applications through eBRAP. 

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of the 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 in to eBRAP to review, modify and verify the full application submission. 
The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the [application verification period](#) ends. 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 application rejection. ***The DHACA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant.***

Submission dates and times are specified in [Section 1, Basic Information](#).

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 the 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 Directive 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.



Members of the FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel must not be involved in any pre-application or full application including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation and the development of any supporting documentation, including personal letters of support/recommendation for the research and/or PI. Programmatic panel members **may** provide [letters](#) to confirm [PI eligibility](#) and access to laboratory space, equipment and other resources necessary for the project if that is part of their regular roles and responsibilities (e.g., as Department Chair). ***A list of the [FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel members](#) can be found on the CDMRP website.***

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

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

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

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Principal Investigator**

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

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

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

- **Research Sharing Plan**
 - To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate and reasonable and includes dissemination to affected communities, study participants and/or the scientific community. If applicable, whether specific repository(ies) are named where data and research resources arising from the project will be stored.
- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

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

- Ratings and evaluations of peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 BCRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - **Stage 1:** During the first stage of programmatic review, the FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel will evaluate applications for invitation to Stage 2 using the following criteria:
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Relative innovation
 - **Stage 2 (Oral Presentation):** During the second stage of programmatic review, the FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel will use the following criteria:
 - Understanding of barriers in breast cancer
 - Articulation of a realistic vision with a high potential to impact breast cancer
 - Leadership skills to develop a vision for preventing and treating breast cancer beyond the PI's laboratory and institution

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

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

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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 subject to review and approval by a designated official. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#).*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the [CDMRP website](#).

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

6.4. Risk, Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.1 (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 SAM.

An applicant organization may review the 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-33 and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DOW 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 compliant 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 BCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website. After all awards are made, the CDMRP includes individual award information in a searchable [database](#).

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 DHACA 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).***

Intragovernmental 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 DOW 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 DOW 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.

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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.

The GAI contains information regarding [administrative requirements](#) and [national policy requirements](#).

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

If there are delinquencies in technical reporting requirements for any existing DHA or U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command awards at the applicant organization, DHACA will not issue any new awards 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 animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and must be approved by the DHA R&D Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance (ORRC), prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. 

Funded trials are required to post a copy of the informed consent form used to enroll subjects on a publicly available federal website in accordance with federal requirements described in 32 CFR 219. Additionally, the CDMRP requires all funded [Applicable Clinical Trials](#) to register on [ClinicalTrials.gov](#).

8.2. Reporting

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

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

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

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 the SAM about certain civil, criminal and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with their performance of a federal award. These recipients are

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required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable [Representations](#).

8.3. Additional Requirements

The PI is required to attend a BCRP meeting during years 1 and 3. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meetings will be held in the National Capital Area, or virtually, at the discretion of the government.

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



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

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

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9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name and the program announcement version code CD26_01d.

9.2. Administrative Actions

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

9.2.1. Rejection

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

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

9.2.2. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specified limits will be removed prior to reviewing 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 FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes.
- The application includes the name(s) of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For FY26, 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.
- The application from an extramural organization, including non-DOW federal agencies, is received through eBRAP.
- The federal government recipient organization (including an intramural DOW organization):
(a) cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY26 funds; and/or (b) 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.

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- The application includes URLs, with the exception of links in the References Cited and Publication and/or Patent sections.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and funding cycle.
- The application does not address at least one of the [FY26 BCRP Overarching Challenges](#) and did not provide adequate justification for exception.
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- Application fails to include two consumer advocates on the research team as required by this program announcement.
- Application does not include three confidential letters of recommendation.

9.2.4. Withhold

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

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Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

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

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
BCRP	Breast Cancer Research Program
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	U.S. Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
EOHS	Era of Hope Scholar Award
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SABV	Sex as a Biological Variable
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work

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SPIRIT	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials
STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs