



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Reconstructive Transplant Research Program

Investigator-Initiated Research Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526RTRPIIRA

Pre-Application Due: October 21, 2026

Application Due: November 4, 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) Reconstructive Transplant Research Program (RTRP) Investigator-Initiated Research Award supports studies that have the potential to make an important contribution to reconstructive transplant research, patient care, and/or quality of life. All projects must demonstrate solid scientific rationale with military-relevant utility. The Investigator-Initiated Research Award does not support [clinical trials](#).

Distinctive Features:

- **Scope:** Applications may focus on any phase of research from basic through translational, including preclinical studies in animal models, and clinical research in human subjects or human anatomical substances.
- **Study Design and Feasibility:** The study design should be rigorous and support maximal reproducibility and translational feasibility. A strong statistical plan with appropriate power analysis is important.
- **Impact:** Project results should have the potential for long- and short-term impact on the reconstructive transplant research field and/or patient community. Projects should address at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Focus Areas](#).
- **Preliminary Data:** Preliminary and/or published data that are relevant to reconstructive transplantation and support the rationale for the proposed research **must be** included.
- **Military Relevance:** All projects must be responsive to the health care needs of military Service Members and/or Veterans recovering from traumatic injury, and/or their Family members, caregivers, or clinicians, as well as the general public. Collaboration with military researchers and clinicians is encouraged but not required.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$8.0 million (M) to fund approximately eight Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications with total cost caps of \$1.0M per award. The maximum period of performance is 3 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this fiscal year 2026 (FY26) funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2027. Awards 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), October 21, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, November 4, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, November 9, 2026
- **Peer Review:** January 2027
- **Programmatic Review:** March 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526RTRPIIRA

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 at all career levels affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named Principal Investigator (PI) on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

An investigator may be named on only two FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications as PI.

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 Reconstructive Transplant Research Program (RTRP). 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 RTRP in 2012 to provide support for research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit to refine approaches for, and increase access to, reconstructive transplants and state-of-the-art immunotherapy. Appropriations for the RTRP from FY12 through FY24 totaled \$153M. The FY26 appropriation is \$12M.

The RTRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will advance science and clinical practice of vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) to improve access, safety and quality of life for catastrophically injured Service Members, Veterans and the American public. VCA refers to the transplantation of multiple tissues such as muscle, bone, nerve and skin as a functional unit (e.g., a hand or face) from a deceased donor to a recipient with a severe injury. The ultimate goal is to return injured Service Members to duty and restore their quality of life.

3.1. Award History

The RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award mechanism was first offered in FY16. Since then, the program received 253 Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications and 43 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Investigator-Initiated Research Award

The Investigator-Initiated Research Award is intended to support studies that have the potential to make an important contribution to reconstructive transplant research, patient care and/or quality of life. Though the RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award supports groundbreaking research, all projects must demonstrate solid scientific rationale with military-relevant utility.

Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications may focus on any phase of research from basic through translational, including preclinical studies in animal models, and clinical research in human subjects or human anatomical substances, as well as correlative studies associated with an existing clinical trial.

The RTRP allows for the leveraging of novel findings from solid organ transplant research for testing in a VCA setting, so long as the rationale and benefits for doing so are appropriately explained and justified. For example, the proposed research should clearly explain why the anticipated result might be different in VCA, or why it is important to confirm that the result is the same in VCA, or why repeating the study in a VCA setting could lead to new mechanistic insights or a better understanding of the unique aspects of VCA.

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3.2.1. Focus Areas the Investigator-Initiated Research Award

To meet the intent of the FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award mechanism, applicants must address at least one of the focus areas listed below with an accompanying sub bullet:

- Improve or optimize VCA immunosuppression
 - Define the unique targets and/or mechanisms of VCA immunogenicity and its regulation
 - Develop novel tolerogenic agents or approaches for VCA immunosuppression
 - Develop less toxic and/or personalized regimens for maintenance immunosuppression
- Identify and/or validate reliable prognostic or diagnostic biomarkers, methods, or tools for monitoring the specific needs of VCA graft rejection and immunosuppression
 - Identify and/or validate reliable biomarkers for predicting and monitoring acute and chronic VCA rejection in the clinic (i.e., human clinical samples)
 - Develop assays, devices or technology for clinical graft monitoring utilizing biomarkers; proposed devices should consider human use factors unique to VCA recipients
 - Identify and/or validate reliable approaches to measuring and monitoring in vivo or clinical immunosuppression levels
- Advance VCA preservation strategies
 - Develop promising static preservation strategies, active perfusion modalities or other technologies for translation to the clinic
 - Develop mitigation strategies for preservation-mediated injury, including immune activation or ischemia reperfusion injury
- Develop tools for measuring VCA outcomes including
 - Performance (functional)-based
 - Patient-reported
 - Neurocognitive

3.2.2. Key Elements for the Investigator-Initiated Research Award

- **Study Design and Feasibility:** The proposed study design should be clearly described, rigorous, and support maximal reproducibility and translational feasibility. A statistical plan with appropriate power analysis should be included, as applicable. If a model system is included in the research it should be appropriate for the study and applicable to VCA.
- **Impact:** The short- and long-term impact of the proposed research should be clearly articulated. Projects must address at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#).
- **Military Relevance:** All projects must be responsive to the health care needs of military Service Members and/or Veterans recovering from catastrophic injury and/or their Family members, caregivers or clinicians, as well as the American public.
- **Preliminary Data:** Observations that drive a research idea may be derived from laboratory discovery, population-based studies, a clinician's first-hand knowledge of patients, or

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anecdotal data. ***Preliminary and/or published data that are relevant to reconstructive transplantation and support the rationale for the proposed project must be included.***

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the Investigator-Initiated Research Award

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.

Clinical trials are not allowed within this funding opportunity.

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.

Applications from investigators within the DOW and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the DOW, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the American Public. If the proposed research relies on access to unique resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research.

3.3. Funding Instrument

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

3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$1M**. 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 **3** 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:

- Travel costs for the PI to present project information or disseminate project results at one DOW-sponsored meeting (e.g., the Military Health System Research Symposium) during the period of performance. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meeting will be

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held in the Central Florida area. For budgetary purposes, it should be assumed that this will occur in Year 2. The travel costs are in addition to those allowed for annual scientific/technical meetings.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the required meeting described above. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award.

Must not be requested for:

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

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

Application submission is a two-step process requiring both a **pre-application** submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal ([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 [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Area](#) under which the application will be submitted.

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 (10-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.**



Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

Background/Rationale/Readiness: Describe the research problem, question, or knowledge gap related to at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#) to be addressed by the proposed research. Present the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed project and clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient evidence to support the proposed stage of research. If leveraging findings from solid organ transplant research for testing in a VCA setting, explain the rationale and benefits for doing so. If utilizing a model system, explain how the model is appropriate for the study and applicable to VCA. ***Preliminary and/or published data that are relevant to reconstructive transplantation and support the rationale for the proposed research must be***

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included in the application. Describe how the previous experience of the PI and research team relates to the proposed research project.

Hypothesis and Objective: State the hypothesis to be tested and the objective(s) to be reached.

Specific Aims: Concisely explain the project's specific aims to be funded by this application. If the proposed work is part of a larger study, then present only tasks that would be funded under this FY26 RTRP award.

Study Design and Feasibility:

- Describe the study design, methods and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation of appropriateness and feasibility.
- Consult appropriate [guidelines](#) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
- If proposing development of a device, describe how the design would support a regulatory filing with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or international equivalent.
- 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, and identification of primary endpoints.
- Describe how data will be reported and how it will be ensured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the FDA or international equivalent, if applicable.
- Describe the statistical plan and rationale for the statistical methodology. Provide a sample size estimate and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculation, as applicable. Include any plans for blinding and randomization. Explain how this plan is appropriate for the proposed study, and how the study is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results.
- Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
- If animal studies are proposed, briefly describe the key elements of the study/studies as they relate to the overall project; detailed information is required in [Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan](#). Describe the availability of and access to the animal model proposed. ***New: Include a letter of support from the animal vendor/provider in [Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation](#) indicating the cost and timeline for availability.***
- If human subjects or human anatomical substances will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. The plan should include a description of how the samples and any associated data will be stored during and after the study, including compliance with relevant laws and regulations for human subjects research. Consent forms for all samples collected under this project should include permission for the samples to be used in future studies without the need for re-consent. Describe the availability of and access to the proposed study population and past successes in recruiting similar populations. If an active-duty military, Veteran or military Family member or caregiver population will be used in the proposed research project, include the

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details in [Attachment 7: Military Relevance Statement](#). This award may not be used to conduct [clinical trials](#).

- For all applications proposing 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, racial and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement. Anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity should be provided as part of the application's Supporting Documentation (Attachment 2).
- **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 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 (one-page limit per letter is recommended): Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI(s) meet [eligibility criteria](#). If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural 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. ***New: If applicable, provide a letter signed by the animal vendor/provider describing the cost and timeline of availability for the animal model proposed.***

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Sex as a Biological Variable Strategy (two-page limit is recommended):

Describe the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable. This strategy should include a brief discussion of what is currently known regarding sex differences in the applicable research area. Clearly articulate how sex as a biological variable will be factored into the data analysis plan and how data will be collected and disaggregated by sex. If needed, provide a strong rationale for proposing a single-sex study, based on justification from scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations. Refer to the [CDMRP Directive on Sex as a Biological Variable in Research](#) for additional information.

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

- Address any impact of intellectual property issues on product development and subsequent government access to products supported by this program announcement.
- **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.

Research Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe 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. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived, if applicable. 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.

Inclusion Enrollment Report (only required if clinical research is proposed):

Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the “[Public Health Service \(PHS\) Inclusion Enrollment Report](#)”, a three-page fillable PDF form, that can be downloaded from eBRAP. The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.

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Do not submit a copy of the National Institutes of Health 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: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.**



Write the technical abstract using the outline below. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.

Background/Rationale/Readiness: Describe the research problem, question, or knowledge gap related to at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#) to be addressed by the proposed research. Present the ideas and scientific rationale behind the proposed project. If leveraging findings from solid organ transplant research for testing in a VCA setting, briefly explain the rationale and benefits of doing so. If utilizing a model system, explain how the model system is appropriate for the study and applicable to VCA.

Hypothesis/Objective(s): State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached.

Specific Aims/Study Design: State the specific aims of the proposed research project, and briefly describe the study design, including appropriate controls.

Impact: Briefly describe the short- and long-term impact of this study on reconstructive transplant research, patient care, and/or quality of life, including the impact on at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#).

Military Relevance: Briefly explain how the proposed project will have immediate or potential long-term benefit for the health care needs of military Service Members and/or Veterans recovering from catastrophic injury, and/or their Family members, caregivers, or clinicians, as well as the American public.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”.**



The lay abstract should address the points outlined below ***in a manner that is readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.*** Avoid overuse of scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations. ***Do not duplicate the technical abstract.***

Summarize the objectives and rationale for the proposed research.

State the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Area\(s\)](#) addressed by the proposed research.

Describe the ultimate applicability and impact of the research.

- What types of patients will the research help, and how will it help them? Include the current available statistics for the related injury/condition.
- What are the potential clinical applications, benefits and risks?
- What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome? If the research is far from clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes.

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Briefly explain how the proposed project will have immediate or potential long-term benefit for the health care needs of military Service Members and/or Veterans recovering from catastrophic injury, and/or their Family members, caregivers, or clinicians, as well as the American public.

What are the likely contributions of the proposed research to advancing the field of reconstructive transplant research?

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.**  Refer to eBRAP for the [Suggested SOW Format](#).

For guidance on preparing the SOW, refer to [Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work](#). Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.**

Describe how the proposed research addresses a critical problem in and will make an important contribution (both short-term and long-term) to the field of reconstructive transplant research, patient care and/or quality of life, including an assessment of the likelihood that a successful outcome of the proposed project will lead to a practical application in individuals recovering from traumatic injury. Address the impact on at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#). Although not all-inclusive, the following are examples of ways in which research projects may have an impact, if successful:

Has the potential to advance the field of reconstructive transplant research.

Has the potential to change the standard of care.

Contributes to the development or validation of evidence-based policy or guidelines for patient evaluation and care.

- **Attachment 7: Military Relevance Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “MilRel.pdf”.** Demonstrate how the proposed research is responsive to the health care needs and quality of life of military Service Members and/or Veterans recovering from catastrophic injury, and/or their Family members, caregivers, or clinicians, as well as the American public. If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOW or VA resources or databases, describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Also include a plan for obtaining any required data sharing, memorandum of understanding or other agreements required to access and publish data. Refer to the General Application Instructions, [Appendix 4](#), for additional considerations.
- **Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan (five-page limit): Upload as “AnimalResPlan.pdf”.** (*Attachment 8 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.*)

If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. Consult [ARRIVE 2.0](#) guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study:

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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.

Describe and confirm the availability of and access to the animal model proposed. Include alternate strategies should access to the animal model become restricted.

Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.

Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.

Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.

Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis and identification of the primary endpoint(s).

- **Attachment 9: Post-Award Transition Plan (one-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".**

The Post-Award Transition Plan should:

Identify the project's anticipated research outcomes including knowledge products and/or clinical products for development. A "knowledge product" is a non-material product that aims to transition into medical practice, training, tools or to support material solutions; and educates or impacts behavior throughout the continuum of care, including primary prevention of negative outcomes.

Provide an overview of the next phase of development and the anticipated methods and strategies to be employed.

Include a timeline for development and describe potential collaborations, resources, and funding required. Indicate whether any of these are already in place.

As appropriate, discuss ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development.

- **Attachment 10: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 

- **Attachment 11: 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.

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Grants.gov



eBRAP.org

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

- **Biographical Sketch**
- **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

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

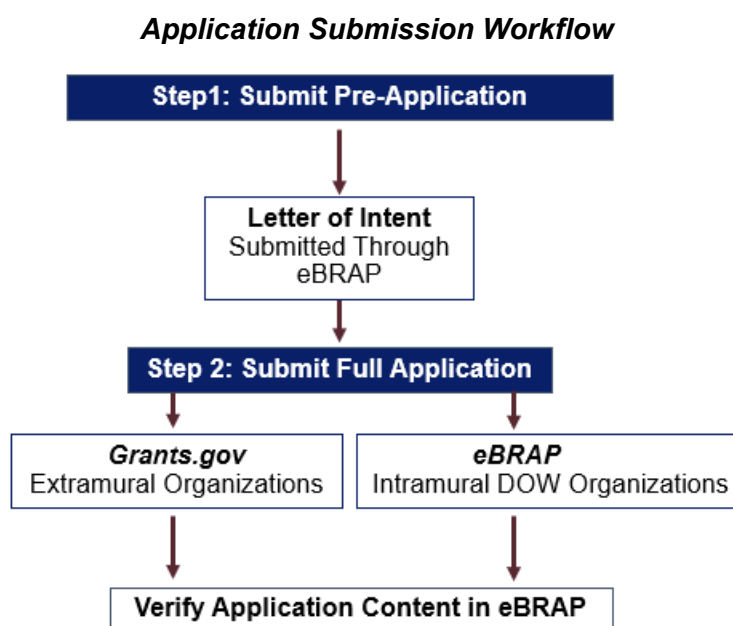
Download the application package components for HT942526RTRPIIRA from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

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. 

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.



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

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

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during [the full application submission process](#). The eBRAP log number, application title and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application

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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 organizations](#) 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 RTRP 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 RTRP 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 individually according to the following **scored criteria**, which are listed in **decreasing order of importance**:

- **Study Design and Feasibility**
 - How well the ideas and scientific rationale support the proposed research project and demonstrate sufficient evidence to support moving into the proposed stage of research. Whether there is an appropriate explanation for leveraging findings from solid organ transplant research for testing in a VCA setting (if applicable).
 - How well the preliminary and/or published data supports the rationale for the proposed research.
 - How well the hypothesis and objectives, specific aims, study design, methods and analyses are developed and support the appropriateness (including controls) and feasibility of the proposed study.

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- How appropriate the plans are for handling data, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, and identification of primary endpoints.
- Whether the study design would support a regulatory filing with the FDA, if applicable. How appropriate the plans are for reporting data and ensuring that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the FDA or international equivalent, if applicable.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problem areas and presents alternative methods and approaches.
- If a model system is proposed, whether it is appropriate for the study and applicable to VCA.
- Whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objectives of the study or whether the justification for a single-sex study is sufficiently strong.

For applications involving animal research:

- How well the animal study (or studies) is designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.
- How well the study (or studies) is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization and data handling.

For applications involving human subjects:

- The degree to which the plan to study human subjects and human anatomical substances is designed to achieve the objectives, and is appropriate and feasible, including demonstrated access to the selected population(s) or resource(s).
- Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.

For applications involving military or Veteran populations:

- The degree to which the plan to study military or Veteran populations is appropriate and feasible, including demonstrated access to the selected population.

• **Statistical Plan**

- To what degree the statistical plan is appropriate for the proposed project, as applicable.
- How well the proposed sample size and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculation, are appropriate, as applicable.
- How well the study is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization and data handling.

• **Impact**

- How well the proposed research addresses at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#).
- How well the proposed project addresses a critical problem in and will make important short-term and long-term contributions to reconstructive transplant research, patient care, and/or quality of life.

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- How likely a successful outcome of the proposed study will lead to a practical application in individuals recovering from catastrophic injury.
- **Personnel**
 - How the background and expertise of the PI and key personnel demonstrate their ability to perform the proposed work.
 - How well the PI's record of accomplishment demonstrates his/her ability to accomplish the proposed research project.
 - Whether the levels of effort by the PI and other key personnel are appropriate to ensure the successful conduct of the project.
- **Transition Plan**
 - Whether the identified next level of development, including anticipated methods and strategies, is described and appropriate.
 - Whether an anticipated timeline for development, as well as potential collaborations, resources, funding and intellectual property rights, have been considered.
- **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.

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

- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Environment**
 - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project.
 - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources.
 - If applicable, to what degree the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.
- **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 RTRP, as evidenced by the following:

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- Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
- Program portfolio composition
- Programmatic relevance to military health and at least one of the [FY26 RTRP Investigator-Initiated Research Award Focus Areas](#)
- Relative impact

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. ***The 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.

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.

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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 RTRP 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 contain 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 IACUC, IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review.



8.2. Reporting

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting (***Required for research proposing clinical research***): 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.

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

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

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8.3. Additional Requirements

In-Progress Review: The RTRP holds annual In-Progress Review meetings in a virtual setting as a forum for award performers to present progress updates to the Programmatic Panel and RTRP staff. Award recipients may receive an invitation to present their project at one of these meetings during the period of performance of their award.

Unless otherwise restricted, changes in the PI or organization will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, provided the intent of the award mechanism is met.



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

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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:

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

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 RTRP 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 fiscal year.
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- A [clinical trial](#) is proposed.
- If more than two Investigator-Initiated Research Award applications are received naming the same investigator as PI, only the first two applications received will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.

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>)	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) (<i>eBRAP submissions only</i>)	☐
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”	☐
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as “Support.pdf”	☐
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as “TechAbs.pdf”	☐
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as “LayAbs.pdf”	☐
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as “SOW.pdf”	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as “Impact.pdf”	☐
Military Relevance – Attachment 7, upload as “MilRel.pdf”	☐
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 8, upload as “AnimalResPlan.pdf”	☐
Post-Award Transition Plan – Attachment 9, upload as “Transition.pdf”	☐
Representations (<i>Grants.gov submissions only</i>) – Attachment 10, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (<i>if applicable</i>) – Attachment 11, upload as “IGBudget.pdf”	☐
Additional Application Materials	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	☐
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	☐
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	☐
Research & Related Budget	☐
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	☐
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	☐

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHA R&D-MRDC	Defense Health Agency Research and Development Medical Research and Development Command
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
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IIRA	Investigator-Initiated Research Award
IPR	In-Progress Review
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
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
RTRP	Reconstructive Transplant Research Program
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIRIT	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials

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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
VCA	Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation