Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Epilepsy Research Program
Research Partnership Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526ERPRPA

Pre-Application Due: August 3, 2026

Application Due: August 17, 2026

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version CD26_01.

Content

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

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The intent of the Epilepsy Research Program (ERP) Research Partnership Award is to support new or existing research partnerships focused on collaboratively addressing critical questions relevant to post-traumatic epilepsy (PTE) in a manner that would be unachievable through separate efforts. It is expected that investigators will utilize their distinct but complementary perspectives to synergistically address a central problem or question critical to PTE research and those living with PTE, their families and/or their care partners.

Distinctive Features: This funding mechanism requires that a minimum of two investigators partner in one overarching study. Only the Initiating Principal Investigator (PI) will submit a pre-application, but all PIs will need to submit full applications. The Partnering PI(s) application is an abbreviated package specific to their distinct portion of the research project. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). Be advised, all associated applications for a research project may be withdrawn if the initiating or partnering application is rejected or administratively withdrawn.

****NEW for FY26**** An investigator may be named on only **one** FY26 ERP Research Partnership Award application as a PI.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $2.0M to fund approximately one Research Partnership Award application with a total cost cap of $2.0M. 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, 2032. 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), August 3, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, August 17, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 20, 2026
- **Peer Review:** October 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** December 2026

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526ERPRPA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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

The Initiating Principal Investigator (PI) and Partnering PI(s) may be independent investigators at any career level. Individuals affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named PI on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

An investigator may be named on only **one** Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Epilepsy Research Program Research Partnership Award (RPA) application as a 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.

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 Epilepsy Research Program (ERP). 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 ERP in 2015 to provide support for longitudinal epidemiological research to better understand the incidence of post-traumatic epilepsy (PTE) following a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and to improve patient care and outcomes. The FY26 ERP challenges the research community to (1) investigate topics related to epileptogenesis for the identification of mechanisms by which brain injury produces epilepsy; (2) study the prevention of PTE and concomitant comorbidities; and (3) develop innovative research tools or biomarkers to better detect, diagnose, or predict the development of PTE. Appropriations for the ERP from FY15 through FY24 totaled $97.5 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is $12M.

The ERP encourages collaboration among PTE researchers and urges the scientific community to utilize equitable partnerships with people living with PTE to maximize the translational and impact potential of proposed research. 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.

3.1. ERP Focus Areas

Applications submitted to the FY26 ERP must address at least one of the focus areas listed below.

- **Markers and Mechanisms of PTE**
  - Research focused on understanding the underlying biology of PTE, including:
    - Identification of acute or chronic biomarkers that are informed by or correlated with clinical observation and predict the development of epilepsy.
    - Investigation of biological mechanisms that can be targeted to prevent or interrupt epileptogenesis and seizure activity.
- **Epidemiological Characterization of PTE**
  - Population-level research to define the patterns, causes, and public health burden of PTE, including:
    - Identifying predictors for the development of epilepsy to inform clinical trial design and pre-clinical research priorities.
    - Assessing key patient outcomes, including the latency period before epilepsy onset, associated comorbidities and mortality rates.
    - Quantifying the impact of PTE on the quality of life for individuals, their families and/or their care partners.

- **Longitudinal Studies of PTE Progression**
  - Studies tracking the evolution of PTE over time in individuals, including:
    - Assessing facilitators and barriers to long-term well-being of individuals with PTE, their families and their care partners.
    - Evaluating healthcare outcomes, quality of care and responsiveness to different drug therapies.
    - Analyzing the onset, progression and interaction of comorbid conditions, including but not limited to psychiatric disorders, cognitive deficits, physical deficits, sleep disorders and fatigue.
- **Innovative Research Tools and Technologies**
  - Development of novel tools and strategies to advance PTE research and clinical care, including:
    - Application of artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, clinical databases and advanced device technologies for improved seizure detection, characterization, visualization or diagnosis.
    - New or better-characterized, etiologically relevant models for PTE.
    - Tools to enable the design of future clinical trials, such as methods to identify appropriate study populations.

3.2. Award History

The ERP Research Partnership Award mechanism was first offered in FY19. Since then, 61 Research Partnership Award applications were received, and 15 were recommended for funding.

3.3. Intent of the Research Partnership Award

The intent of the FY26 ERP RPA is to support new or existing research partnerships focused on collaboratively addressing critical questions relevant to PTE in a manner that would be unachievable through separate efforts.

This mechanism requires that a minimum of two investigators partner in one overarching study. The investigators may have experience in similar or disparate scientific disciplines, but each PI is expected to make distinct contributions to the application. The application should demonstrate how the unique skills and contributions of the Initiating PI and Partnering PI(s) will support the meaningful and synergistic success of the project. A proposed project in which a partner merely supplies tissue or access to patients will not meet the intent of this award mechanism.

3.3.1. Key Elements for the RPA

- **Preliminary Data:** Applications must include preliminary and/or published data that support the proposed research project. Preliminary data may be derived from laboratory discovery, clinical observation, population-based studies or peer-reviewed literature. *In addition,* applications **must** demonstrate the research team's ability to execute the chosen model of TBI and record subsequent seizure activity, if applicable to the research project.
- **Partnership:** ***The Research Partnership Award requires more than one PI.*** One PI will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative

tasks associated with application submission. The other PI(s) will be identified as Partnering PI(s). All PIs should contribute significantly to the development and execution of the proposed research project. It is expected that investigators will utilize their distinct but complementary perspectives to synergistically address a central problem or question critical to PTE research and those living with PTE, their families and/or their care partners. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named on separate awards to the recipient organization(s). Each award will be subject to separate reporting, regulatory, and administrative requirements. For individual submission requirements for the Initiating and Partnering PI(s), refer to Section 5.3, Submission Instructions.

- **Impact:** Applications should articulate the short- and/or long-term impact of the proposed research on the PTE research field, patient care, and/or those living with PTE. Applicants are encouraged to consult with individuals living with PTE during the development and execution of the proposed research project, to ensure research outcomes maximize translational and impact potential (see Community Collaboration).
- **Research Team Composition:** The PIs on the application can be from any field or discipline; however, it is ***critical*** that the application demonstrate that the study team's experience is appropriate to accomplish the goals of the proposed research with expertise in the fields of ***both*** TBI and epilepsy.

3.3.2. Other Important Considerations for the RPA

***Allowable Research*:** Applications may focus on any phase of research from basic through clinical, but **clinical trials are not allowed under this funding opportunity.** Examples of permitted research include preclinical studies in animal models, observational research with human subjects, or research involving human anatomical substances or data, as well as ancillary studies associated with an existing clinical trial.

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, Section 732, the 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.

When appropriate, applicants are encouraged to leverage ongoing cohort studies such as Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in TBI, TBI-Model Systems and Long-Term Impact of Military-Relevant Brain Injury Consortium Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium. Leveraging existing data repositories, such as those included on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) website, is also encouraged. 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.

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 and ARRIVE 2.0 guidelines.

***Community Collaboration*:** Employing community collaborations to optimize research impact is encouraged but NOT required. Research funded by the FY26 ERP should be responsive to the needs of people with PTE, their families and/or their care partners. Research teams are therefore encouraged to establish and utilize equitable collaborations with consumers and people with lived PTE experience to maximize the translational and impact potential of the proposed research.

Collaborative research approaches, such as community-based participatory research, participatory action research, and integrated knowledge transition, create partnerships between

scientific researchers and community members to create knowledge useable by both sets of stakeholders. Recognizing the strengths of each partner, scientific researchers and community members ***collaborate and contribute equitably*** to all aspects of the project, which may include needs assessment, planning, research intervention design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination. ***Collaborative research approaches feature shared responsibility and ownership for the research project to ensure non-tokenistic involvement of community members within the research team*.** Research results are jointly interpreted, disseminated, and fed back to affected communities and may be translated into interventions or policy. These methods are critically important for community-level interventions and can also have important impacts on translational research and prototype development to identify and augment the potential impact of a research program on people living with PTE, their families and/or their care partners.

Collaborative relationships with the lived-experience community are often established through integrating community members into research teams as co-researchers, advisors and/or consultants. Some examples for implementing collaborative research approaches include:

- **Lived-Experience Consultation:** The research team includes at least one project advisor with lived PTE experience who will provide advice and consultation throughout the planning and implementation of the research project. Lived-experience consultants may include individuals with PTE, their family members or their care partners.
- **Partnership with a Community-Based Organization:** The research team establishes partnerships with at least one community-based organization that provides advice and consultation throughout the planning and implementation of the research project. Community-based organizations may include advocacy groups, service providers, policy makers or other formal organizational stakeholders.
- **Community Advisory Board Utilization:** A community advisory board is composed of multiple community stakeholders and can take many forms, from a board of lived-experience consultants to a coalition of community-based organizations or any combination thereof. As with lived-experience consultants and organizational partners, the community advisory board provides advice and consultation throughout planning and implementation of the research project.

Additional information on collaborative research approaches can be found here:

- Correa, Daniel J., Churl-Su Kwon, Susan Connors, et al. 2019. “Applying Participatory Action Research in Traumatic Brain Injury Studies to Prevent Post-Traumatic Epilepsy.” *Neurobiology of Disease* 123: 137-144. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2018.07.007.
- Jull, Janet, Audrey Giles, and Ian D. Graham. 2017. “Community-Based Participatory Research and Integrated Knowledge Translation: Advancing the Co-Creation of Knowledge.” *Implementation Science* 12 (1): 150. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-017-0696-3.
- Kost, Rhonda G., Andrea Leinberger-Jabari, Teresa H. Evering, et al. 2017. “Helping Basic Scientists Engage With Community Partners to Enrich and Accelerate Translational Research.” *Academic Medicine* 92 (3): 374-379. https://doi.org/10.1097/acm.0000000000001200.

***Relevance to Military Health*:** Applicants 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 information about ongoing DOW and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in Appendix 10 of the GAI.

3.4. Funding Instrument

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

3.5. Funding Details

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

Cost Cap: The combined total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI should not exceed **$2.0M**. 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.

A separate award will be made to each PI's organization.

The PIs are expected to be partners in the research, and direct cost funding should be divided accordingly unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

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:

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs associated with a collaborative research approach (e.g., consultant costs, equitable participation training, capacity-building activities).
- Data and research resources sharing costs.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY26 ERP RPA.

Must not be requested for:

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

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

The Initiating PI must submit the following pre-application components.

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the focus area(s) under which the application will be submitted.

4.3. Full Application Components

The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. The application submission process for each Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package.

4.3.1. Full Application Components for the Initiating PI

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 (18-page limit): Upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf".**

  Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

  - **Background:** Present the ideas and scientific reasoning behind the proposed research project. Clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support the proposed research, including preliminary and/or published data. Cite relevant literature. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this project.

- **Hypothesis or Objectives:** State the hypotheses or objectives to be tested in the proposed project.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project's specific aims. Describe only aims that the ERP RPA would fund.
- **Focus Area:** Describe how the work aligns to one of the FY26 ERP Focus Areas.
- **Study Design and Feasibility:** Describe the research strategy, methods and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation of its appropriateness and feasibility. Describe how the study is designed to achieve the project aims. Address potential problem areas, and present alternative methods and approaches. Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.

  Indicate whether ongoing cohort studies or existing repositories will be leveraged in the study. If the research proposed is epidemiologic in nature, describe how the research will be conducted in accordance with the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) research guidelines for epidemiologic studies.

  As appropriate, describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. If applicable, include power analysis calculations. Further information describing the strategy for how sex will be considered as a biological variable will be requested in Attachment 2.

  If applicable, briefly describe the development and use of animal model(s) to study PTE. Include a rationale for the choice of animal model, injury method, and endpoints/outcome measures to be used. Full details will be required in the Animal Research Plan (Attachment 10). ***If an animal model will be employed, provide evidence that demonstrates the research team's ability and capacity to execute the chosen model of TBI and record subsequent seizure activity.***

  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 GAI, Appendix 4, for additional considerations.
- **Research Team Composition:** Describe the composition of the research team in enough detail to demonstrate that the study team has appropriate expertise to accomplish the goals of the proposed research, including expertise within the fields of ***both*** TBI and epilepsy.

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

- **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:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project.
  - **Hypothesis/Objective(s):** State the hypothesis to be tested and/or objective(s) to be reached.

- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.
- **Study Design:** Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.
- **Impact:** Briefly describe the short- or long-term impact of this study on PTE research, patient care and/or quality of life.
- **Military Relevance:** Describe how the study is relevant to military health.

- **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.
  - What population will the research help, and how will it help them?
  - What are the potential applications, benefits and risks of the anticipated research outcomes?
  - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing PTE research, patient care and/or quality of life?
  - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a person-related outcome?
  - What is the potential benefit of the proposed study and the anticipated outcomes to Service Members, Veterans and/or their Families?

- **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 the Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work. Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.

  - Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR)-eligible research should also include the following subtasks:
    - FITBIR investigator and study registration within the first 30 days of the award
    - Sharing of draft data collection forms with FITBIR
    - Annual FITBIR data submission

  Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW. The specific contributions of the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI should be clearly noted for each task.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".** *This attachment should be written with a broad audience in mind, including readers without a background in science or medicine.*

  Address the impact of the proposed research on one or more of the FY26 ERP Focus Areas. Describe the short- and long-term impact of this study on PTE research, patient care and/or quality of life, including an assessment of the likelihood that a successful outcome of the proposed research project will increase understanding of PTE and associated comorbidities and/or lead to a practical application in individuals living with PTE. If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes. Indicate how the

proposed research project is applicable to the health care needs and quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Family members or care partners.

- **Attachment 7: Research Sharing Plan (two-page limit): Upload as "Sharing.pdf".**

  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. If applicable, identify and describe the planned National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke TBI and/or Epilepsy Common Data Elements (CDEs) to be used/collected.

  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 8: Transition Plan (one-page limit): Upload as "Transition.pdf".**

  Outline the project's anticipated research outcome(s) (e.g., intervention, product, methodology, finding). Outline the immediate next steps to be taken by the research team after successful completion of the proposed research project, including plans for dissemination of results, further outcome investigation (e.g., next-stage preclinical/clinical research, translational research, clinical trial) and engagement with end-users (e.g., patients, clinicians). Describe the steps that would need to be taken for the research outcome to impact patient care and outcomes. If applicable, discuss ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award, including a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations. If the intellectual property rights are not owned by the performer(s), describe the planned next steps necessary to make the product available to the PTE community.

- **Attachment 9: Partnership Statement (two-page limit): Upload as "Partnership.pdf".**

  Describe the experience and background of the Initiating PI and Partnering PI(s). Describe the contribution and time commitment of each PI toward the proposed research project. Explain how the investigators will utilize their distinct but complementary perspectives to synergistically address the proposed research question, including why the research goals would be unachievable through separate efforts. Outline plans for interactions between/among investigators, including communication, decision-making, allocation of resources, coordination of research progress and results, and sharing of

data. In addition, each Partnering PI should provide a letter of collaboration confirming their involvement in the proposed work as part of the application's Supporting Documentation (Attachment 2).

- **Attachment 10: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit): Upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf".** ***(Only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)***

  The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details regarding the proposed animal research beyond what was included within the project narrative. Consult the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study:

  - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and, where appropriate, the study's relevance to human biology. **Be specific as to why an animal model is necessary to address the study aims, why the specific animal and injury model was chosen over other models, and how it is optimal for modeling PTE and addressing the study aims.**
  - Summarize the procedures to be conducted, including the method(s) for seizure detection. 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 11: Community Collaboration Plan: Upload as "Collaboration.pdf".** *(Only applicable for applications utilizing a collaborative research approach that engages the PTE lived-experience community.)*

  - **Community Collaboration Statement (three-page limit):** If a partnership with the PTE lived-experience/consumer community will be utilized (e.g., PTE lived-experience consultation, partnership with a community-based organization), include the community partner's name and describe the following, as applicable:
    - The collaborative research approach that will be used (e.g., lived-experience consultation, partnership with community-based organization, community advisory board, co-researcher model), including a justification for the approach as well as when the approach will be used within the research project.
    - Detail the community partner's contributions to the research process thus far, as well as the framework for capturing future input. Explain how this input will be meaningfully integrated to inform each phase of the research lifecycle, including needs assessment, planning, design, execution, analysis and dissemination.

- The resource allocation and decision-making processes to be employed.
- Any training that will be provided to both scientific researchers and community members on collaborative research approaches, decision-making and equitable participation.
- Co-learning and capacity-building activities among all partners.
- The process measures to assess the effectiveness of the chosen collaborative research approach.

– **Letters of Community Collaboration (two-page limit per letter is recommended):** Provide a letter signed by each community partner (e.g., lived-experience consultant, representative of community-based organizations) confirming their role and commitment to participate on the research team. If a community-based organization will be engaged, the letter of commitment should be signed by BOTH the organization point of contact leading the engagement along with the organization's leadership endorsing the collaboration, if different from the point of contact. The letter should include the qualifications and background of the individual and describe the relevance of those qualifications to their role within the proposed research project. The individual's role in the project should be independent of their employment.

○ **Attachment 12: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.

○ **Attachment 13: 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**
- **Current/Pending Support**

  Intragovernmental applicants must include their internally supported research and development programs.

ii. Research & Related Budget

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Initiating PI should not include budget information for Partnering PI(s) even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.5, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

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

4.3.2. Full Application Components for Each Partnering PI

Refer to the equivalent attachment above for details specific to each of the following application components. See Appendix 1 for a checklist of the full application components required for each Partnering PI.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form *(Grants.gov Submissions Only)*:

(b) Attachments:

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as "SOW.pdf".** Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW.
- **Attachment 12: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".**
- **Attachment 13: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".**

(c) Additional Application Materials:

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


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

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Partnering PI(s) should not include budget information for the Initiating PI even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to Section 3.5, Funding Details, for detailed budget information.

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form

iv. Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form *(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.

5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526ERPRPA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

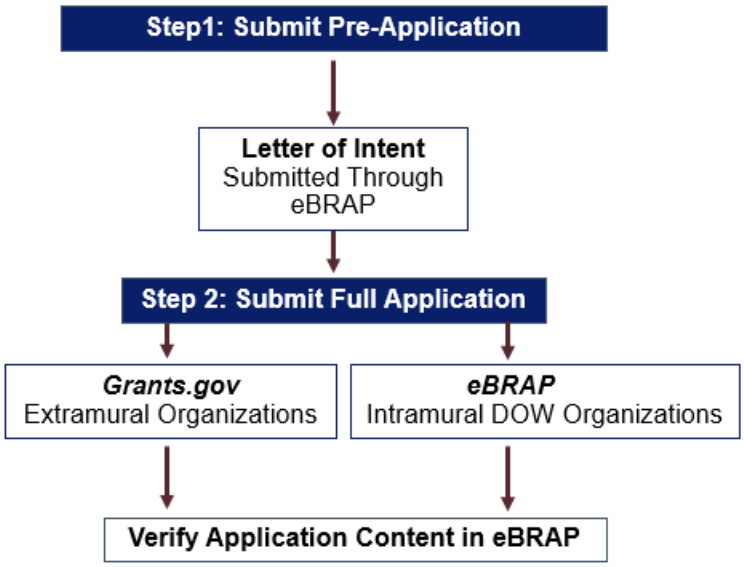
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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.

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

All pre-application components must be submitted by the Initiating PI through eBRAP, including the submission of contact information for each Partnering PI.

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 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.

After the Initiating PI confirms submission of the pre-application, the Partnering PI(s) will be notified of the pre-application submission via an email from eBRAP. ***The Partnering PI(s) must follow the instructions provided in the email to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account.*** If not previously registered, the Partnering PI(s) must register in eBRAP.

Partnering PIs should not initiate a new pre-application based on the same research project submitted by the Initiating PI. Partnering PIs are urged to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account as soon as possible. If this is not completed by the full application deadline:

- Any intramural Partnering PI will not be able to submit their full application package components to eBRAP.
- The Partnering PI(s) will not be able to view and modify their full application during the verification period in eBRAP.

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.

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 ERP 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 ERP 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:

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  - How well the hypothesis or objectives of the study are supported by the background provided.
  - How well the study is designed to achieve the research objectives, including, if applicable, the development and use of animal model(s); and to what extent the chosen animal, injury method, and endpoints/outcome measures are justified.
  - How well studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model, controls, endpoints/outcomes to be measured, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization and data handling.

- If applicable, to what extent the application demonstrates the research team's ability and capacity to execute the chosen model of TBI and record subsequent seizure activity.
- To what extent the proposed research project is feasible as described.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- Whether the statistical plan is appropriate for the proposed research.
- 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.
- If applicable, how well the application describes TBI or epilepsy CDEs to be collected, and whether those CDEs are appropriate.
- If applicable, how well the application leverages ongoing cohort studies.
- If applicable, whether the application includes sufficient evidence to support successful recruitment of and access to human subjects, data and samples; and whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.
- If applicable, how well the application addresses the ILAE research guidelines for epidemiologic studies.

- **Partnership**
  - To what extent the investigators' unique experience and background will be used to synergistically address the proposed research.
  - How well the investigators explain why the research goals would be unachievable through separate efforts.
  - How well the plans for communication, decision-making, allocation of resources, coordination of research progress and results and sharing of data between/among the PI and Partnering PI(s) are described and appropriate for successful completion of the project.
- **Impact**
  - To what extent the proposed study addresses one or more of the FY26 ERP Focus Areas.
  - How likely the short- and/or long-term impact of this study will make significant contributions to PTE research, patient care and/or quality of life.
  - How likely a successful outcome of the research will increase understanding of PTE and/or lead to a practical application in individuals living with PTE.
  - To what degree the research addresses questions related to the health care needs and quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Family members or care partners.
  - If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
  - ***If a collaborative research approach that engages the PTE lived-experience community will be employed,*** to what degree the Community Collaboration Plan is designed to meaningfully integrate input from the community partners (e.g., lived-

experience consultants, representatives of community-based organizations) into the needs assessment, planning, design, execution, analysis, and/or dissemination of the research.

- **Personnel**
  - To what extent the study team's background and experience are appropriate to accomplish the proposed research project.
  - How well the composition of the study team demonstrates expertise in ***both*** TBI and epilepsy.
  - To what degree the levels of effort are appropriate to ensure successful conduct of the proposed work.
  - ***If a collaborative research approach that engages the PTE lived-experience community will be employed,*** to what degree the qualifications and background of the lived-experience consultant(s), community-based partner(s) and/or organization point of contact are relevant to the proposed research project.

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, which specific repository(ies) were designated for storing project data and research resources?
- **Transition Plan**
  - To what degree the planned immediate next steps for the research team to take upon successful completion of the project, including plans for dissemination of results, further outcome investigation (e.g., next stage preclinical/clinical research, translational research, clinical trial) and engagement with end-users (e.g., patients, clinicians) are realistic and appropriate.
  - If applicable, to what degree ownership rights/access to the intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award are considered and planned for.
- **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.
- **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 ERP, as evidenced by the following:
    - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
    - Program portfolio composition
    - Relative impact
    - Relevance to military health

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.

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.

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 ERP 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.

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.

The ERP requires that all TBI-related clinical research with at least 50 subjects funded by this program be shared through the jointly supported DOW-NIH FITBIR. Recipients will be required to upload study data annually and in accordance with the FITBIR data submission policies. There is no fee to use FITBIR, and detailed guidance and policies, including a cost estimator tool for budgeting considerations, can be found on the FITBIR website.

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.

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting ***(required for 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.

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.

8.3. Additional Requirements

All PIs are expected to participate in at least one Interim Progress Review (IPR) for the funded project. For planning purposes, PIs can expect that the IPR will last no longer than one day and will be hosted virtually by the ERP. The invitation and format for the IPR will be provided by the Grants Officer's Representative at least 90 days prior to the scheduled IPR date.

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.

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.
- The Pre-application 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 ERP 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.

- 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.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and each Partnering PI) applications by the deadline.
- A PI is named on more than one FY26 ERP Epilepsy Research Partnership Award application.
- The Initiating PI or a Partnering PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

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.

Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded	
	Initiating PI	Partnering PI
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance *(Grants.gov submissions only)*	☐	☐
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) *(eBRAP submissions only)*	☐	☐
Attachments		
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as "ProjectNarrative.pdf"	☐	
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as "Support.pdf"	☐	
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as "TechAbs.pdf"	☐	
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as "LayAbs.pdf"	☐	
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as "SOW.pdf"	☐	☐
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as "Impact.pdf"	☐	
Research Sharing Plan – Attachment 7, upload as "Sharing.pdf"	☐	
Transition Plan – Attachment 8, upload as "Transition.pdf"	☐	
Partnership Statement – Attachment 9, upload as "Partnership.pdf"	☐	
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 10, upload as "AnimalResPlan.pdf"	☐	
Community Collaboration Plan – Attachment 11, upload as "Collaboration.pdf"	☐	
Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)* – Attachment 12, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"	☐	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)* – Attachment 13, 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) *(if applicable)*	☐	☐

Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
CDEs	Common Data Elements
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
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
ERP	Epilepsy Research Program
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FITBIR	Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
ILAE	International League Against Epilepsy
IPR	Interim Progress Review
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
PTE	Post-Traumatic Epilepsy
R&D	Research and Development
RPA	Research Partnership Award
SAM	System for Award Management

SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs