Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Breast Cancer Research Program

Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526BCRPTBCCDA

Pre-Application Due: June 24, 2026

Application Due: July 8, 2026

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

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

1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award provides successful applicants the time and resources needed to bring investigators and breast cancer consumer advocates together to establish a consortium framework and conduct preliminary research in support of an application to a future, full BCRP Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award (pending availability of funds). All applications must address at least one of the FY26 BCRP overarching challenges or provide adequate justification for exception.

Distinctive Features:

- This is a development award and is a separate award mechanism from the full FY26 BCRP Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award (HT942526BCRPTBCCA). For FY26, investigators may be named as Consortium Director on an application submitted to either (but not both) of these award mechanisms.
- Breast cancer consumer advocates must be active participants in the development and execution of the FY26 BCRP TBCCDA.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly $0.14 million (M) to fund approximately one Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award application with a total cost cap of $0.14M per award. The maximum period of performance is one year. It is anticipated that the award made from this FY26 funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. The award supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), June 24, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, July 8, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, July 13, 2026
- **Peer Review:** September 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** November 2026

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526BCRPTBCCDA

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

Independent investigators affiliated with an eligible organization are eligible to be named Principal Investigator (PI), also referred to as the Consortium Director herein, on the application, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status.

Investigators named as Consortium Director on a pre-application or full application submitted under the FY26 Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award funding opportunity (HT942526BCRPTBCCA) are not eligible to be named as the Consortium Director on an application submitted under the current funding opportunity.

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 BCRP. The CDMRP is located within the Defense Health Agency Research and Development (DHA R&D), which is a part of the Department of Defense, DOD, herein referred to using the secondary title Department of War, DOW. Congress initiated the BCRP in FY92 to support innovative, high-impact research, with a mission of ending breast cancer for Service Members and their Families, Veterans, and the general public. Appropriations for the BCRP from FY92 through FY25 totaled $4.52 billion. The FY26 appropriation is $145M.

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

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

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

3.1. Intent of the Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award

The intent of the FY26 BCRP Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award (TBCCDA) is to provide successful applicants the time and resources needed to bring investigators and breast cancer consumer advocates together to establish a consortium framework and conduct preliminary research in support of an application to a future, full BCRP Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award (TBCCA) (pending availability of funds).

This is a development award and is a separate award mechanism from the full consortium award. Recipients of the FY26 BCRP TBCCDA are expected to submit an application to compete for the full BCRP TBCCA that is anticipated to be offered in a future fiscal year(s). ***However, it is not necessary to receive a development award in order to apply for a full consortium award in the future.*** For FY26, investigators may be named as Consortium

Director on an application submitted to either (but not both) of these award mechanisms. Detailed information on the FY26 BCRP TBCCA is available under a separate program announcement (HT942526BCRPTBCCA).

The FY26 BCRP TBCCDA provides support to:

- Develop the infrastructure of a multi-institutional research team inclusive of scientists, clinicians and breast cancer consumer advocates (e.g., build appropriate collaborations; outline integration, research management, administrative management, and communication plans; and devise an intellectual property plan).
- Generate necessary preliminary data to serve as proof of concept or for project integration.
- Acquire research resources.
- Develop a framework of necessary statistical analyses.

3.1.1. Key Elements for the TBCCDA

Overarching Challenges: Considering the current breast cancer landscape and the BCRP's mission, all must address at least one of the above overarching challenges or provide adequate justification for exception.[1] The BCRP strongly urges applicants to read and consider *The Breast Cancer Landscape* before preparing their applications.

Consumer Advocates: Breast cancer consumer advocates must be active participants in the development and execution of the FY26 BCRP TBCCDA.

3.1.2. Other Important Considerations for the TBCCDA

Research involving human data, human anatomical substances, and/or interaction with human subjects is permitted; ***however,* clinical trials are not allowed within this funding opportunity.**

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

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

The proposed research must be relevant to Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and/or the American Public. PIs are encouraged to integrate and/or align their research projects with DOW and/or VA research laboratories and programs. Collaboration with the DOW and/or VA is also encouraged. A list of websites that may be useful in identifying additional information about ongoing DOW and VA areas of research interest or potential opportunities for collaboration can be found in Appendix 10 of the GAI.

A congressionally mandated Metastatic Cancer Task Force was formed with the purpose of identifying ways to help accelerate clinical and translational research aimed at extending the lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, the CDMRP encourages applicants to review the recommendations and submit research

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

ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and align with the FY26 BCRP priorities.

3.2. Funding Instrument

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

3.3. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **one** year.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **$140,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization's negotiated rate.

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

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

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):

- In-person consortium-related planning meetings, and/or teleconferences between/among participating investigators.
- Costs related to identifying and acquiring research resources.
- Other costs associated with planning and developing the consortium collaborations, communications, and resources.

4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

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

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

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

4.2. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

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

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

  Describe the overall goals of the proposed consortium in detail using the outline below.

  - **Overarching Challenge(s):** State explicitly which overarching challenge(s) or other fundamental issue(s) in breast cancer the proposed consortium will address.
  - **Central Hypothesis:** Describe the hypothesis that will form the basis of a future, full BCRP TBCCA.
  - **Background and Experience:** Briefly describe the Consortium Director's research experience and leadership skills that make them well-qualified for the role. Identify and provide the rationale for selecting the project team members and explain why these individuals collectively represent the best team to solve the problem(s) identified.

- **Structure of the Consortium and Integration:** Discuss the consortium's overall approach to address the central hypothesis with a description of the research the consortium will propose through application to a future, full BCRP TBCCA.
  - Briefly identify the projects the Consortium Director and Project Team PIs will each lead.
  - Describe the critical research objectives, the team leaders, and the project they each oversee.
  - Identify the key points of interaction between the projects and how such interaction will create synergy to address the overarching challenge(s) or other fundamental issue(s) more effectively than projects conducted independently.
- **Preliminary Research:** Describe the preliminary research the consortium team will conduct under the development award to finalize proof of concept or to increase synergy/integration under the future, full BCRP TBCCA. Briefly describe the methods and analyses, including appropriate controls. Describe the availability of necessary research resources and, if appropriate, include a brief summary of the plan for acquiring these resources. Describe the anticipated outcomes of the preliminary research project, and explain how the data generated will serve as proof of concept or project integration to support application to a future, full BCRP TBCCA. Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.

- **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:** 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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.

- **Consumer Advocate Letters of Commitment:** Provide a letter signed by each consumer advocate confirming their commitment to participate in the proposed project.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed preliminary research. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated from the preliminary research will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, as 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.

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

  Refer to the CDMRP Directive on Sharing Data and Research Resources for more information about the CDMRP's expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Inclusion Enrollment Strategy and Plan *(only required if the proposed preliminary research involves clinical research)*:** If applicable for the preliminary research to be conducted under the development award, 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. 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.
- **Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV) 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.

- **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 ideas and reasoning behind the overall goals of the proposed consortium.
  - **Overarching Challenge(s):** State the overarching challenge(s) in breast cancer the proposed consortium will address.
  - **Central Hypothesis:** State the hypothesis that will form the basis of the future, full BCRP TBCCA.
  - **Consortium Structure and Integration:** Briefly explain the consortium's overall approach to address the central hypothesis with a description of the proposed projects and objectives. Discuss how the projects will synergize to address the overarching challenge(s) or other fundamental issue(s) more effectively than projects conducted independently.
  - **Preliminary Research:** Briefly describe the preliminary research and explain how the anticipated outcomes of this research will serve as proof of concept or project integration.
  - **Impact:** Explain how the proposed consortium will make a transformative impact on the lives of individuals with, and/or at risk for, breast cancer and will significantly advance and accelerate progress toward the BCRP's mission of ending breast cancer.
  - **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.***

  - Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed effort.
  - Describe the ultimate applicability and impact of the research.
    - Which overarching challenge(s) in breast cancer will this research address?
    - What types of patients or at-risk individuals will the outcomes of the consortium help, and how will it help them?
    - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits and risks?
    - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?
    - What is the potential transformative impact of the proposed effort on individuals with, and/or at risk for, breast cancer?
    - 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.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (300 words or less recommended; one-page limit): Upload as "Impact.pdf".**

  The statement should address the points outlined below written ***in a manner that is readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine. DO NOT restate the research strategy as part of the Impact Statement.***

  Articulate how the consortium's research will make a transformative impact on the lives of individuals with and/or at risk for breast cancer, and will significantly advance and accelerate progress toward the BCRP's mission of ending breast cancer. Applications proposing research that represents an incremental advance in breast cancer do not meet the intent of this award mechanism. Explain briefly how the proposed research is relevant to Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.

- **Attachment 7: Representations *(Grants.gov submissions only)*: Upload as "RequiredReps.pdf".** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations document available on eBRAP.

- **Attachment 8: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form *(if applicable)*: Upload as "IGBudget.pdf".** If an intramural DOW organization will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget for that organization using the Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget form available on eBRAP.

(c) Additional Application Materials:

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

	Grants.gov	eBRAP.org
i. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) ○ **Biographical Sketch** *Biographical sketches or equivalent must be submitted for the breast cancer consumer advocates.* ○ **Current/Pending Support** *Intragovernmental applicants must include their internally supported research and development programs.*		
ii. Research & Related Budget		
iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)		
iv. Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) *(if applicable, Grants.gov submissions only)*		

4.4. Other Application Elements

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 HT942526BCRPTBCCDA from Grants.gov or eBRAP, depending on which submission portal will be used.

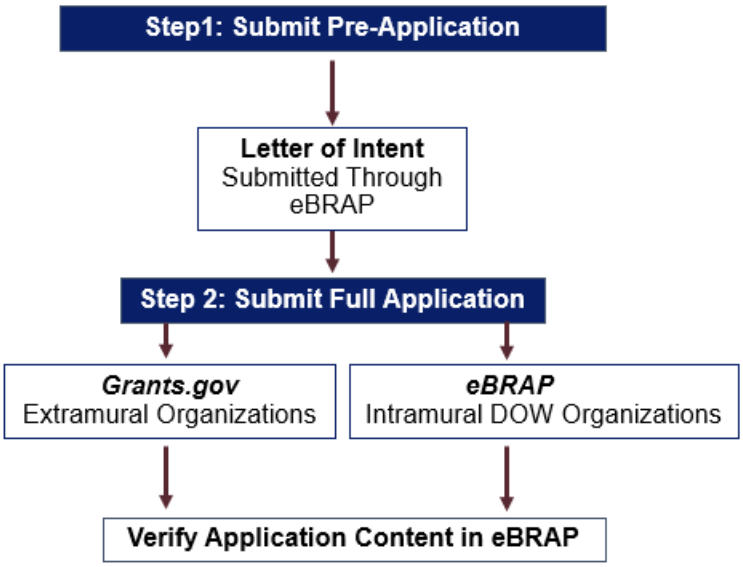
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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 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 processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify and verify the application in eBRAP. Contact the eBRAP Help Desk if any changes need to be made.

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

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

eBRAP Submissions: Only intramural DOW organization may submit full applications through eBRAP.

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

Independent of the submission portal, once the full application is submitted, it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP; the transmission to eBRAP may take up to 48 hours. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log in to eBRAP to review, modify and verify the full application submission. ***The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the application verification period ends. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and full application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated in this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. ***The DHACA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant.***

Submission dates and times are specified in Section 1, Basic Information.

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

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

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

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal.

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

Additional restrictions and associated administrative responses are outlined in Section 9.2, Administrative Actions.

6.2. Review Criteria

6.2.1. Pre-Application Screening Criteria

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

6.2.2. Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Impact**
  - To what degree the proposed consortium's research will have a major impact on at least one of the overarching challenges.
  - To what degree the proposed consortium's research will make a transformative impact on the lives of individuals with, and/or at risk for, breast cancer. Research benefiting a single subtype is considered impactful as long as the impact for that subtype is high.
  - To what degree the proposed consortium's research will significantly advance and accelerate progress toward the BCRP's mission of ending breast cancer.

- **Consortium Team**
  - To what degree the Consortium Director's research experience and leadership skills make them well-qualified for the role.
  - Whether the application identifies the project team members, and to what degree the rationale for selecting these individuals is appropriate.
  - To what degree the application explains why the project team members collectively represent the best team to solve the problem(s) identified.
- **Consortium Structure and Integration**
  - To what degree the consortium's overall approach to address the central hypothesis, through research proposed under a future, full BCRP TBCCA application, is appropriate and feasible.
  - How well the application develops the critical research objectives and whether it appropriately describes the team leaders and the projects they will oversee.
  - To what degree the application identifies the key points of interaction between the projects and demonstrates that such interaction will create synergy to address the overarching challenge(s) more effectively than projects conducted independently.
- **Preliminary Research**
  - To what degree the preliminary research needed to finalize proof of concept or to increase synergy/integration is appropriate and feasible.
  - How well the application develops the methods and analyses, including appropriate controls, for the preliminary research.
  - Whether the application describes the availability of necessary research resources and, if appropriate, the plan for acquiring these resources.
  - How well the preliminary research is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results.
  - If applicable for the proposed preliminary research, whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and the distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate.
  - If applicable for the proposed preliminary research, whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objective(s) of the study or whether the justification for a single-sex study is sufficiently strong.
  - To what degree the anticipated outcomes of the preliminary research project and data generated will demonstrate proof of concept or project integration to support an application to a future, full BCRP TBCCA.
  - To what extent the plan for sharing of data and research resources resulting from the proposed preliminary research is appropriate and reasonable, and includes dissemination to the research community and other affected communities, as applicable.

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**:

- **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.

- **Budget**
  - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Application Presentation**
  - To what extent the writing, clarity and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

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

- Ratings and evaluations of peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 BCRP, as evidenced by the following:
  - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
  - Program portfolio composition
  - 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. ***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 BCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website. After all awards are made, the CDMRP includes individual award information in a searchable database.

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

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

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

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

An organization may, at its own risk and without the government's prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award.

8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

The GAI contains information regarding administrative requirements and national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest DoD R&D Terms and Conditions and the DHACA Terms and Conditions for further information.

If there are delinquencies in technical reporting requirements for any existing DHA or U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command awards at the applicant organization, DHACA will not issue any new awards to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and must be approved by the DHA R&D Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance (ORRC), prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review.

8.2. Reporting

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

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

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting ***(Required for preliminary 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.

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

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:

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

9.2.2. Modification

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

9.2.3. Withdrawal

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

- A member of the FY26 BCRP Programmatic Panel is named as being involved in the development or execution of the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes.
- The application includes the name(s) of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies for which conflicts cannot be adequately mitigated. For FY26, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found on the CDMRP website.
- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.
- The application from an extramural organization, including non-DOW federal agencies, is received through eBRAP.
- The federal government recipient organization (including an intramural DOW organization): (a) cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in FY26 funds; and/or (b) cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

- The application includes URLs, with the exception of links in the References Cited and Publication and/or Patent sections.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.
- The same research project is submitted to different funding opportunities within the same program and funding cycle.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The PI is named as Consortium Director on a pre-application or full application submitted under funding opportunity HT942526BCRPTBCCA.
- The application does not address at least one of the FY26 BCRP overarching challenges and did not provide adequate justification for an exception.

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
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"	☐
Representations ***(Grants.gov submissions only)*** **– Attachment 7, upload as "RequiredReps.pdf"**	☐
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form ***(if applicable)*** **– Attachment 8, 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
BCRP	Breast Cancer Research Program
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OHRO	Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection Office)
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
R&D	Research and Development
RPPR	Research Performance Progress Report
SABV	Sex as a Biological Variable
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIRIT	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials

STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
TBCCA	Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Award
TBCCDA	Transformative Breast Cancer Consortium Development Award
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs