



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Ovarian Cancer Research Program Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early- Career Investigator Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526OCRPOCAECI

Pre-Application Due: September 15, 2026

Application Due: October 1, 2026

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

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Before You Begin

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

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507
help@eBRAP.org

*Questions regarding
funding opportunity submission
requirements,
as well as technical assistance
related to pre-application or
intramural application submission.*

Grants.gov Support Center

800-518-4726
International: 1-606-545-5035
support@grants.gov

*Questions regarding
Grants.gov registration
and Workspace.*

This document uses internal links; you can go back to where you were by pressing the Alt + left arrow keys (Windows) or command + left arrow keys (Macintosh) on your keyboard.

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

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1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: Initially created in FY09, the OCRP Ovarian Cancer Academy (OCA) is a unique, interactive virtual academy providing intensive mentoring, national networking, collaborations, and a peer group for junior faculty. The overarching goal of the OCA is to conduct innovative and impactful ovarian cancer research while developing successful, highly productive ovarian cancer researchers in a collaborative research and career development environment.

Distinctive Features: The OCA is a virtual career development and research training platform that consists of Early-Career Investigators (ECIs), their Designated Mentors, and an Academy Dean and Assistant Dean. The OCA-ECI Award is not a traditional career development award; the ECI is expected to participate in monthly webinars and annual workshops and to communicate and collaborate with other members of the Academy (other ECIs, Mentors, the Dean and Assistant Dean) as well as with the advocacy community.

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$4.5M to fund approximately four Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award applications with total cost caps of \$1.125M per award. The maximum period of performance is 4 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), September 15, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 1, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 6, 2026
- **Peer Review:** November 2026
- **Programmatic Review:** January 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526OCRPOCAECI

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

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

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

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

Early-Career Investigator

- Must be within five years of last postdoctoral research position (Ph.D.), clinical fellowship (M.D.), or equivalent as of the full application submission deadline.
 - Individuals in a postdoctoral research position (Ph.D.), clinical fellowship (M.D.) or equivalent at the time of full application submission are not eligible.
 - A Statement of Eligibility is required with the submission of the full application.
- May be a research- or physician-scientist.
- May be in a non-tenure track or tenure track position.
- Must not have a concurrent career development-like award at the time of this award.
- Must have an institutional commitment of approximately 50% protected time for ovarian cancer research and OCA activities, including participation in monthly webinars.
 - Must commit no less than 25% effort to this award for the first two years.
- **Designated Mentor**
 - Must be an independent, established ovarian cancer researcher.
 - Must have ovarian cancer research funding (past and present).
 - Must have a record of ovarian cancer publications in peer-reviewed journals.
 - May be at the same institution as the ECI.
 - If not at the same institution, another mentor (“Other Mentor,” see below) at the ECI’s institution must also be included in the application submission.
 - Must demonstrate a commitment (at least 5% effort for mentoring and participating in OCA activities such as offsite meetings and webinars) to develop and sustain the ECI’s independent career in ovarian cancer research.
 - A current OCA Designated Mentor can only be a Designated Mentor to one OCA-ECI; thus, current OCA Designated Mentors cannot be named as a Designated Mentor in an FY26 application unless the period of performance of the current OCA-ECI Award mechanism ends no later than July 2027. Information about current OCA membership is available through the [OCA website](#).

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- The current OCA Dean and/or Assistant Dean cannot be listed as a Designated Mentor.
- **Other Mentor (if applicable)**
 - Must be at the same institution as the ECI-
 - Must be an independent cancer researcher but not necessarily in ovarian cancer.
 - Must have research funding (past and present).

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

Awards are made to eligible **organizations**, not to individuals. Refer to the GAI for additional [recipient qualification requirements](#).

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3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRP). 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 OCRP in FY97 to provide support for research of high potential impact and exceptional scientific merit. Appropriations for the OCRP from FY97 through FY25 totaled \$556.45 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is \$50M.

The mission of the OCRP is to support research to prevent, detect, treat, cure and optimally survive ovarian cancer to enhance the well-being of Service Members, Veterans, retirees, their Family members, and all women impacted by this disease.

3.1. Award History

The OCRP Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award mechanism was first offered in FY09. Since then, 181 Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award applications were received, and 42 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award

The intent of the Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award (OCA-ECI) is to solicit additional ECIs to join the existing OCA. This award mechanism enables the ECI (the investigator named as the PI on the application) to pursue an ovarian cancer project that may involve basic, translational and/or clinical research.

The ECI, who will be the PI of the application, must be in the early-career stage. This award provides the ECI with funding, networking and collaborative opportunities, as well as the research experience necessary to develop and sustain a successful, independent career at the forefront of ovarian cancer research. This award also provides support and protected time for the ECI for four years of intensive research under the guidance of a Designated Mentor experienced in ovarian cancer research. Although the OCA will serve as a conduit to share knowledge and research experience among all Academy members, the ECI and Designated Mentor will be responsible for developing the ECI's career development plan and for designing and executing the proposed research. ***The ECI must clearly articulate their commitment to a career as an ovarian cancer researcher and to participating in and contributing to the growth of the OCA.***

The OCA Leadership (the Dean and Assistant Dean) serves as a resource for the ECIs and Mentors, assessing the progress of the ECIs and facilitating communication and collaboration among all of the ECIs and Mentors, as well as with national research and advocacy communities. In addition to fostering the scientific development, the OCA, through its Leadership, provides for professional and leadership development of the ECIs to include skills and competencies needed to fund and manage a productive laboratory. **Information about the OCA is available through the [OCA website](#).**

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3.2.1. Key Elements for the OCA-ECI

The OCRP encourages applications from ECIs whose ability to commit to conducting ovarian cancer research is limited by minimal resources or a lack of resources, such as a qualified Designated Mentor at their institution, access to ovarian cancer research tools, opportunities for establishing collaborations, or other obstacles.

The ECI is required to participate in monthly webinars, and the ECI and their Designated Mentor are required to attend an OCRP biennial multiday OCA workshop and, in alternate years, an OCRP OCA one-day workshop.

The Designated Mentor must have a strong record of mentoring and training early-career investigators. In addition to being a Designated Mentor to an ECI, the Mentor must agree to serve as a secondary Mentor to another ECI. With the goal to expand and enrich the mentorship capabilities of the Academy, current OCA Designated Mentors can only be a Designated Mentor to one OCA-ECI; thus, current OCA Designated Mentors cannot be named as a Designated Mentor in an FY26 application unless the period of performance of the current OCA-ECI Award ends no later than July 2027. In the same manner, the Dean and Assistant Dean of the Academy cannot be listed as Designated Mentors.

Preliminary data to support the feasibility of the research hypotheses and research approaches are required; however, these data do not necessarily need to be derived from the ovarian cancer research field. ***If cell lines or animals are to be used, a clear justification should be provided for the choice of proposed cell line(s) or animal model(s).***

[Clinical trials](#) are not allowed within this funding opportunity. Applicants who are interested in clinical trial research should respond to the OCRP Ovarian Cancer Clinical Trial Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award (OCCTA-ECI) program announcement.

3.2.2. Other Important Considerations for the OCA-ECI

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from [clinical research](#).

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.

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

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

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lives of advanced state and recurrent patients. As a member of the Metastatic Cancer Task Force, CDMRP encourages applicants to review the [recommendations](#) and submit research ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY26 OCRP priorities.

3.3. Funding Instrument

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

3.4. Funding Details

Period of Performance: The maximum period of performance is **4** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$1.125M**. 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 **4** 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):

- Funding for the Designated Mentor(s)'s salary support up to the equivalent of two calendar months per year.
- If applicable and well justified, salary support for the Other Mentor.
- Travel costs between collaborating organizations.
- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs associated with participating in the virtual OCA (e.g., hardware and/or software for the audio- or video-teleconferencing or web-based communications).
- Costs for one investigator to travel to two scientific/technical meetings per year in addition to the required OCA meeting described above. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the OCRP OCA-ECI Award.

Must not be requested for:

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

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

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

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



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



4.2. Pre-Application Components

Letter of Intent (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted.

LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review. **An invitation to submit a full application is NOT provided after LOI 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.**

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




Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below.

- **ECI Career Goals (one-page limit recommended):** Discuss the ECI’s record of accomplishments, demonstrating the potential for becoming an independent investigator in ovarian cancer research. Describe the ECI’s career goals and plans in ovarian cancer research and how the proposed research and career development experience will promote an independent, sustainable career.
- **Research Project and Feasibility (eight-page limit recommended):** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims to be funded by this application. Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses (including appropriate randomization,

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blinding, sample-size estimation, and controls) in sufficient detail for analysis. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches. The specific aims should be aligned with the specific aims/tasks outlined in the Statement of Work (SOW).

- Describe how data will be collected, handled, and analyzed in a manner that is consistent with the study objectives.
 - Describe the statistical plan including a power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study.
 - If cell lines or animals are to be used, justify why the proposed cell line(s) or animal model(s) were chosen.
 - If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, describe the study population and include a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples.
 - If human subjects, human biological samples, or datasets will be used, describe the study population and include a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples. ***This award may not be used to conduct clinical trials.*** Please see the [definition of clinical research](#) in Section 3.2.3., Award Information. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement. Anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex, race, and ethnicity should be provided as part of [Attachment 11](#).
 - 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.
- **Integration of Career Development and Research (one to one-and-a-half page limit recommended):** Describe how the individualized career development plan and research project are integrated and how they will contribute to preparing the ECI for an independent, sustainable career in ovarian cancer research.
 - **Commitment to the OCA (one to one-and-a-half page limit recommended):** Describe why participation in the OCA is important in developing the ECI's career. Describe the ECI's motivation and commitment to participating in the OCA, to include networking and collaborating with other ECI/Designated Mentor pairs (and, if applicable, an Other Mentor) and the OCA Leadership.
- **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.

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- **References Cited:** List the references cited in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format (include URLs, if available).
- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms and symbols.
- **Facilities, Existing Equipment and Other Resources:** Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project; include any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is not a standardized form for this information.
- **Publications and/or Patents:** Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.

Letters of Support (one-page limit per letter is recommended): Provide individual letters signed by collaborating individuals and/or organizational officials demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters from the PI's Department Chair, or appropriate organization official, should also confirm that the PI(s) meet [eligibility criteria](#). If applicable, provide a letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, confirming participation of intramural DOW collaborator(s) and/or access to military populations, databases or DOW resources. If applicable, provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s), or an individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), confirming access to VA patients, resources and/or VA research space.

- **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual and/or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural DOW organization is named as a collaborator on a full application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural DOW organization authorizing the collaborator's involvement.
- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.315 (2 CFR 200.315), "Intangible Property."
 - **Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable):** Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
 - **Commercialization Strategy (if applicable):** Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.
- **Research Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing,


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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.

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

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

- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** 

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

- **Background:** 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. Consult appropriate guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
- **Impact:** Describe how the proposed research will make an important contribution toward the OCRP mission and will impact ovarian cancer research and/or patient care/or survivorship.
- **Military Relevance:** Describe how the study is relevant to military health.
- **Career Development Sustainment Plan**
 - Summarize how the proposed research and Career Development and Sustainment Plan will facilitate and sustain the ECI's independent career at the forefront of ovarian cancer research.
 - Describe how the proposed research project will allow the PI to make valuable contributions to ovarian cancer.


- **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

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overuse of scientific jargon, acronyms and abbreviations. **Do not duplicate the technical abstract.**


- Summarize the objectives and rationale for the proposed research.
 - Describe the PI’s career goals in ovarian cancer research.
 - How do the research and career development plans support the PI in attaining these goals?
 - Describe how the PI will participate in and contribute to the growth of the OCA.
 - What population will the research help, and how will it help them?
 - What are the potential applications, benefits and risks of the anticipated outcomes?
 - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing research, patient care and/or quality of life?
 - 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 either the [Example: Assembling a Clinical Research and/or Clinical Trial Statement of Work](#) or [Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work](#), whichever is most appropriate for the proposed effort. Include milestones for data or research resource(s) sharing.
- **Attachment 6: Career Development and Sustainment Plan (two-page limit): Upload as “CareerSustain.pdf”.**
- Describe the individualized career and professional development plan, which may include workshops, conferences, seminars, journal clubs, teaching responsibilities, and/or clinical responsibilities. Explain how this development plan will enable the ECI to obtain independent ovarian cancer research funding and publish in peer-reviewed journals.
 - Discuss how the Designated Mentor and Other Mentor, if applicable, will assist the ECI in not only developing, but also sustaining, a career as an independent ovarian cancer researcher. Explain how the Career Development and Sustainment Plan is supported by the environment; include a description of resources available to the ECI at their institution, and, if different, at the Designated Mentor’s institution.
 - Outline how the ECI and Designated Mentor (and Other Mentor, if applicable) will evaluate the ECI’s progress of achieving and, more importantly, sustaining a productive and independent career in ovarian cancer research.
- **Attachment 7: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** Explain how the proposed research in conjunction with the Career Development and Sustainment Plan will facilitate professional development and sustain the ECI’s independent career at the forefront of ovarian cancer research. Describe how the proposed research will make a contribution toward the OCRP mission and will impact ovarian cancer research and/or patient care/or survivorship. The proposed research

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

- **Attachment 8: Designated Mentor’s Letter (three-page limit): Upload as “MentorLetter.pdf”.**
 - Describe the ECI’s background and potential to become an independent ovarian cancer researcher. Explain how this award will enhance the ECI’s capabilities to sustain a career in ovarian cancer research.
 - Describe the Designated Mentor’s background and experience in ovarian cancer research, success in acquiring funding in ovarian cancer research, and their record of mentoring and training ECIs. Specify the commitment of the Designated Mentor (at least 5% effort) and their staff to the ECI’s professional development and career sustainment. Describe the specific resources that will facilitate success for the ECI.
 - Describe why the Designated Mentor will be a “great” fit in the OCA irrespective of their accomplishments as a researcher and mentor to other ECIs. Describe the Designated Mentor’s motivation and commitment to participating in the OCA with the other ECI/Designated Mentor pairs and the Academy Leadership. Describe the Designated Mentor’s commitment and time to serve as a secondary mentor to another ECI in the OCA.
- **Attachment 9: Other Mentor’s Letter for the OCA-ECI Award application, if applicable (two-page limit): Upload as “OtherMentor.pdf”.**
 - Describe the ECI’s background and potential to become an independent ovarian cancer researcher. Explain how this award will enhance the ECI’s capabilities to sustain a career in ovarian cancer research.
 - Describe the Other Mentor’s background and experience in research, success in acquiring funding, and their record of mentoring and training ECIs. Describe the specific resources that will facilitate success for the ECI.
- **Attachment 10: Statement of Eligibility (one-page limit): Upload as “Eligible.pdf”.**

Use the suggested OCA-ECI Award Eligibility Statement Template (available for download on the Full Announcement page in Grants.gov) signed by the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official, to verify that the eligibility requirements are met at the application submission deadline.
- **Attachment 11: Inclusion Enrollment Report: Upload as “Enrollment.pdf”.** *(Attachment 11 is only applicable and required for applications proposing clinical research studies.)* 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 12: Representations (Grants.gov submissions only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 

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- **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

iii. Project/Performance Site Location(s)

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

4.4. Other Application Elements

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

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526OCRPOCAECI from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

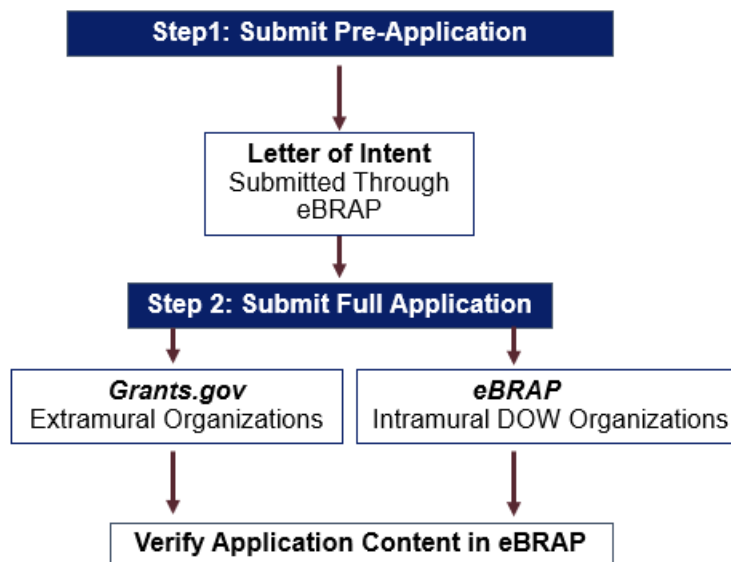
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in the System for Award Management (SAM), [SAM.gov](#), and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the unique entity identifier (UEI) generated by the SAM in applications to this funding opportunity and maintain an active registration in the SAM at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration. i

5.3. Submission Instructions

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

Application Submission Workflow



5.3.1. Pre-Application Submission

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


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

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pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify and verify the application in eBRAP. Contact the [eBRAP Help Desk](#) if any changes need to be made.

5.3.2. Full Application Submission

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

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

5.3.3. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

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

5.4. Submission Dates and Times

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

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

5.5. Intergovernmental Review

Not applicable for this funding opportunity.

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6. Application Review Information

6.1. Application Compliance Review

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

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

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



Members of the FY26 OCRP 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 OCRP 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:

- **Early-Career Investigator**

- The degree to which the ECI's career goals are consistent with a commitment to pursuing and sustaining a career as an ovarian cancer researcher.
- The extent to which the ECI is motivated and committed to participating in the OCA with the other ECI/Designated Mentor pairs and the Academy Leadership.
- How well the Designated Mentor's letter (and, if applicable, the Other Mentor's letter) supports the ECI's potential for a productive, sustainable, and independent career in ovarian cancer research.
- The extent to which the ECI's record of accomplishments (awards, honors, first author publications, publications in high-impact journals, presentations/speaking engagements,

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committees, etc.) demonstrates their potential for becoming an independent investigator in ovarian cancer research.

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

- How well studies are designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including the choice of model and the endpoints/outcomes to be measured.
- The extent to which the scientific rationale supports the research project and its feasibility as demonstrated by a review and analysis of the literature and relevant preliminary data (preliminary data do not need to come from the ovarian cancer research field).
- How well the hypotheses, experimental design, methods, and analyses are developed and support completion of the aims.
- To what extent the power analysis demonstrates that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study, and how well the statistical plan and analyses are developed and integrated into the project.
- If applicable, whether the strategy for the inclusion of minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.
- To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate and reasonable and includes dissemination to affected communities, study participants and/or the scientific community. If applicable, whether specific repository(ies) are named where data and research resources arising from the project will be stored.
- How well potential problems are identified and alternative approaches are addressed.

- **Career Development and Sustainment Plan**

- How well the application outlines an individualized Career Development and Sustainment Plan for the ECI that is consistent with the OCA and the ECI's research goals.
- How well the individualized Career Development and Sustainment Plan will contribute to the overall professional development of the ECI and prepare the ECI for an independent and sustainable career in ovarian cancer research.
- How well the Career Development and Sustainment Plan is supported by the environment at the ECI's institution, and, if different, at the Designated Mentor's institution.
- How thorough the plans are for monitoring and evaluating the ECI's progress in becoming an independent investigator in ovarian cancer research.

- **Designated Mentor (and, if applicable, Other Mentor)**

- The extent to which the Designated Mentor's (and, if applicable, the Other Mentor's) background, research experience, and funding history in ovarian cancer will be supportive of the ECI's career and professional development and transition to independence.
- How well the Designated Mentor's track record in preparing ECIs for careers in ovarian cancer research indicates the potential for successful mentorship and development of the ECI as an independent investigator.
- How well the Designated Mentor describes their motivation and commitment to participating in the OCA, and why they will be a "great" fit in the Academy irrespective of their accomplishments as a researcher and mentor to other ECIs.

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- **Impact**

- To what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make a contribution to the OCRP mission and will impact ovarian cancer research and/or patient care/or survivorship.
- How the proposed research project, in conjunction with the Career Development and Sustainment Plan, will facilitate the professional growth of the ECI and bring the PI to the forefront of ovarian cancer research.

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**:

- **Resources and Environment**

- The extent to which the proposed research project and career development of the ECI are supported by the availability of facilities, equipment, staff, interaction with research colleagues, and other resources.
- How well the commitment from the institution (of at least 50% protected time) supports the career development of the ECI, including time for research and participation in OCA activities such as monthly webinars.
- If applicable, the degree to which the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.

- **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 OCRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
 - Program portfolio balance
 - Relative impact on ovarian cancer and/or 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. ***CDMRP will NOT provide an invitation to submit a full application after pre-application submission.*** Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full

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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 2 CFR 200.1, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in the SAM.

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

In accordance with National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 and all associated laws, all fundamental research funded by the DOW must be evaluated for affiliations with foreign entities. All applicant organizations must disclose foreign affiliations of all key personnel named on applications. Failure to disclose foreign affiliations of key personnel shall lead to withdrawal of recommendations to fund applications. Applicant organizations may be presented with an opportunity to mitigate identified risks, particularly those pertaining to influence from foreign entities specified in law. Implementation of mitigation discussions and utilization of the [DOD Component Decision Matrix](#) must decrease risk of foreign influence in accordance with the above-mentioned laws and guidance prior to award.

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7. Federal Award Notices

For each compliant full application received, the organizational representative(s) and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP, typically within 6 weeks after programmatic review. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the application receipt and review process for the OCRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program's page within the CDMRP website. After all awards are made, the CDMRP includes individual award information in a searchable [database](#).

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

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

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

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

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

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8. Post-Award Requirements

8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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

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

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

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal and DOD 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), 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.

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

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

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8.3. Additional Requirements

OCA Workshop: The ECI and Designated Mentor (and Other Mentor, if applicable) must attend multiple OCA Workshops with the Academy Leadership and other Academy members.

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

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

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9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name and the program announcement version code CD26_01c.

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 application:

- The Pre-application was not submitted.

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- The application proposes a clinical trial.

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 OCRP 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.

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- 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.
- The PI does not meet the [eligibility criteria](#).
- The Designated Mentor and/or the Other Mentor do 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.

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Appendix 1. Full Application Submission Checklist

Full Application Components	Uploaded
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance <i>(Grants.gov submissions only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) <i>(eBRAP submissions only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attachments	
Project Narrative – Attachment 1, upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Documentation – Attachment 2, upload as “Support.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical Abstract – Attachment 3, upload as “TechAbs.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lay Abstract – Attachment 4, upload as “LayAbs.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statement of Work – Attachment 5, upload as “SOW.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Career Development and Sustainment Plan – Attachment 6, upload as “CareerSustain.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact Statement – Attachment 7, upload as “Impact.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated Mentor’s Letter – Attachment 8, upload as “MentorLetter.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Mentor’s Letter for the OCA-ECI Award Application <i>(if applicable)</i> – Attachment 9, upload as “OtherMentor.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statement of Eligibility – Attachment 10, upload as “Eligible.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusion Enrollment Report – Attachment 11, upload as “Enrollment.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representations <i>(Grants.gov submissions only)</i> – Attachment 12, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form <i>(if applicable)</i> – Attachment 13, upload as “IGBudget.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Application Materials	
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach Biographical Sketch for Senior/Key Persons (Biosketch_LastName.pdf)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach Current/Pending Support for Senior/Key Persons (Support_LastName.pdf)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & Related Budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Appendix 2. Acronym List

ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CONSORT	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA R&D	Defense Health Agency Research and Development
DHACA	Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DOW	U.S. Department of War
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ECI	Early-Career Investigator
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
OCA-ECIA	Ovarian Cancer Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award
OCCTA-ECIA	Ovarian Cancer Clinical Trial Academy – Early-Career Investigator Award
OCRCP	Ovarian Cancer Research Program
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
SAM	System for Award Management
SF424 R&R	Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance, Research & Related)
SOW	Statement of Work

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