



Program Announcement for the Defense Health Agency

Rare Cancers Research Program Idea Development Award

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526RCRPIDA

Pre-Application Due: August 19, 2026

Application Due: November 18, 2026

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

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Before You Begin

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

Who to Contact for Support

eBRAP Help Desk

301-682-5507
help@eBRAP.org

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

Grants.gov Support Center

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

*Questions regarding
Grants.gov registration
and Workspace.*

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

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

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1. Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity

Summary: The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Rare Cancers Research Program (RCRP) Idea Development Award (IDA) promotes ideas that are ready for further development and have the potential to yield high-impact findings and new avenues of investigation.

Distinctive Features:

- The RCRP encourages applicants to include an exploratory aim or sub-aim to support any necessary discovery-driven research.
- **Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale are required.** However, these data do not necessarily need to originate from studies of the proposed rare cancer type(s)/subtype(s) under study.
- **Research should have high potential impact on rare cancers and the patient community.**

Funding Details: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) expects to allot roughly \$7.35M to fund approximately 15 Idea Development Award applications with total cost caps of \$0.49M per award. The maximum period of performance is 3 years. It is anticipated that awards made from this fiscal year 2026 (FY26) funding opportunity will be funded with FY26 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2032. Awards supported with FY26 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2027.

Submission and Review Dates and Times

- **Pre-Application (Preproposal) Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), August 19, 2026
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** September 30, 2026
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, November 18, 2026
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, November 25, 2026
- **Peer Review:** February 2027
- **Programmatic Review:** March/April 2027

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942526RCRPIDA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420

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2. Eligibility Information

2.1. Eligible Applicants

2.1.1. Organization

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

2.1.2. Principal Investigator

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

An investigator may be named on only one FY26 RCRP IDA application as PI.

2.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not an eligibility requirement.

2.3. Other

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

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3. Program Description

The Defense Health Agency Contracting Activity (DHACA) is soliciting applications to this funding opportunity using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The CDMRP is the program office managing this FY26 funding opportunity as part of the Rare Cancers Research Program (RCRP). 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 RCRP in 2020 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit in the area of rare cancers. Appropriations for the RCRP from FY20 through FY25 totaled \$95 million (M). The FY26 appropriation is \$17.5M.

The vision of the RCRP is to improve outcomes for people with rare cancers through discovery and community building, and expansion of knowledge across cancer landscape. To achieve this vision, the program promotes rare cancers research by catalyzing knowledge building and enabling clinically impactful discoveries. Through these efforts, the RCRP seeks to benefit patients, Service Members, their Families, Veterans and the American public.

FY26 RCRP definition of rare cancers: Cancers affecting six or fewer persons per 100,000 per year in the United States. Applicants will be required to provide a justification statement explaining the relevance of the investigated cancer types/subtypes that fall under the RCRP's definition of rare cancers.

The proposed research must be relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, military beneficiaries and the American public. Data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) suggest that rare cancers are the most prevalent types or subtypes of cancers among the Veteran population.

3.1. Award History

The RCRP Idea Development Award (IDA) mechanism was first offered in FY20. Since then, 862 Idea Development Award applications were received, and 85 were recommended for funding.

3.2. Intent of the Idea Development Award

The FY26 RCRP IDA promotes ideas that are ready for development and have the potential to yield high-impact findings and new avenues of investigation. This award supports research supported by preliminary data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements that will accelerate progress toward eradicating rare cancers.

Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale (may include correlative studies to ongoing [clinical research](#)) to support the feasibility of the research hypotheses and research approaches are required; however, these data do not necessarily need to originate from studies of the proposed rare cancer type(s)/subtype(s) under study. Applications should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis based on strong scientific rationale.

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3.2.1. Focus Areas for the IDA

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, applications for the FY26 RCRP IDA must address one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Biology:** Identify disease-defining molecular pathways, cell context and microenvironment.
- **Preclinical Research Model:** Develop and validate rare tumor-specific models that can support clinical trial readiness.
- **Therapy:** Identify novel therapeutic strategies, including drug repurposing.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Model:** Establish use of AI and/or ML tools in discovery, preclinical studies, and clinical trial readiness.

3.2.2. Key Elements for the IDA

- **Impact:** Research that has high potential impact that may lead to major advancements and greatly improve outcomes for people with rare cancers. Applications that demonstrate exceptional scientific merit but lack high potential impact do not meet the intent of the Idea Development Award.
- **Research idea:** Research should demonstrate exceptional scientific merit and be justified by strong rationale. In addition, the RCRP encourages applicants to include an exploratory aim or sub-aim in situations where discovery-driven research may reveal unanticipated insights or innovative strategies relevant to rare cancers.
- **Preliminary data:** Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale are required. Although the proposed research must have direct relevance to rare cancers, the required preliminary data may be from outside the rare cancers research field or may include unpublished results from the laboratory of the PI, research team or collaborators named on the application.

3.2.3. Other Important Considerations for the IDA

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

Clinical trials are not allowed within this funding opportunity.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research, which is allowed.

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 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.

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The following encouragement is broadly applicable across many CDMRP programs, including the RCRP: 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 ideas to address these recommendations provided they are within the limitations of this funding opportunity and fit within the FY26 RCRP 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 **3** years.

Cost Cap: The application's total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$490,000**. 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 **3** years.

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

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

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
- Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the FY26 RCRP Idea Development Award.

Must not be requested for:

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

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4. Application Contents and Format

4.1. Application Overview

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

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



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



4.2. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components.

Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. Files must comply with the [formatting guidelines](#) listed in the GAI.


- **Preproposal Narrative (two-page limit):** The Preproposal Narrative page limit applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, drawings) used to describe the project. Inclusion of URLs that provide additional information to expand the Preproposal Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application.

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

- **Justification:** Explain how the study qualifies as rare cancers research and how the cancer type, in the proposed study, falls under the [RCRP rare cancers definition](#).
 - **Research:** Describe the project's hypothesis, objectives, rationale and specific aims. Describe the methodology and experimental design and explain how these will support the hypothesis and/or objectives of the project. Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale (may include correlative studies to ongoing clinical research) to support the feasibility of the research hypotheses and research approaches are required; however, these data do not need to be derived from studies of the proposed rare cancer type(s)/subtype(s) under study.
 - **Focus Area Relevance:** Explain how the proposed research will lead to promising outcomes for one or more of the [FY26 RCRP Focus Area\(s\)](#).
 - **Impact:** Describe how the idea will have a major impact on the outcomes of people with rare cancers and the understanding of rare cancers.
- **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application ***must be uploaded as individual files*** and are limited to the following:
 - **References Cited (one-page limit):** List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).

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- **List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols:** Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.
- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches:** *All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.* Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished. 

4.3. Full Application Components

Applicants must receive an invitation to submit a full application. Uninvited full application submissions will be rejected.

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

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

IMPORTANT: When completing the SF424 R&R, enter the **eBRAP log number** assigned during pre-application submission into **Block 4a – Federal Identifier**.

(b) Attachments:

Each attachment of the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the [formatting guidelines](#) in the GAI.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (10-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.** 

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. ***Preliminary data with disease-specific rationale (including correlative studies to existing clinical research) to support the feasibility of the research hypotheses and research approaches are required; however, these data do not need to originate from studies of the proposed rare cancer type(s)/subtype(s) under study.***

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale and feasibility behind the proposed research; include relevant literature citations and preliminary data that led to the development of the proposed study. ***Any preliminary data provided should be from the laboratory of the PI or member(s) of the collaborating team.***
- **Hypotheses/Objectives:** State the hypotheses/study questions and overall objective(s) of the proposal.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims. If this application is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility:** Describe the experimental design, methods and analyses, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for evaluation.
 - Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
 - If utilizing human subjects or human biological samples include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. This award cannot be used to conduct clinical trials.
 - If applicable, describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the

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- composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex, racial and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects.
- Identify any potential problems and address alternative approaches.
- Consult appropriate [guidelines](#) to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous and reproducible research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported.
- **Data Collection and Statistical Analysis Plan:** Describe the methods for data collection and analysis in a manner that is consistent with the study objectives.
 - Detail a statistical analysis plan for the resulting outcomes.
 - If applicable, include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate.
 - Outline plans for reporting data and demonstrate how the documentation will support a regulatory filing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or international regulatory agency, if applicable.

If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOW or VA resources or databases, describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research. Also include a plan for obtaining any required data sharing, memorandum of understanding or other agreements required to access and publish data. Refer to the General Application Instructions, [Appendix 4](#), for additional considerations.

- **Attachment 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](#)

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[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.

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

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

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

Research Sharing Plan: Describe the type of data or research resources (e.g., bio-specimen, analysis tool/software, training material) to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe the mechanism (e.g., direct sharing, repository, mixed mode) by which data and resources generated during the period of performance will be shared with the research community and other affected communities, including clinical research participants. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the proposed study will be archived, if applicable. Identify and provide the rationale for any data or resources that will not be shared (e.g. for intellectual property, feasibility, cost, or other considerations). The plan should also protect participant privacy, confidential and proprietary data, and performer/third-party intellectual property. Provide a milestone plan for disseminating data/results including when data and resources will be made available to other users. In cases where the study participant could potentially derive medical or other benefit from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with the participant or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

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 Report (only required if clinical research is proposed):

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

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race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.

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

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

Background: Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project.

Focus Area(s): State the [FY26 RCRP Focus Area\(s\)](#) addressed by the project.

Hypothesis/Objective(s): State the hypothesis and/or planned objective(s) from the study.

Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.

Study Design: Describe the study design, including appropriate controls.


Impact: Summarize the potential impact of the proposed project toward the goal of greatly improving outcomes for people with rare cancers.

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.**

- Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed research in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.
 - State the [FY26 RCRP Focus Area\(s\)](#) the project addresses.
- Describe the applicability of the research.
- What types of patients will it help and how will it help them?
 - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits and risks? If the research is too basic for clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes expected and their applicability to the field.
 - What is the projected time anticipated to achieve a clinically relevant outcome?
 - What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing rare cancers research?



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

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

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** *The Impact Statement should be written in plain language for lay persons.* Explain in detail why the proposed research project is important, using the following prompts:

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- State explicitly how the proposed work addresses a critical component of at least one of the [FY26 RCRP Focus Areas](#).
- Explain why the proposed research project is important to understanding the causes and progression of the rare cancer and/or to realizing improvements in outcomes for people with rare cancers.
- Describe how the proposed research will make an impact on rare cancer research and/or patient outcomes and how it benefits those affected by the rare cancer. The relevance of all research, including basic research, should relate to the outcomes.
- If applicable, describe how the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Attachment 7: Justification Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Justification.pdf” (for programmatic review only).** Describe how the cancer or cancer subtype is defined as rare under the definition of the RCRP (incidence rate of six or fewer persons per 100,000 per year), including citations on incidence rates, mortality, and status of disease research.
- **Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan (two-page limit): Upload as “AnimalResPlan.pdf”. (Attachment 8 is only applicable and required for applications proposing animal studies.)** If the proposed study involves animals, a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted must be included in the application. The Animal Research Plan may not be an exact replica of the protocol(s) submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Animal Research Plan should address the following points to achieve reproducible and rigorous results for each proposed animal study:
 - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and, where appropriate, the study’s relevance to human biology.
 - Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.
 - Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
 - Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.
 - Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis, and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- **Attachment 9: Representations (*Grants.gov submissions only*): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the [Required Representations](#) document available on eBRAP. 
- **Attachment 10: 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. 

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(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

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



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

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1. Location of Application Package

Download the application package components for HT942526RCRPIDA from [Grants.gov](#) or [eBRAP](#), depending on which submission portal will be used.

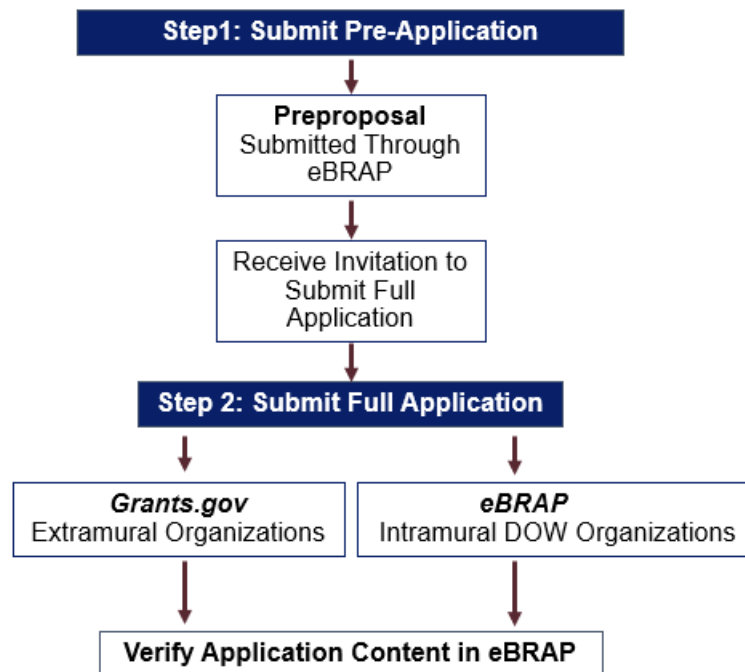
5.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

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



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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.

When starting the pre-application, PIs should ensure that they have selected the appropriate “Cancer Type” category. After selecting one of the offered Cancer Types, a textbox will appear where the applicant should enter a specific name for the cancer that will be studied (60-character limit). PIs should also select “age groups”.


Refer to the [GAI](#) for considerations and detailed instructions regarding pre-application submission.

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 RCRP 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 RCRP 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

To determine the merits of the pre-application and the relevance to the mission of the RCRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Justification:** Whether the proposed study falls under the [definition of RCRP rare cancers research](#).
- **Research:** Whether the application clearly describes the project's hypothesis, objectives, rationale and specific aims. To what extent the methodology and experimental design is shown to support the hypothesis and/or objectives of the project.
- **Focus Area Relevance:** Whether the project addresses at least one of the [FY26 RCRP Focus Areas](#) and to what degree it may lead to promising outcomes.
- **Impact:** How well the potential impact of these studies on the outcomes of people with rare cancers and/or the understanding of rare cancers is described.

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:

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- **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.
- How well the scientific rationale supports the project and its feasibility as demonstrated by a critical review and analysis of the literature, relevant preliminary data and logical reasoning.
- How well the application states the hypotheses and/or objective(s) of the study and whether the description of the experimental design, methods and analyses support completion of the project aims.
- Whether the plans for data collection and analysis are appropriate and include a rationale for the statistical methodology and power analysis, if applicable.
- If applicable, whether data will be appropriately reported and documented to support a regulatory filing with the FDA or international regulatory agency.
- How well the design of animal studies, if included, will achieve reproducible and rigorous results, with appropriate selection of models and clearly defined endpoints/outcomes.
- If utilizing human subjects or human biological samples, how well the plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples is justified and appropriate to accomplish the proposed work.
- Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement.
- How well the application acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- If applicable, whether the strategy for considering sex as a biological variable is appropriate to the objectives of the study or whether the justification for a single-sex study is sufficiently strong.
- To what extent the plan for sharing of project data and research resources is appropriate, 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.

- **Impact**

- How explicitly the proposed work addresses a critical component in at least one of the [FY26 RCRP Focus Areas](#).
- How well the application articulates why the proposed research project is important to understanding causes and progression of the rare cancer and/or realizing improvements in outcomes for people with rare cancer.
- To what extent the proposed research will make an impact on rare cancer research and/or patient outcomes and how it will benefit those affected by the cancer.
- If the research is basic in nature, whether there is an adequate explanation of the potential benefit to those affected by the cancer.

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- If applicable, to what extent the anticipated outcomes of the proposed study will make an impact in understanding health differences between sexes.
- **Personnel**
 - How appropriate the expertise and levels of effort are for successful conduct of the proposed work.

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

- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.
- **Environment**
 - To what extent the scientific environment and level of institutional support is appropriate for the proposed research project.
 - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
 - If applicable, to what degree the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.
- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity and presentation of the application components influence the review.

6.2.3. Programmatic Review

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

- Ratings and evaluations of peer reviewers
- Relevance to the priorities of the FY26 RCRP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the funding opportunity
 - Program portfolio composition
 - Relative impact
 - Relevance of the study to the [FY26 RCRP definition of rare cancers](#)

6.3. Application Review and Selection Process

6.3.1. Pre-Application

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether they are invited to submit full applications. The estimated date when PIs can expect to receive notification of an invitation to submit a full application is indicated in [Section 1, Basic Information About the Funding Opportunity](#). No feedback (e.g., a critique of the pre-application's strengths and weaknesses) is provided at this stage. Because the invitation to submit a full application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

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6.3.2. Full Application

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is **peer review**, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is **programmatic review**, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are subject to review and approval by a designated official. ***The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in [Section 6.2.3, Programmatic Review](#).*** Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found on the [CDMRP website](#).

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

6.4. Risk, Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.1 (2 CFR 200.1), over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in the SAM.

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

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

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7. Federal Award Notices

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

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

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

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

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

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

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8. Post-Award Requirements


8.1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

8.2. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports 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***): 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](#).

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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.

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9. Other Information

9.1. Program Announcement Version

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

9.2. Administrative Actions

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

9.2.1. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

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

- The Project Narrative is missing.
- The Budget is missing.
- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not issued.

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 RCRP 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)

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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 invited application proposes a different research project than that described in the pre-application.
- 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 application does not address at least one of the [FY26 RCRP Focus Areas](#).
- The cancer or cancer subtype proposed in the application does not meet the [FY26 RCRP definition of rare cancers](#).
- An investigator may be named as a PI on a single application to this program announcement. If an investigator is named multiple times as a PI, only the first application received will be accepted; additional applications will be administratively withdrawn.
- A clinical trial is proposed.

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.

9.2.5. Other Funding Opportunities

The RCRP is committed to leveraging efforts with other funding organizations to accelerate progress in rare cancers research. At the time of funding notifications, the RCRP may inform highly rated, unfunded applicants about opportunities to provide their RCRP applications and peer review summary statements to non-governmental and other governmental funders, who will determine the specific criteria for funding consideration.

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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"/>
Impact Statement – Attachment 6, upload as “Impact.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification Statement – Attachment 7, upload as “Justification.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal Research Plan – Attachment 8, upload as “AnimalResPlan.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representations <i>(Grants.gov submissions only)</i> – Attachment 9, upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form <i>(if applicable)</i> – Attachment 10, 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 <i>In Vivo</i> 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
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FY	Fiscal Year
GAI	General Application Instructions
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IDA	Idea Development Award
IRB	Institutional Review Board
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
ORRC	Office of Research and Regulatory Compliance
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
PRCRP	Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program
RCRP	Rare Cancer Research Program
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
SPIRIT	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials

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STROBE	STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs