

I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Toxic Exposures Research Program

Translational Research Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT9425-23-TERP-TRA

**Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical
Research and Development**

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), September 13, 2023
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 4, 2023
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, October 10, 2023
- **Peer Review:** December 2023
- **Programmatic Review:** February 2024

This program announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 803. The General Application Instructions document is available for downloading from the Grants.gov funding opportunity announcement by selecting the “Package” tab, clicking “Preview,” and then selecting “Download Instructions.”

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II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Toxic Exposures Research Program (TERP) are being solicited by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The execution management agent for this program announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC). The TERP was initiated in FY22 to improve the scientific understanding of pathobiology from toxic exposures, more efficiently assess comorbidities, and speed the development of treatments, cures, and preventions. Appropriations for the TERP in FY22 totaled \$30 million (M). The FY23 appropriation is \$30M.

The vision of the TERP is to minimize and mitigate the impact of military-related toxic exposures and improve the health and quality of life of those affected. The TERP aims to support impactful and highly relevant research focused on military-related toxic exposures that Service Members, Veterans, or their beneficiaries may be exposed to as a result of deployed, garrison, or other work environments and living conditions. It is expected that research findings would also benefit the general population.

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

II.A.1. TERP Definitions and FY23 Guidance

The TERP uses the following definitions:

- **Gulf War (GW):** The 1990- 1991 Persian Gulf War
- **Gulf War Illness (GWI):**
 - **Case Definitions:** In 2014, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) (now called National Academy of Medicine) released a report, “Chronic Multisymptom Illness in Gulf War Veterans: Case Definitions Reexamined” (available online at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK268875/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK268875.pdf). In this report, the IOM recommended the use of both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) definition of GWI and the “Kansas” definition of GWI. Applicants are encouraged to review this report as the use of these case definitions is required when proposing clinical research/clinical trials with GW Veterans. Additional information on GWI can also be found in the 2014 report of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses, “Gulf War Illness and the Health of Gulf War Veterans: Research Update and Recommendations, 2009-2013.” This report can be found online at <https://www.va.gov/RAC-GWVI/RACReport2014Final.pdf>.

- The former Department of Defense (DOD) CDMRP Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP) assembled multiple resources that applicants may find helpful if proposing studies on GWI. These resources can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/gwirp/>.
- **Common Data Elements (CDEs) for GWI Clinical Research:** Through a collaboration among the National Institutes of Health (NIH), CDC, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), former DOD CDMRP GWIRP, and the GWI community, CDE recommendations were developed for GWI. Applicants proposing clinical research under the Topic Area of “Gulf War Illness and Its Treatment” are strongly encouraged to review and consider the CDEs when preparing applications. Information on the GWI CDEs can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/gwirp/> and in Cohen DE, Sullivan KA, McNeil RB, et al. 2022. A common language for Gulf War Illness (GWI) research studies: GWI common data elements. *Life Sciences Journal* 290:119818. doi:10.1016/j.lfs.2021.119818.
- **Military-Related Toxic Exposures:** Exposures to known or unknown, naturally occurring or manmade substances encountered by the Service Members, Veterans, or their beneficiaries that result in adverse health effects; toxic exposures may be associated with deployed, garrison, or other work environments and living conditions. For the purposes of this TERP program announcement, exposures solely focused on environmental extremes are not considered military-related toxic exposures.
- **New Approach Methodologies (NAMs):** “Technologies and approaches that can potentially provide the same hazard and risk assessment information without the use of animal testing” (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/12-09-2021/new-approach-methods-nams-for-human-health-risk-assessment-workshop-1>).
- **Neurotoxin:** “Synthetic or naturally occurring substances that damage, destroy, or impair the functioning of the central and/or peripheral nervous system” (<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1743954-overview>).
- **Toxicant:** “A poison that is made by humans or that is put into the environment by human activities” (<https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/toxicant>).
- **Toxic Exposures:** Exposures to known and unknown naturally occurring or manmade, harmful substances that result in adverse health effects.

FY23 TERP Guidance

For FY23, the TERP is offering three award mechanisms: the Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA), Translational Research Award (TRA), and Clinical Trial Award (CTA).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to review the program announcement requirements and select the funding opportunity that aligns with the scope of the proposed research.

Applications submitted under a mechanism that is not deemed appropriate for the type and scope of research requested will not be recommended for funding.

For FY23, the TERP has overarching Program Goals and Topic Areas that encompass Focus Areas. ***To meet the intent of the award mechanism, applications must articulate how the proposed research is relevant to at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and addresses at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#).*** While addressing one of the [FY23 TERP Focus Areas](#) is encouraged, it is not required.

Impactful and highly relevant research will be hypothesis-driven and consider the health care needs of military Service Members, Veterans, and/or the American public with symptoms, diseases, or conditions as a result of military-related toxic exposures and/or the need to minimize toxic exposures for military and civilian populations.

Collaboration with military and/or VA researchers and clinicians is encouraged.

Participation of at least one military or Veteran consumer as a member of the research team to contribute to the development of the research question, project design, oversight, and evaluation, as well as other significant aspects of the proposed project is strongly encouraged.

- For the purposes of the FY23 TERP, a consumer is a person living with a disease, injury, or condition or may be a family member or caregiver of a person impacted by a disease/injury/condition associated with military-related toxic exposures. The consumer must be an active participant in an advocacy, outreach, or support organization, or if military personnel on active duty, be approved to participate by their Commanding Officer.

II.A.2. FY23 TERP Program Goals

To meet the intent of the award mechanism, TERP applications must address at least one of the Program Goals listed below. Selection of the Program Goal is the responsibility of the applicant.

The FY23 TERP Program Goals are not listed in order of importance.

1. ***Elucidate mechanisms of how military-related toxic exposures result in adverse effects, including but not limited to toxicities, malignancies, neurologic and respiratory disorders, cardiac complications, sleep disorders, immune system dysfunction, gastrointestinal issues, etc.***
 - Understand the progression from acute toxicity to long-term illness (including but not limited to Gulf War illness (GWI), cancers, respiratory conditions, Parkinson's disease, and other neurologic disorders, etc.).
 - Evaluate epigenetic and genomic mechanisms and potential long-term and/or heritable outcomes.
 - Identify biological and/or psychosocial variables that can impact disease outcomes.
 - Identify risk factors/genetic predictors for various diseases/conditions that may occur as a result of toxic exposure.

- Understand complex, multi-exposure combinations and how exposure impacts outcome.
 - Address the need for preclinical models that capture the adverse outcomes of human toxic exposures.
2. ***Diagnose the effects of military-related toxic exposures, understand the phenotypic, pathological, and clinical outcomes associated with short-term and long-term exposures, and predict disease progression.***
- Understand individual or mixture exposures and their links to individual disease outcomes.
 - Identify behavioral factors (smoking, substance abuse, etc.), comorbidities and preexisting medical conditions that may impact exposure outcomes.
 - Develop diagnostic screens/assays for short-term and persistent/chronic toxic exposures (e.g., biomarkers).
 - Predict long-term effects from single, intermittent, mixture, or repetitive short-term exposures.
3. ***Predict and prevent military-related toxic exposures by identifying strategies that can anticipate, identify, monitor, and prevent Service Members and the American public from adverse effects of exposures to toxic substances.***
- Identify military-related exposures across environments that lead to adverse health effects.
 - Advance exposure assessment methodologies, including but not limited to direct-reading and integrated measurements.
4. ***Develop therapeutics, treatments, and strategies to minimize symptoms and disease progression associated with military-related toxic exposures.***
- Evaluate existing treatments.
 - Advance new treatments.

II.A.3. FY23 TERP Topic Areas and Focus Areas

The FY23 TERP provides congressionally-directed **Topic Areas** and program-defined **Focus Areas** for each corresponding Topic Area.

To meet the intent of the award mechanism, TRA applications ***must address at least one of the FY23 TERP Topic Areas.*** Addressing **FY23 TERP Focus Areas** is encouraged. Applications that propose “Other” research outside the listed Focus Areas are acceptable as long as at least one Program Goal and at least one Topic Area are being addressed.

The Topic Area in conjunction with the appropriate Focus Area or “Other” Focus Area must be selected during the pre-application submission process.

Neither Topic Areas nor Focus Areas are listed in order of importance.

TOPIC AREA: Neurotoxin Exposure

Focus Areas

1. Understand the relationship between toxic exposures and long-term neurologic disorders, including but not limited to Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease or other neurologic disease phenotypes.
2. Elucidate basic mechanisms of neurotoxicity/neurodegeneration resulting from toxic exposures.
3. Predict, assess and prevent neurotoxin exposures.
4. Develop innovative treatments for people outside of the short-term therapeutic window following neurotoxin exposure.
5. Identify clinical signs and symptoms or biomarkers of chronic low-level neurotoxin exposures in order to provide effective therapeutics before permanent damage occurs.
6. Understand the relationship between neurotoxin exposures and concurrent and/or comorbid neurological and psychological disorders.
7. Other research focused on neurotoxin exposure that addresses a [TERP Program Goal](#).

TOPIC AREA: Gulf War Illness (GWI) and Its Treatment

Focus Areas

1. Rapidly advance effective treatments for ill Gulf War Veterans with an emphasis on those treatment regimens that can be repurposed and are readily and clinically available.
2. Identify and validate objective biomarkers for the diagnosis and monitoring of GWI and its progression and/or for assessing treatment efficacy.
3. Evaluate the pathological and molecular mechanisms associated with GWI.
4. Evaluate non-pharmacologic treatments (e.g., therapies/programs/services) that will significantly benefit the quality of life for the GWI patient community.
5. Other research focused on GWI and its treatment that addresses a [TERP Program Goal](#).

TOPIC AREA: Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits

Focus Areas

1. Develop noninvasive diagnostic screening, tests and assays that can differentiate among respiratory diseases/conditions.
2. Improve exposure assessment methodologies to detect and understand respiratory exposures, associated risk of exposures, and potential outcomes.
3. Identify toxicants associated with airborne hazards and elucidate mechanisms of associated effects on human health.
4. Determine long-term outcomes of toxic exposures associated with burn pits and other militarily relevant airborne hazards, focusing on longitudinal studies of Service Members and Veterans.
5. Understand clinical phenotypes associated with burn pit and airborne hazard exposure and integrate with exposure assessment data.
6. Other research focused on airborne hazards and burn pits that addresses a [TERP Program Goal](#).

TOPIC AREA: Other Military Service-Related Toxic Exposures in General, Including Prophylactic Medications, Pesticides, Organophosphates, Toxic Industrial Chemicals, Materials, Metals, and Minerals

Focus Areas

1. Understand the effects, impacts and outcomes of various timescale exposures (short-term, sub-chronic, and chronic) and complex exposures (repeated and mixtures) as they pertain to multiple human biologic systems and pathways.
2. Elucidate mechanisms associated with direct (irritant) and systemic effects of exposure to chemicals, metals, materials and minerals.
3. Investigate mechanisms of adverse outcomes associated with exposure to novel compounds and/or prophylactic medications including, but not limited to, quinoline antimalarial drugs (e.g., mefloquine), and pyridostigmine bromide.
4. Evaluate long-term effects of military toxicant exposures in exposed human populations, including Veterans.
5. Other research focused on other military service-related toxic exposures that addresses a [TERP Program Goal](#).

Requirements for Application Submission	
<u>FY23 TERP Program Goals</u>	Must address at least one.
<u>FY23 TERP Topic Areas</u>	Must address at least one.
<u>FY23 TERP Focus Areas</u>	Encouraged but not required; a selection of “Other” is permitted as long as the application addresses at least one Program Goal and at least one Topic Area.

Program Goal(s) and Topic Area(s) as well as the appropriate Focus Area(s), or the “Other” Focus Area(s) should be selected during the pre-application submission process and addressed in detail in the full application submission.

Inclusion of classified research data within the application and/or proposing research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security concerns may result in application withdrawal. This includes, but is not limited to, acute medical countermeasures for chemical warfare agents, Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI) commonly referred to as “Havana Syndrome,” and directed energy weapons and technologies. Refer to the General Application Instructions Appendix 2, Section E.

II.A.4. Award History

The TERP TRA mechanism was first offered in FY22. Since then, 48 TRA applications (representing 92 potential awards) have been received, and 7 (representing 13 potential awards) have been recommended for funding.

II.B. Award Information

The FY23 TERP TRA is intended to support translational research that will accelerate the movement of promising ideas in military-related toxic exposure research into clinical applications, including health care products, interventions, technologies, and/or clinical practice guidelines. Translational research may be defined as an integration of basic science and clinical observations. New Approach Methodologies may also be used. The ultimate goal of translational research is to move a concept or observation forward into clinical application that is relevant to active-duty Service Members, Veterans, other military beneficiaries, and/or the American public. Applications should provide evidence for the reciprocal transfer of information between basic and clinical science or vice versa in developing and implementing the research plan.

Impact: The application should explicitly state how the proposed research will have a significant impact on military-related toxic exposure research and/or patient care with the intent to transition outcomes into clinical practice for Service Members, Veterans, and/or the American public who have been or could potentially be impacted by toxic exposures. State both the short- and long-term impacts and how the proposed research will ultimately lead to new treatments/therapeutics, diagnostic assays, or prevention strategies to improve the quality of life for those that have been impacted by or are likely to encounter toxic substances.

Translational Potential: *Applications should clearly demonstrate the project’s potential near-term and long-term outcome(s)/product(s) (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible material) and how they will impact a critical problem or question in the field of research and/or patient care in at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#) addressed.*

Applications must clearly articulate three points along the translational research spectrum:

- Where the field is now
- Where the field will be after the successful completion of the proposed research project
- What the next step will be after completion of the proposed project

Preliminary data are required. Applications must include preliminary data (e.g., published works by the investigators, pilot data, peer-reviewed literature) to support feasibility of the study. Any unpublished preliminary data provided should originate from the laboratory of the Principal Investigator (PI) or a member(s) of the research team.

Proposed research may be related to diseases, conditions, or symptoms supported by other CDMRP programs; however, TERP applications must be relevant to military-related toxic exposures and be responsive to the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and [Topic Areas](#).

TRA applications may include preclinical studies (including [research involving animals](#)) and/or [research involving human subjects and human anatomical substances](#); *however, the FY23 TERP TRA may not be used to conduct [clinical trials](#).* As stated in [Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal](#), applications including clinical trials will be withdrawn.

Applications proposing clinical trials may be submitted to the following FY23 TERP funding opportunity:

- Clinical Trial Award (Funding Opportunity Number HT9425-23-TERP-CTA)

Studies using human subjects, human anatomical substances, or data sets, are strongly encouraged to use relevant military and/or Veteran populations/samples/data sets. Applications not using military or Veteran populations/samples/data sets are strongly encouraged to provide justification for how the chosen populations/samples/data sets are relevant to military-related toxic exposures and will benefit Service Members, Veterans and/or their beneficiaries.

When applicable, the research team is encouraged to include both preclinical and clinical investigators.

Research Involving Animals: All research funded by the FY23 TERP TRA involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (OHARO), Animal Care and Use Review Office (ACURO), in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. *Allow at least 3 to 4 months*

for ACURO regulatory review and approval processes for animal studies. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

Rigor of Preclinical Research Design: All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of preclinical research. The standards are described in SC Landis et al., 2012, A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research, *Nature* 490:187-191 (www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html). While these standards are written for preclinical studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies. Projects that include research on animal models are required to submit [Attachment 8, Animal Research Plan](#), as part of the application package to describe how these standards will be addressed. Applicants should consult the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) guidelines 2.0 to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 can be found at <https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines>.

If animal models are proposed, consider the following:

- Pairing clinical populations to animal models in order to validate the clinical relevance and development of prevention, assessment, and treatment solutions is encouraged.
- For studies using animal models, the use of an established model is preferred unless there is a compelling scientific justification for the development or use of a new model.
- Proposed animal models should be well-justified, supported within the literature, and clearly align with clinical relevance.
- For studies proposing GWI research with animal models, a list of GWIRP-funded animal models is available at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/gwirp/resources/amodels>.

Clinical research involving human subjects and human anatomical substances is permitted; however, the FY23 TERP TRA may not be used to conduct clinical trials.

A clinical trial is defined as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes.

Studies that do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention are not considered clinical trials.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, Regulatory Agency refers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or any relevant international regulatory agency unless otherwise noted.

Clinical research encompasses research with patient samples, data, and interaction with patients that may or may not be considered a clinical trial. **For the purposes of this funding opportunity,**

research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research. Clinical research is observational in nature and includes: (1) Research that does not seek to evaluate the effects of interventions. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as data, tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects, but does not seek to assess the effects of an intervention, qualifies as clinical research. Patient-oriented research may include but is not limited to: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) diagnostic or detection studies (e.g., biomarker or imaging), (c) health disparity studies, and (d) development of new technologies. (2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies that do not seek to study the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention. (3) Outcomes research and health services research that do not fit under the definition of clinical trial. Excluded from the definition of clinical research are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. **Note:** Studies that meet the requirements for exemption under [§46.104\(d\)\(4\) of the Common Rule](#) are not considered clinical research as defined by CDMRP. Exemption category 4 refers to secondary research for which consent is not required.

Research Involving Human Data, Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers: All DOD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human data, human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the USAMRDC OHARO, Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO), prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of application submission is **not** required; however, local IRB/EC approval is necessary prior to OHRO review. Allow up to 3 months to complete the OHRO regulatory review and approval process following submission of **all required and complete** documents to the OHRO. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the OHRO web page https://mrhc.health.mil/index.cfm/collaborate/research_protections/hrpo for additional information.

As of January 20, 2020, U.S. institutions engaged in non-exempt cooperative research **must** rely on a single IRB to review and approve the portion of the research conducted at domestic sites in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46.114(b) (45 CFR 46.114[b]). If the proposed, non-exempt research involves more than one U.S.-based institution, a written plan for single IRB review arrangements must be provided at the time of application submission or award negotiation. The lead institution responsible for developing the master protocol and master consent form should be identified and should be the single point of contact for regulatory submissions and requirements.

Partnering Principal Investigator (PI) Option: In order to encourage applications that include meaningful and productive collaborations between investigators, the FY23 TERP TRA includes an **option for up to three PIs to partner** in one overarching study. This option supports interdisciplinary partnerships, such as those between clinicians and research scientists that will accelerate the movement of promising ideas into clinical applications. Each PI is expected to bring distinct contributions to the application and the application should clearly demonstrate that all PIs have appropriately balanced intellectual input into the design and conduct of the project. The application is expected to describe how the PIs' unique expertise combined as a partnership will better address the research question, how the unique expertise that each individual brings to

the application is critical for the research strategy and completion of the Statement of Work (SOW), and why the work should be done together rather than through separate efforts.

One PI will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. **The other PI(s) will be identified as a Partnering PI(s).** All PIs should contribute significantly to the development of the proposed research project, including the Project Narrative, SOW, and other required components. If recommended for funding, each PI will be named to an individual award within the recipient organization(s). For individual submission requirements for the Initiating and Partnering PI, refer to [Section II.D.2, Content and Form of the Application Submission](#).

Applicants are discouraged from being named as a Partnering PI on multiple applications unless the applications are clearly addressing distinct research questions. **Individuals named as Initiating or Partnering PIs must be at the level of Assistant Professor or above.**

Use of DOD or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Resources: If the proposed research involves access to active-duty military and/or VA patient populations and/or DOD or VA 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. Refer to [Section II.D.2.b.ii, Full Application Submission Components](#), for detailed information. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information.

Resources for Data and/or Previously Collected Biospecimens

The table below is provided as a reference and is not an exhaustive list of all resources that may be applicable to the proposed research. Researchers are not required to use any of the following limited examples or any one particular data set.

The TERP does not provide access to any of the below resources and/or control the information presented on the websites listed below.

Resource	Website
Boston Biorepository, Recruitment and Integrated Network for GWI (BBRAIN)	https://sites.bu.edu/bbrain/
Defense Health Affairs (DHA) Data Sharing Agreement Information	https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Privacy-and-Civil-Liberties/Data-Sharing-Agreements
Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)	https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/main
Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS)	https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/AFHSD/Epidemiology-and-Analysis

Resource	Website
Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS)	https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/envirohealth/hrasm/Pages/DOEHRS_Resources.aspx
DoD Serum Repository (DoDSR)	https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/AFHSD/Epidemiology-and-Analysis
Gulf War Illness Clinical Trials & Interventions Consortium (GWICTIC)	https://www.nova.edu/nim/GWICTIC/index.html
Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER)	https://iler.csd.disa.mil/iler/app/hipaa?execution=e2s1
Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center (MAVERIC)	https://www.vacsp.research.va.gov/CSP_Centers/Massachusetts_Veterans_Epidemiology_Research_and_Information_Center_MA_VERIC_CSP_Coordinating_Cen.asp
Millennium Cohort Study	https://millenniumcohort.org/
The Million Veteran Program (MVP)	https://www.research.va.gov/MVP/default.cfm
VA Environmental Health Registries	https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp
VA Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Biorepository Brain Bank (GWVIB)	https://www.research.va.gov/programs/tissue_banking/gwvib/default.cfm
VA Gulf War Era Cohort and Biorepository (GWECEB)	https://www.research.va.gov/programs/csp/585/default.cfm

The types of awards made under the program announcement will be assistance agreements. An assistance agreement is appropriate when the federal government transfers a “thing of value” to a “state, local government,” or “other recipient” to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States instead of acquiring property or service for the direct benefit and use of the U.S. government. An assistance agreement can take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. The level of involvement on the part of the DOD during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement. If “no substantial involvement” on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a grant award will be made (31 USC 6304). Conversely, if substantial involvement on the part of the funding agency is anticipated, a cooperative agreement will be made (31 USC 6305), and the award will identify the specific substantial involvement. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, collaboration, participation, or intervention in the research to be performed under the award. The award type, along with the start date, will be determined during the negotiation process.

The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY23 TERP Translational Research Award should not exceed **\$800,000** for the Single PI Option and **\$1,600,000** (combined direct costs) for the Partnering PI Option. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed funding information.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2024. For additional information refer to [Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices](#).

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$10.24M to fund approximately five Translational Research Award applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program as well as the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by scientific 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. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY23 funding opportunity will be funded with FY23 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2029.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: All organizations, including foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and international organizations, are eligible to apply.

Government Agencies Within the United States: Local, state, and federal government agencies are eligible to the extent that applications do not overlap with their fully funded internal programs. Such agencies are required to explain how their applications do not overlap with their internal programs.

As applications for this program announcement may be submitted by extramural and intramural organizations, these terms are defined below.

Extramural Organization: An eligible non-DOD organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD, and research institutes.

Intramural DOD Organization: A DOD laboratory, DOD military treatment facility, and/or DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. ***Intramural Submission:*** An application submitted by a DOD organization for an intramural investigator working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.

The USAMRAA makes awards to eligible organizations, not to individuals.

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

Extramural and intramural (DOD) investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) may be named by the organization as the PI or Partnering PI(s) on the application.

An intramural investigator is defined as a DOD military or civilian employee working within a DOD laboratory or military treatment facility or working in a DOD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. Submissions from intramural (DOD) organizations are encouraged for this program announcement. Applicants submitting through their intramural organizations are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective resource managers. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.

Applicants are discouraged from being named as a Partnering PI on multiple applications unless they are clearly addressing distinct research questions.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with an eligible organization.

The CDMRP strongly encourages all PIs to participate in a digital identifier initiative through Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc. (ORCID). Registration for a unique ORCID identifier can be done online at <https://orcid.org/>.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Organizations must be able to access **.gov** and **.mil** websites in order to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3.

Refer to [Section II.H.2, Administrative Actions](#), for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

II.D. Application and Submission Information

Submission of applications that are essentially identical or 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).

Inclusion of classified research data within the application and/or proposing research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security concerns may result in application withdrawal. This includes, but is not limited to, acute medical countermeasures for chemical warfare agents, Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI) commonly referred to as “Havana Syndrome,” and directed energy weapons and technologies. Refer to the General Application Instructions Appendix 2, Section E.

II.D.1. eBRAP and Grants.gov

The **electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP)** (<https://ebrap.org>) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications, view and verify extramural full applications submitted to Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov>), receive communications from the CDMRP, and submit documentation during award negotiations and throughout the period of performance. eBRAP also allows intramural organizations to submit full applications following pre-application submission.

Grants.gov is a federal system required to be utilized by agencies to receive and process extramural grant applications. Full applications may only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.

Contact information for the eBRAP Help Desk and the Grants.gov Contact Center can be found in [Section II.G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts](#).

Extramural Submission:

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at Grants.gov.

Intramural DOD Submission:

- Pre-application content and forms must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.
- Full application packages must be accessed and submitted at eBRAP.org.

Note: Applications from an intramural DOD organization or from an extramural federal government organization may be submitted to Grants.gov through a research foundation.

II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

Submission is a two-step process requiring both ***pre-application*** (eBRAP.org) and ***full application*** (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov) as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Full application submission guidelines differ for extramural (Grants.gov) and intramural (eBRAP.org) organizations (refer to [Table 1, Full Application Guidelines](#)).

The application title, eBRAP log number, 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. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

Partnering PI Option: The Initiating PI must complete the pre-application submission process and submit the contact information for each Partnering PI. Each Partnering PI will then be notified of the pre-application submission separately by email. *Each Partnering PI must follow the link in the notification email to associate the partnering pre-application with their eBRAP account. After associating the pre-application to their eBRAP account, each Partnering PI should email the eBRAP Help Desk (help@eBRAP.org) to have the desired contact information associated to their pre-application. The email should include the pre-application log number, the name of the Business Official, the name(s) of the Performing/Contracting Organization(s), and the submission-type for the pre-application (extramural or intramural).* If not previously registered, the Partnering PI(s) must register in eBRAP. A new pre-application based on this research project should not be initiated by the Partnering PI(s). Applicants are urged to complete these steps as soon as possible. If they are not completed, the Partnering PI(s) will not be able to view and modify their application during the verification period in eBRAP. If these steps are not completed, an intramural partner will not be able to submit the Partnering PI's required full application package components to eBRAP.

II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission Content

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique eBRAP log number is required during the full application submission process.

To begin the pre-application process, first select whether the submitting organization is extramural or intramural, then confirm your selection or cancel. **Incorrect selection of extramural or intramural submission type will delay processing.**

If an error has been made in the selection of extramural versus intramural and the pre-application submission deadline has passed, the PI or Business Official must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 to request a change in designation.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the Initiating PI through eBRAP (<https://eBRAP.org/>).

The applicant organization and associated PIs identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the applicant must contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

When starting the pre-application, PIs should ensure that they select the appropriate mechanism option in eBRAP:

- **Translational Research Award- Single PI Option (TRA):** For applications proposing research by a single PI that does not involve human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets.

- **Translational Research Award – Single PI, Human Subjects/Samples Option (TRA-HS):** For applications proposing research by a single PI that involves human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets, but does not constitute a clinical trial.
- **Translational Research Award – Partnering PI Option (TRA-PPIO):** For applications proposing research by multiple PIs (maximum of three) that does not involve human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets.
- **Translational Research Award – Partnering PI Option - Human Subjects/Samples Option (TRA-PPIO-HS):** For applications proposing research by multiple PIs (maximum of three) that involves human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets, but does not constitute a clinical trial.

PIs with an ORCID identifier should enter that information in the appropriate field in the “My Profile” tab in the “Account Information” section of eBRAP.

The pre-application consists of the following components, which are organized in eBRAP by separate tabs (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B, for additional information on pre-application submission):

- **Tab 1 – Application Information**

Submission of application information includes assignment of primary and secondary research classification codes, which may be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and confirm the codes prior to making their selection.

- **Tab 2 – Application Contacts**

Enter contact information for the PI. Enter the organization’s Business Official responsible for sponsored program administration (the “person to be contacted on matters involving this application” in Block 5 of the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form). The Business Official must be either selected from the eBRAP list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

Select the performing organization (site at which the PI will perform the proposed work) and the contracting organization (organization submitting on behalf of the PI, which corresponds to Block 5 on the Grants.gov SF424 Research & Related Form), and click on “Add Organizations to this Pre-application.” The organization(s) must be either selected from the eBRAP drop-down list or invited in order for the pre-application to be submitted.

It is recommended that applicants identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.

- **Tab 3 – Collaborators and Key Personnel**

Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.

[FY23 TERP Programmatic Panel members](#) should not be involved in any pre-application or application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal](#), or contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

For the Partnering PI Option, the Initiating PI must enter the contact information for each Partnering PI in the Partnering PI section.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest**

List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a conflict of interest in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship).

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files**

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the [FY23 TERP Program Goal\(s\)](#) and [FY23 TERP Topic Area\(s\)](#) under which the application will be submitted. LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions. *Full application submission does not require an invitation and may take place after a completed LOI pre-application submission is accepted.*

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application**

This tab must be completed for the pre-application to be accepted and processed.

II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission Content

Applications will not be accepted unless a complete pre-application package (LOI) has been received and processed.

The CDMRP cannot make allowances/exceptions to its policies for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. The full application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through Grants.gov (<https://grants.gov/>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/>) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Guidelines

Extramural organizations must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Applicants must create a Grants.gov Workspace for submission, which allows the application components to be completed online and routed through the applicant organization for review prior to submission. Applicants may choose to download and save individual PDF forms rather than filling out webforms in Workspace. A compatible version of Adobe Reader **must** be used to view, complete, and submit an application package consisting of PDF forms. If more than one person is entering text into an application package, the **same version** of Adobe Reader software should be used by each person. Check the version number of the Adobe software on each user’s computer to make sure the versions match. Using different versions of Adobe Reader may cause submission and/or save errors – even if each version is individually compatible with Grants.gov. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, and the “Apply For Grants” page of Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>) for further information about the Grants.gov Workspace submission process. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.

Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
Application Package Location	
Download application package components for HT9425-23-TERP-TRA from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov) and create a Grants.gov Workspace. Workspace allows online completion of the application components and routing of the application package through the applicant organization for review prior to submission.	Download application package components for HT9425-23-TERP-TRA from eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).
Full Application Package Components	
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.	Tab 1 – Summary: Provide a summary of the application information. Tab 2 – Application Contacts: This tab will be pre-populated by eBRAP; add Authorized Organizational Representative.
Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachments • Research & Related Personal Data 	Tab 3 – Full Application Files: Upload files under each Application Component in eBRAP. Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components:

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded) • Research & Related Budget • Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form • Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachments • Key Personnel • Budget • Performance Sites <p>Tab 4 – Application and Budget Data: Review and edit proposed project start date, proposed end date, and budget data pre-populated from the Budget Form.</p>
Application Package Submission	
<p>Create a Grants.gov Workspace. Add participants (investigators and Business Officials) to Workspace, complete all required forms, and check for errors before submission.</p> <p>Submit a Grants.gov Workspace Package. An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the “Sign and Submit” button on the “Manage Workspace” page, under the “Forms” tab. Grants.gov recommends submission of the application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to allow time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID prior to the application submission deadline. <i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></p>	<p>Submit package components to eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).</p> <p>Tab 5 – Submit/Request Approval Full Application: After all components are uploaded and prior to the full application submission deadline, enter your password in the space provided next to “Enter Your Password Here” and press the “Submit Full Application” button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official by email. <i>Do not password protect any files of the application package, including the Project Narrative.</i></p>
<u>Application Verification Period</u>	
<p>The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form.</i></p>	<p>After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official(s) and PI(s) will receive email notification of this status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package may be modified <i>with the exception of the Project Narrative and</i></p>

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DOD Submissions
	Research & Related Budget Form. Your Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the application verification deadline.
Further Information	
<p>Tracking a Grants.gov Workspace Package. After successfully submitting a Workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the “Confirmation” page that is generated after submission.</p> <p>Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.</p>	Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.

Partnering PI Option: The CDMRP requires separate full application package submissions for the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI, even if the PIs are located within the same organization. Initiating and Partnering PIs will each be assigned a unique eBRAP log number. Each full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number. *Note: All associated applications (the Initiating PI’s and each Partnering PI’s) must be submitted by the full application submission deadline.*

The full application package must be submitted using the unique eBRAP log number to avoid delays in application processing.

II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

- **Extramural Applications Only**

SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.1, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

Attachments:

Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4.

For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Attachments will be rejected if the file names are longer than 50 characters or have incorrect file names

that contain characters other than the following: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, and period. In addition, there are file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 megabytes (MB), and the file size for the entire full application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (15-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”.** The page limit of the Project Narrative 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 (uniform resource locators) that provide additional information to expand the Project Narrative and could confer an unfair competitive advantage is prohibited and may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below

- **Background/Rationale:** Describe in detail the scientific rationale for the study. Applications must include preliminary data (e.g., published works by the investigators, pilot data, peer-reviewed literature) to support the feasibility of the study. Any unpublished preliminary data provided should originate from the laboratory of the PI(s) or a member(s) of the research team. The rationale should include a literature review that supports the development of the proposed project. The background section should clearly support the choice of the study variable and should explain the basis for the study questions and/or hypotheses. Provide a summary of relevant prior preclinical and/or clinical work and distinguish how the proposed study differs from other relevant or recently completed research. State the relevance of the proposed research and applicability of the anticipated findings to the intent of the mechanism (refer to [Section II.B, Award Information](#)) and **to at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#).** Though not required, if addressing one of the [FY23 TERP Focus Areas](#), provide an indication of how the proposed studies are relevant to the TERP Focus Areas.
- **Hypothesis or Objective:** Clearly state the hypothesis to be tested or the objective(s) to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** State and concisely explain the project’s specific aims. These aims should agree with the primary aims and associated tasks described in [Attachment 5, Statement of Work \(SOW\)](#). If the proposed research project is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this TERP award would fund.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility:**
 - Describe the experimental design, methods, analyses, and models, including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail to allow for their appropriateness and feasibility to be assessed. Identify how the research strategy and approaches will meet the project’s goals and milestones.

- Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan and how the data will be handled and analyzed. If applicable, indicate rules for stopping data collection, primary endpoints and inclusion/exclusion of data.
 - Describe how the proposed project is feasible and will be completed within the proposed performance period.
 - Address potential problem areas and pitfalls and provide alternative methods and approaches.
 - If cell lines or animals are to be used, justify why the proposed cell line(s) or animal model(s) were chosen and discuss the model's clinical relevance to human biology (including but not limited to routes of human exposures, exposure dose, outcomes [human symptoms, diseases/conditions] associated with exposures, and the types of exposures potentially encountered). *For animal studies, full details will be required in the Animal Research Plan ([Attachment 8](#)).*
 - If proposing a correlative study, specify how the proposed project complements the existing research efforts and provides additional relevant insight beyond the initial study design.
 - If human subjects, human biological samples, or data sets will be used, describe the study population and include a detailed plan for the recruitment of human subjects or the acquisition of samples/data sets. Describe the availability of the proposed study population and past successes in recruiting similar populations. If active-duty military, military families, and/or Veteran population(s) or data sets will be used in the proposed research project, describe the feasibility of accessing the population(s)/data set(s). *For studies proposing recruitment of human subjects, human anatomical substances, or data sets, full details will be required in Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures ([Attachment 9](#)). Clinical trials are not allowed under the FY23 TERP TRA.*
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named "Support.pdf".** Start each document on a new page. If documents are scanned to PDF, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those 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 (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, title of reference, source of reference, volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).

- **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 and 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 should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no 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 Organizational Support:** Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.
- **Letters of Commitment (if applicable):** If the proposed study involves use of a commercially produced investigational drug, device, or biologic, provide a letter of commitment from the commercial entity indicating availability of the product for the duration of the study, support for the proposed phase of research, and support for the indication to be tested.
- **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable):** Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural organization is named as a collaborator on an application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural organization that authorizes the collaborator's involvement.
- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in the 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.
 - Address any impact of intellectual property issues on product development and subsequent government access to products supported by this program announcement.

- **Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan:** Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section K, for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Data Management Plan (two-page limit):** If a data management plan is included as part of [Attachment 9](#), Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures, then submission of the data management plan under Attachment 2 “Supporting Documentation” is not required. Describe the data management plan in accordance with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, [DoD Instructions 3200.12](#).
 - For Extramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, Attachments Form, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
 - For Intramural Applications: Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.1, Application Component – Attachments, Attachment 2, Supporting Documentation, for more detailed information.
- **Use of DOD Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.
- **Use of VA Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support from the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. For VA PIs, if the VA non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant institution for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.
- **Inclusion Enrollment (if applicable):** Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or data sets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement. The Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report is a three-page fillable PDF form, which can be downloaded from eBRAP at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.
- **Quad Chart:** Provide a Quad Chart for the proposed project. The format for the Quad Chart is available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”.** The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will

be posted publicly. **Do not include proprietary or confidential information.** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. The technical abstract should provide an appropriate description of the project's key aspects; clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important.

- **Background/Rationale:** Present the scientific rationale and reasoning behind the proposed research project.
- **Objective/Hypothesis:** State the objective(s) to be reached or the hypothesis(es) to be tested.
- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the proposed research project.
- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the experimental design, including model system(s) and appropriate controls.
- **Impact:** Explicitly state how the proposed research will have a significant impact on toxic exposure research and/or patient care with the intent to transition outcomes into clinical practice for Service Members, Veterans, and/or the American public that have been, or could potentially be, impacted by military-related toxic exposures. State both the short- and long-term impacts and how the proposed research will ultimately lead to new treatments/therapeutics, diagnostic assays or prevention strategies to improve the quality of life for those that have been impacted by, or are likely to encounter, toxic substances.
- **Relevance to the TERP:** Applications should articulate how the proposed research is relevant to at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and addresses at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#). While not required, if applicable, also address how the application is relevant to one of the [FY23 TERP Focus Areas](#) aligned to the [Topic Area\(s\)](#).
- **Relevance to Military Health:** State how the proposed research is responsive to the health care needs of Service Members, Veterans, or their beneficiaries that have been or could potentially be exposed to military-related toxic exposures as a result of deployed, garrison or other work environments and living conditions. Describe how research findings could also benefit the general population.
- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”.** The lay abstract is used by all reviewers. Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly. **Do not include proprietary or confidential information. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below. Minimize use of acronyms and abbreviations, where appropriate. The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the consumer community.

- Describe the objectives and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that can be *readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine*.
 - Describe the ultimate applicability of the research and how it addresses at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#). While not required, if applicable, also address how the application is relevant to one of the [FY23 TERP Focus Areas](#) aligned to the Topic Area(s).
 - Describe the types of patients that will be helped by the research and how it will help them.
 - Describe potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks.
 - Describe the projected timeline to achieve the expected patient-related outcome.
 - Describe the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advance knowledge, lead to new treatments/therapeutics, diagnostic assays or prediction and prevention strategies to improve the quality of life for those that have been impacted by, or are likely to encounter, toxic substances.
 - Describe how the proposed project will impact the health and well-being of Service Members, Veterans, and/or military beneficiaries
- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (six-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). Recommended strategies for assembling the SOW can be found at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>.

For the FY23 TERP TRA, refer to either the “*Suggested SOW Strategy for Clinical Research*” or “*Suggested SOW Strategy Generic Research*”, whichever format is most appropriate for the proposed effort, and use the blank SOW format titled “*Suggested SOW Format*”. The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

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

The SOW should state the specific aims described in the Project Narrative and include a list of major tasks and subtasks that support the completion of the stated aims, including milestones for completing the aims during the period of performance. The SOW should describe only the work for which funding is being requested by this application and as applicable:

- Include the name(s) of the key personnel for each study site/sub-award site.
 - Indicate the number (and type, if applicable) of research subjects (animal or human) and/or human anatomical samples projected or required for each task and at each site.
 - Identify cell line(s) and commercial or organizational source(s) to be used.
 - If applicable, indicate timelines required for regulatory approvals relevant to animal or human subjects research (e.g., local IACUC/IRB and federal OHARO approvals). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information regarding regulatory requirements.
 - For studies with prospective accrual of human subjects, indicate quarterly enrollment targets. If applicable, indicate timelines and approvals required to obtain access to databases, repositories or other resources.
- **Attachment 6: Impact and Relevance to Military Health Statement (four-page limit): Upload as “Impact.pdf”.** The Impact and Relevance to Military Health Statement must demonstrate how the proposed project will advance at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#). While not required, if applicable, also address how the application is relevant to one of the FY23 TERP Focus Areas aligned to the Topic Area(s). *The Impact and Relevance to Military Health Statement should be written in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.*
- Describe how the proposed research will reduce the burden (effects/outcomes, new exposures, etc.) of military-related toxic exposures for military Service Members, Veterans, and/or the American public.
 - Describe the short-term impact: Detail the anticipated outcome(s)/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible materiel) that will make important scientific advances and improve the understanding, prevention/prediction, diagnosis, and/or treatment of military-related toxic exposures.
 - Describe the long-term impact: Explain the anticipated long-term benefits from this research and how it will impact the field of study and/or the lives of relevant patient or community populations. Explain the anticipated long-term benefits from this research in the clinic or field. Discuss how the proposed materiel or knowledge product represents an improvement to currently available prevention strategies, treatments/interventions, diagnostic approaches, devices, or clinical practice guidelines, if applicable.
 - Describe the translational potential of the proposed study and how the application will accelerate movement of promising ideas in military-related toxic exposure research into clinical applications including health care products, interventions, technologies or clinical practice guidelines. Describe how the application will integrate basic science and clinical observations in order to advance a clinical application that is relevant to Service Members, Veterans, other military beneficiaries, and/or the

American public. The application should also demonstrate the reciprocal transfer of information between basic and clinical scientists. Applications must clearly articulate the following three points along the translational research spectrum:

- Where the field is now
 - Where the field will be after the successful completion of the proposed research project
 - What the next step will be after completion of the proposed project
- Describe how the proposed effort is responsive to the health care needs and quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and/or other military beneficiaries.
- Provide a description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to benefit the civilian population and address a military need, as appropriate.
 - Describe potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed research and strategies that may be employed to overcome those issues.
- **Attachment 7: Transition Plan (three-page limit): Upload as “Transition.pdf”.** Describe the methods and strategies proposed to advance the anticipated research outcomes/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible material) to the next phase of development (clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the proposed effort. Applicants are encouraged to work with their organization’s Technology Transfer Office (or equivalent) to develop the transition plan. The transition plan should include the components listed below, as appropriate and applicable to the research proposed.
- A description of the outcomes expected upon completion of the proposed research efforts. Outcomes should be relevant, measurable, and include the intended end-user.
 - Details of the funding strategy that will be used to advance the outcomes to the next phase of development, commercialization (e.g., partners, funding opportunities to be applied for), and/or incorporation into patient care.
 - A description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
 - Provide a brief schedule and milestones for bringing the outcomes/products to the next phase of development (e.g., further research, clinical trials, commercialization/transition to industry, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, clearance/approval by a Regulatory Agency).
 - For knowledge products, include the development or modification of clinical practice guidelines/recommendations, provider training materials, patient brochures, clinical

- support tools, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and other applications. (A “knowledge product” is a non-material product that addresses an identified need, topic area, or capability gap, is based on current evidence and research, aims to transition into medical practice, training, tools, or to support material solutions [systems to develop, acquire, provide, and sustain medical solutions and capabilities], and educates or impacts behavior throughout the continuum of care, including primary prevention of negative outcomes.)
- Clearly articulate ownership rights and/or access to the appropriate intellectual property necessary for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award and the government’s ability to access such products or technologies in the future.
 - If applicable, provide a risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.
 - Provide a description of how outcomes/products will be disseminated to both the scientific and consumer/stakeholder communities.
- **Attachment 8: Animal Research Plan (if applicable; required for all studies utilizing animals; five-page limit per animal study):** Upload as “AnimResPlan.pdf”. *Proposed studies should not rely on samples, reagents, or tools that are contingent upon completion of other ongoing efforts outside the scope of this research project.* If the proposed study involves animals, the applicant is required to submit a plan describing the animal research that will be conducted. Applicants should not submit a verbatim replica of the protocol(s) to be submitted to the IACUC as the Animal Research Plan. In accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines 2.0 (<https://arriveguidelines.org/arrive-guidelines>) the Animal Research Plan should address the following points for each proposed animal study:
 - Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. If using an existing animal model, provide evidence that the chosen animal model(s) is validated and well-justified in the literature. If developing a novel animal model, explain how the animal model is expected to be superior to other existing models (if others exist) and indicate how this model will be suitable to address the study aims.
 - Explain how and why the animal species, strain and model(s) being used/developed can address the scientific objectives and the relevance to human biology.
 - Describe approaches that will be undertaken to validate or corroborate findings from animal studies to relevant human data sources/populations. This could include, but is not limited to, validation of animal transcriptomic data using publicly available human transcriptomic data sets, confirmation of histological findings in a human postmortem case series, and validation against fluid-based or imaging biomarkers. Describe how the proposed validation approaches or corroborative studies “de-risk” the possibility that the findings from the animal study cannot be translated into human populations.

- Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled, including a description of the appropriate control groups that will allow the study objectives to be met. Indicate how the study will be conducted in accordance with the [ARRIVE guidelines 2.0](#).
- Clearly describe the statistical plan and sample size estimate for each study arm, including power analysis calculations to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study given the constraints of the award mechanism. Ensure sufficient information is provided to allow thorough evaluation of all statistical calculations during the review of the application. As applicable, 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.
- 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).
- Describe how data will be reported and how it will be assured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with a Regulatory Agency or next stage of development, if applicable.
- **Attachment 9: Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures (if applicable; required for all applications submitted under the [Human Subjects/Samples Options \(TRA-HS or TRA-PPIO-HS\)](#) where the proposed research involves human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets; no page limit): Upload as “HumSubProc.pdf”. Proposed studies should not rely on samples, reagents, or tools that are contingent upon completion of other ongoing efforts outside the scope of this research project.** Include the components listed below as applicable.
 - **Human Samples and/or Data Sets:** Describe the types and source(s) of specimens, records, or data to be collected and evaluated.
 - All specimens that will be collected for study purposes must be clearly stated and relevance to the study objectives described. The collection schedule and amount of material collected must also be clearly described.
 - Include information about specimen storage (i.e., location, duration, special handling conditions). Describe the identifiers that will be associated with the human specimens and data and provide a list of who has access to subjects’ identities. Describe how individually identifiable private information will be protected.
 - If retrospectively collected human biological samples or correlated data from biorepositories or databases will be used, describe how those curated samples or

data are representative of well-pedigreed cohorts of uniformly documented patients by providing their defining inclusion/exclusion criteria.

- For studies involving the use of banked human specimens, include a detailed plan for the acquisition of samples and/or data. Describe procedures to be used to assess the quality of the materials and identify and correct for effects and/or artifacts of sample processing and storage.
- **Human Subjects Study Population:** Describe the study population (i.e., Service Members/Veterans/civilians), and the nature, approximate number, age ranges, sex/gender, race, ethnicity, and other pertinent demographic characteristics, criteria for inclusion/exclusion, and the methods that will be used for recruitment/accrual/retention of human subjects.
 - Describe the rationale for the selection of subjects. Provide justification related to the scientific goals of the proposed study for limiting inclusion of any group by age, race, ethnicity, or sex/gender.
 - For studies involving GW Veterans, the use of both the [CDC and Kansas case definitions](#) required. Describe and justify any additional case definition of GWI, including any targeted illness subgroups that will be defined for the study.
 - **Enrollment Table:** For each study site, provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity.
 - **Inclusion of Women and Minorities in the Study:** Describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects. Provide justification related to the scientific goals of the proposed study for limiting inclusion of any group by age, race, ethnicity, or sex/gender. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or data sets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from IRB review) are exempt from this requirement. Anticipated enrollment table(s) with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity should be provided as part of the application's Supporting Documentation, [Attachment 2](#).
 - Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population at each site and describe the efforts of the PI and/or key collaborators that will be made to achieve accrual and retention goals. Furthermore, discuss past efforts in recruiting human subjects from the target population for previous clinical research, if applicable. Identify any potential barriers to accrual/retention and provide mitigation plans for addressing unanticipated delays (e.g., slow accrual, attrition). Identify ongoing clinical research/trials that may compete for the same patient population and how they may impact enrollment progress.

- If active-duty military or Veteran population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed study, and the feasibility of using the population(s). If a non-military population will be used for the proposed research project to simulate a military-related toxic exposure, explain how the population simulates the targeted population. ***For clinical research proposing to include military personnel, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for more information.***
- **Recruitment Process:** Explain methods for identification of potential human subjects (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, health care provider identification).
 - Describe the recruitment process in detail. Address who will identify potential human subjects, who will recruit them, and what methods will be used to recruit them.
 - If human subjects will be compensated for participation in the study, include a detailed description of and justification for the compensation plan.
 - Describe the recruitment and advertisement materials. The recruitment materials should not be coercive or offer undue inducements and should accurately reflect the study.
- **Informed Consent Process:** Specifically describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from human subjects and provide a draft, in English, of the Informed Consent Form. It is recommended that informed consent allows for the use of samples for future studies.
 - Identify who is responsible for explaining the study, answering questions, and obtaining informed consent. Include a plan for ensuring that human subjects' questions will be addressed during the consent process and throughout the study.
 - Include information regarding the timing and location of the consent process.
 - Address issues relevant to the mental capacity of the potential human subject (e.g., altered capacity due to administration of any mind-altering substances such as tranquilizers, conscious sedation or anesthesia, brain injury, stress/life situations, or human subject age), if applicable.
 - Address how privacy and time for decision-making will be provided and whether the potential human subject will be allowed to discuss the study with anyone before making a decision.
 - Address the need (if applicable) for obtaining ongoing consent or for reassessing capacity over the course of a long-term study and describe any relevant procedures to assure continued consent.

- Describe the plan for the consent of the individual’s Legally Authorized Representative (LAR) to be obtained prior to the human subject’s participation in the study. State law defines who may act as the LAR. The local IRB of record should be consulted for guidance regarding who can serve as LAR for research at the study site.
- **Assent:** If minors or other populations that cannot provide informed consent are included in the proposed clinical research, a plan to obtain assent (agreement) from those with capacity to provide it, or a justification for a waiver of assent, should be provided. PIs should consult with their local IRB to identify the conditions necessary for obtaining assent.
- **Screening Procedures:** List and describe any evaluations (e.g., laboratory procedures, history, or physical examination) that are required to determine eligibility/suitability for study participation and the diagnostic criteria for entry. *Note:* Some screening procedures may require a separate consent or a two-stage consent process.
- **Risks/Benefits Assessment:**
 - **Foreseeable risks:** Clearly identify all study risks, including potential safety concerns and adverse events. Study risks include any risks that the human subject is exposed to as a result of participation in the clinical research. Consider psychological, legal, social, and economic risks as well as physical risks. Consider how the proposed clinical research might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study. If the risks are unknown, this should be stated. If applicable, any potential risk to the study personnel should be identified.
 - **Risk management and emergency response:**
 - ❖ Appropriate to the study’s level of risk, describe how safety monitoring and reporting to the IRB will be managed and conducted.
 - ❖ Describe all safety measures to minimize and/or eliminate risks to human subjects and study personnel or to manage unpreventable risks. Include safeguards and planned responses such as dose reduction or stopping criteria based on toxicity grading scales or other predetermined alert values.
 - ❖ Discuss the overall plan for provision of emergency care or treatment for an adverse event for study-related injuries, including who will be responsible for the cost of such care.
 - ❖ Address any special precautions to be taken by the human subjects before, during, and after the study (e.g., medication washout periods, dietary restrictions, hydration, fasting, pregnancy prevention).

- ❖ Describe any special care (e.g., wound dressing assistance, transportation due to side effects of study intervention impairing ability to drive) or equipment (e.g., thermometers, telemedicine equipment) needed for human subjects enrolled in the study.
- **Potential benefits:** Describe known and potential benefits of the study to the human subjects who will participate in the study. Articulate the importance of the knowledge to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the potential risks to human subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to the human subjects and others that may be expected to result.

Note: Payment and/or other compensation for participation are not considered benefits and must be addressed in Recruitment Process.

- **Statistical Plan:** Clearly describe the statistical plan and sample size estimate for each study arm, including power analysis calculations to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study given the constraints of the award mechanism. Ensure sufficient information is provided to allow thorough evaluation of all statistical calculations during the review of the application. As applicable, describe how the randomization and blinding procedures for the study are appropriate, and specify any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias.
- **Data Management:** Describe the data to be gathered and all methods used for collection, including the following:
 - **Data:** The types of data, software, or other materials to be produced.
 - **Acquisition and processing:** How the data will be acquired, including the time and location of data acquisition, if scientifically pertinent. If use of existing data resources is proposed, describe the origin of the data set. Provide an account of the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content. Explain how the data will be processed.
 - **Identifiers:** Describe the unique identifiers or specific code system to be used to identify human subjects, if applicable.
 - **Confidentiality**
 - ❖ Explain measures taken to protect the privacy of human subjects and maintain confidentiality of study data. Strategies to protect the privacy and confidentiality of study records, particularly those containing identifying information, should be addressed.
 - ❖ Address who will have access to study records, data, and specimens, including an acknowledgment that representatives of the DOD are eligible to review study records.

- ❖ Address requirements for reporting sensitive information to state or local authorities.

- **Data capture, verification, and disposition:** Describe how data will be captured and verified, including the quality assurance and quality control measures taken during collection, analysis, and processing. Describe where data (both electronic and hard copy) will be stored; who will keep the data; how the data will be stored, if applicable; the file formats and the naming conventions that will be used; the process for locking the database at study completion; and the length of time that data will be stored, along with a justification for the time frame of preservation, which may include considerations related to the balance between the relative value of data preservation and other factors such as the associated cost and administrative burden of data storage. Describe the proposed database, how it will be developed and validated, and its capability to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the data. Describe the database lock process. For studies requiring Regulatory Agency oversight, compliance with 21 CFR 11 and appropriate data standards (such as those established by the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium) is required.
- 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).
- **Data reporting:** Describe how data will be reported and how it will be assured that the documentation will support a regulatory filing with a Regulatory Agency, if applicable.
- [CDEs for GWI Clinical Research](#): If proposing clinical research with GW Veterans, the use of CDEs is strongly encouraged. If applicable, describe how the use of GWI CDEs was considered when developing the plans for the collection of clinical data and annotation of clinical samples.
- **Sharing study results:** In cases where the human subject could possibly benefit medically or otherwise from the information, explain whether the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with human subjects or their primary care provider, including results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study. In cases of national security or controlled unclassified information concerns, include a statement that the data cannot be made available to the public (e.g., “This data cannot be cleared for public release in accordance with the requirements in DoD Directive 5230.09.”).

– **Laboratory Evaluations**

- **Specimens to be collected, schedule, and amount:** All specimens that will be collected for study purposes must be clearly stated. The collection schedule and amount of material collected must also be clearly described.

- **Evaluations to be made:** Describe all evaluations that will be made for study purposes. Explain how the results of laboratory evaluations will be used to meet the objectives of the study (or to monitor safety of human subjects).
 - **Storage:** Describe specimen storage, including location of storage, how long specimens will be stored, any special conditions required, labeling, and specimen disposition. Outline the plan to store specimens for future use, including considerations for informed consent and providing human subjects with an opportunity to decline participation in the study.
 - **Labs performing evaluations and special precautions:** Identify the laboratory performing each evaluation, the applicable quality standard, and any special precautions that should be taken in handling the samples. Special precautions that should be taken by the human subject before, during, or after the laboratory procedure should be clearly defined. If transport of samples is required, describe provisions for ensuring proper storage during transport.
- **Attachment 10: Partnership Statement (one-page limit): Upload as “Partnership.pdf”.** (*Attachment 10 is only applicable and required for applications submitted under the [Partnering PI Option \(TRA-PPIO or TRA-PPIO-HS\)](#)*). Describe the partnership and combined expertise of the Initiating and Partnering PI(s) that are critical for the research strategy and completion of the SOW. Explain how the partnership will better address the research question and why the work should be done together rather than through separate individual efforts. Explain how all PIs have appropriately balanced intellectual input into the design of the project and will devote appropriate levels of effort to conduct the project.
 - **Attachment 11: Use of Hazardous Chemical or Biological Agents (if applicable; no page limit): Upload as “Hazardous.pdf”.** The applicant must submit a plan for acquiring, using, and maintaining hazardous agents if such agents are to be used in the study. The plan must contain all applicable information such as CDC registration, an approved organizational safety plan to use the agent(s), and letters of collaboration, agreement, or approval from government sites issuing any agent(s). Indicate whether agents used are purchased commercially, and, if so, confirm that the amount is under regulated limits. Include a statement addressing this requirement along with accompanying letters of collaboration, approvals, and certifications.
 - **Attachment 12: Study Personnel and Organization (one-page limit): Upload as “Personnel.pdf”.**
 - Discuss the qualifications and experience/expertise of the research team and each individual’s specific contributions to the project, including how the appropriate experience is incorporated to address the research question and enable the success of the proposed project.

- Clearly state whether key personnel are not receiving salary from the award. If applicable, provide assurances/letters of commitment that the unpaid personnel will contribute the required level of effort to complete the project.
- Describe the PI’s record of accomplishment and their ability to lead the research team to accomplish the proposed research project. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this project.
- If applicable, describe how the study team composition is able to provide military-relevant subject matter expertise to the proposed research.
- **Attachment 13: Representations, if applicable (extramural submissions only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- **Attachment 14: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format, if applicable: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf”.** If a military facility (Military Health System facility, research laboratory, medical treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or DOD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete a separate budget, using “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format”, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>), including a budget justification, for each military facility as instructed. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.
- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

To evaluate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 USC 1681[a] et seq.), the DOD is collecting certain demographic and career information to be able to assess the success rates of women who are proposed for key roles in applications in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) disciplines. To enable this assessment, each application must include the following forms completed as indicated.

Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- PI Biographical Sketch (six-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”. The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The NIH Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in uneditable PDF format.
- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (six-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”.
- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf”. The budget justification for the entire period of performance must be uploaded to the Research & Related Budget after completion of the budget for Period 1.

Initiating and Partnering PIs must have a separate budget and justification specific to their distinct portions of the effort that the applicant organization will submit as separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Initiating PI should not include budget information for Partnering PI(s) even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed information.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Applications Only**

Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Verify subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete the “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format” and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as [Attachment 14](#). (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.) Each Intramural DOD Collaborator should include costs per year on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

Suggested DOD Military Budget Format: A military facility collaborating in the performance of the project (but not participating as a Partnering PI) should be treated as a subaward for budget purposes. *Note:* Applicants should complete a separate military budget using “Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format” (available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page [<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>]) ([Attachment 14](#)) to show all direct and indirect costs. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.

Application Components for each Partnering PI, if applying under the Partnering PI Option
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Each Partnering PI must follow the link in the email from eBRAP and, if not registered in eBRAP, must complete the registration process prior to the application submission deadline in order to associate their full application package with that of the Initiating PI.

For each Partnering PI, the Initiating PI must identify whether each Partnering PI will be named on an extramural or intramural application (in accordance with the guidelines in [Section II.C.1.a, Organization](#)) and the appropriate mode of submission (Grants.gov for extramural and eBRAP for intramural). Each Partnering PI must verify their contact information and mode of submission within eBRAP to ensure proper submission of their application.

The application submission process for each Partnering PI uses an abbreviated full application package that includes:

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications**

Attachments:

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (six-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”.** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.2, for detailed information on completing the SOW. Each PI must submit an identical copy of a jointly created SOW. The contributions of the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI should be noted for each task.
- **Attachment 13: Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”.** All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B, Representations.
- **Attachment 14: Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as “MFBudget.pdf”.** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information. The costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under subaward costs.

Research & Related Personal Data: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov) refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.3, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.2, for detailed information.

Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (six-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”.** The suggested biographical sketch format is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in eBRAP. The NIH Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in the PDF format that is not editable.
- **PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.**
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.
- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (six-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”.**

- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.
 - For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.4, for detailed information.
 - For intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.3, for detailed information.

Research & Related Budget: For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.4, for detailed information.

Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf”.

Initiating and Partnering PIs must each submit a budget and justification specific to their own portion of the efforts as part of their separate Grants.gov or eBRAP application packages. The Research & Related Budget for each Partnering PI should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, even if they are located within the same organization. Refer to [Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions](#), for detailed information.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: For extramural submissions (via Grants.gov), refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, and for intramural submissions (via eBRAP), refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.A.5, for detailed information.

- **Extramural Applications Only**

Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form:

- **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.)
- **Intramural DOD Collaborator(s):** Complete a separate DOD military budget, using Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format (available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page [<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>]), and upload to Grants.gov attachment form as Attachment 14. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.8, for detailed information.)

II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. *As of April 2022, all federal awards including, but not limited to, contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements will use the UEI generated through SAM.gov.* Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#). Pre-application and application submissions are required. The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP

For Both Extramural and Intramural Applicants: eBRAP allows an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. Following retrieval and processing of the full application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and discrepancies will be noted in an email to the PI and in the "Full Application Files" tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the application submission deadline. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. Verify that subaward budget(s) and budget justification forms are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

Extramural Submission: The full application package submitted to Grants.gov may be viewed and modified in eBRAP until the end of the application verification period. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified.

Intramural DOD Submission: After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official(s) and PI(s) will receive email notification of the status and will be able to view and modify application components in eBRAP. During the application verification period, the full application package, ***with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form***, may be modified. The Resource Manager/Comptroller/Task Area Manager or equivalent Business Official should log into eBRAP to review and to approve the application package prior to the application verification deadline.

For All Submissions: Verify that subaward budget(s) with budget justification are present in eBRAP during the application verification period. If these components are missing, upload them to eBRAP before the end of the application verification period.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

Single PI Option:

The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

The application's direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance should not exceed **\$800,000**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate.

Partnering PI Option:

The maximum period of performance is **3** years.

The applications' combined direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance in the applications of the Initiating PI and each Partnering PI should not exceed **\$1,600,000**. 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.

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

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

For this award mechanism, direct may be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multidisciplinary collaborations.
- Costs for the PI(s) to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel costs to a scientific/technical meeting is to present project information and/or disseminate project results from the FY23 TERP TRA.
- Costs for the PI(s) to present project information or disseminate project results at one DOD-sponsored meeting (e.g., a Military Health System Research Symposium) during the lifetime or the award. For budget purposes, it is suggested that these costs be included in year 2 of the award. These travel costs are in addition to those allowed for annual scientific/technical meetings.

Must not be requested for:

- Clinical trial costs

For extramural awards with an intragovernmental component, direct transfer of funds from an extramural award recipient to a DOD or other federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Funding to intramural DOD and other federal agencies will be managed

through a direct funds transfer. Intramural applicants are responsible for coordinating through their agency's procedures the use of contractual or assistance funding awards or other appropriate agreements to support extramural collaborators.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5, for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. *For federal agencies or organizations collaborating with federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.*

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for detailed formatting guidelines.

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

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

- **Translational Potential**

- How well the application will accelerate movement of promising ideas in military-related toxic exposure research into clinical applications including health care products, interventions, technologies and/or clinical practice guidelines.
- How well the application integrates basic science and clinical observations in order to move a concept or observation forward into a clinical application that is relevant to Service Members, Veterans, other military beneficiaries, and/or the American public.
- Whether the application demonstrates the reciprocal transfer of information between basic and clinical scientists.
- How well the application describes where the field is now and where the field will be after the proposed studies are successfully completed.
- How well the application describes what the next steps will be after completing the proposed project in order to advance the outcome/product to benefit individuals impacted by military-related toxic exposures.

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

- How well the scientific background/rationale describes the relevance of the proposed research to the intent of the mechanism and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#).

- How well the application describes the scientific rationale for the study including relevant preliminary data that support the feasibility of the proposed study and a literature review that supports the development of the proposed project and provides the basis for the study questions and/or hypotheses.
- Whether the hypothesis or objectives of the study are clearly stated and how well the detailed specific aims are described and aligned with the tasks in the SOW.
- How well the experimental design, methods, analyses, and models, including the appropriate controls, are described; how well the approaches will meet the project's goals and milestones; and whether the project is feasible and can be completed within the proposed period of performance.
- If applicable, how well the proposed correlative study complements the existing research efforts and provides additional relevant insight beyond the initial study design.
- How thoroughly the application acknowledges potential problem areas and pitfalls and provides alternative methods and approaches.
- For studies involving hazardous agents, whether the application includes an appropriate plan for acquiring, using, and maintaining the hazardous agents.

For research involving cell line(s) and/or animals:

- How well the choice of proposed cell line(s) and/or animal model is justified and relevant to human biology (including but not limited to routes of human exposures, exposure dose, outcomes [human symptoms, diseases/conditions] associated with exposures, and types of exposures potentially encountered).
- How well and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives.
- If applicable, whether the Animal Research Plan ([Attachment 8](#)) includes and describes the appropriate control groups to meet the objectives of the study.
- If animal studies are proposed, whether they will be conducted in accordance with the [ARRIVE guidelines 2.0](#).
- Whether appropriate approaches are being undertaken to validate or corroborate findings from animal studies to human data sources/populations.
- To what extent the proposed validation approaches or corroborative studies “de-risk” the possibility that the findings from the animal study cannot be translated into human populations.
- To what extent the data and documentation support a regulatory filing with a Regulatory Agency or next stage of development, if applicable.

- To what extent the primary endpoint(s) identified in the Animal Research Plan are appropriate, as applicable.

For applications submitted under the Human Subjects/Samples Options (TRA-HS or TRA-PPIO-HS):

- Whether the study population, methods for sample acquisition or proposed data/samples are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work.
- Whether there is sufficient evidence provided to support availability of and access to samples/populations required for the study and documentation of experience of the PI and/or key collaborators in recruiting human subjects/acquiring human samples/accessing databases for similar projects.
- How well the inclusion/exclusion criteria meet the needs of the proposed clinical research.
- If recruiting human subjects:
 - To what degree the recruitment, screening, and retention processes for human subjects will meet the needs of the proposed clinical research.
 - Whether the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed study.
 - To what degree the distribution of the proposed enrollment or data set on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity is appropriate and is related to the scientific goals of the proposed research.
 - How well the application identifies any potential barriers to accrual/retention and provides mitigation plans for addressing unanticipated delays (e.g., slow accrual, attrition).
 - To what degree the process for seeking informed consent is appropriate.
- If applicable, to what degree the plans to collect specimens and conduct laboratory evaluations are relevant to the study objectives.
- If applicable, to what extent the use of GWI CDEs was considered when developing the plans for the collection of clinical data and annotation of clinical samples.
- If applicable, whether studies using GW Veterans include the use of both the [CDC and Kansas case definitions](#) and whether any additional case definitions of GWI are justified and well-defined for the study.
- How well the types of specimens or data to be collected and evaluated and specimen storage and maintenance are described.

- If applicable, to what extent retrospectively collected human biological samples or correlated data from biorepositories or databases are from well-pedigreed cohorts that include patient inclusion/exclusion criteria.
 - To what extent the methods for data collection including confidentiality, methods for data capture, verification and disposition are described.
 - If applicable, whether the measures of risk management and plans for emergency response are well described.
 - Whether there is sufficient information provided regarding data reporting and how it will be assured that data will support a regulatory filing with a Regulatory Agency, if applicable.
 - How well the application describes whether the results of any screening and/or study participation will be shared with the human subject or their primary care provider, if applicable.
- **Impact and Relevance to Military Health**
 - To what extent the proposed project will have an impact on military-related toxic exposure research and/or patient care and will advance at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#).
 - To what extent the proposed research will reduce the burden (effects/outcomes, new exposures, etc.) of military-related toxic exposures for military Service Members, Veterans and/or the American public.
 - Whether the anticipated short-term outcome(s)/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible material) will make an important scientific advancement and improve the understanding, prevention/prediction, diagnosis, and/or treatment of military-related toxic exposures.
 - Whether the anticipated long-term benefits will impact the field of study and/or the lives of relevant patient or community populations and whether the anticipated outcomes will benefit the clinic or the field.
 - To what extent the proposed material or knowledge product represents an improvement to currently available prevention or treatments/interventions, diagnostic approaches, devices, or clinical practice guidelines (if applicable).
 - How well the proposed effort is responsive to the health care needs and quality of life of Service Members, Veterans, and/or other military beneficiaries.
 - Whether the application provides a description of how the knowledge, information, products, or technologies gained from the research could be implemented in a dual-use capacity to benefit civilian population and address military need (as appropriate) and

whether it describes potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed research and strategies that may be employed to overcome these issues.

- **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis**

- How well the statistical model and data analysis plan are explained and whether they are appropriate for the proposed study objectives.
- If applicable, to what extent the statistical plan and sample size, including power analysis, are appropriate for the study objectives and/or all proposed correlated studies.
- If applicable, whether the randomization and blinding procedures for the study are appropriate and discuss other measures taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results.
- Whether the application provides a description of how the data will be handled and statistically analyzed and whether it identifies rules for stopping data collection, primary endpoints and for inclusion/exclusion of data.

- **Personnel**

- To what degree the research team's qualifications and experience/expertise and each individual's specific contributions, including how the appropriate experience is incorporated, address the research question and enable the success of the proposed project.
- Whether the PI's (PIs') record(s) of accomplishment and their ability to lead the research team to accomplish the proposed research project is clearly stated and whether their previous experience most pertinent to this project is sufficient to achieve the project's goals.
- If applicable, to what extent the study team composition is able to provide military-relevant subject matter expertise to the proposed research.
- Whether the levels of effort by the PI(s) and other key personnel are appropriate to ensuring the success of the project.

- **Partnership (only applicable to Partnering PI Option applications)**

- Whether the partnership and combined expertise of the Initiating and Partnering PIs are critical to the research strategy and completion of the SOW.
- To what degree the partnership will better address the research question together rather than through separate individual efforts.
- How well the application reflects that all PIs contributed an appropriately balanced intellectual input into the design of the project and will devote appropriate levels of effort to conduct the project.

- **Transition Plan**

- How well the application describes the methods and strategies that will be used to advance the anticipated research outcomes/products (intellectual knowledge and/or tangible materiel) to the next phase of development (clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) following the completion of the proposed effort.
- Whether the outcomes expected following the completion of the proposed research are well described, relevant, measurable, and discuss the intended end-user.
- How well the application describes collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development.
- How well the funding strategy that will be used to advance the outcomes to the next phase of development, commercialization (e.g., partners, funding opportunities to applied for), and/or incorporated into patient care is described.
- To what extent the milestones for bringing the outcomes/products to the next phase of development (further research, clinical trials, commercialization/transition to industry, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, clearance/approval by a Regulatory Agency) are described.
- How well the application articulates ownership rights and/or access to the appropriate intellectual property needed for the development and/or commercialization of products or technologies supported with this award and discusses the government's ability to access the technology/products in the future.
- How well the application describes the manner by which outcomes/products will be disseminated to both the scientific and consumer/stakeholder communities.

In addition, the following **unscored criteria** will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application:

- **Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan**

- To what extent the data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community, including the sharing of de-identified data with data repositories.

- **Budget**

- Whether the **direct** costs exceed the allowable direct costs as published in the program announcement.
- Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

- **Environment**
 - Whether the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research.
 - How the quality and extent of organizational support are appropriate for the proposed research.
 - 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.

II.E.1.b. 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 the peer reviewers
- Relevance to the mission of the Defense Health Program and FY23 TERP, as evidenced by the following:
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Program portfolio composition and balance
 - Relative impact and relevance to military health

II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

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 made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. *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 II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review](#).* Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>. An information paper describing the funding recommendations and review process for the award mechanisms for the TERP will be provided to the PI(s) and posted on the CDMRP website.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolving of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization's application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to another third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

II.E.3. 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 Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).

An applicant organization may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available in FAPIIS.

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.

II.E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated in [Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity](#).

Each PI and organization will receive email notification of posting of the funding recommendation in eBRAP. Each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

Awards supported with FY23 funds are anticipated to be made no later than September 30, 2024. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

After email notification of application review results through eBRAP, and if selected for funding, a representative from the USAMRAA will contact the Business Official authorized to negotiate on behalf of the PI's organization.

Pre-Award Costs: An institution of higher education, hospital, other non-profit, or for-profit 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.5.

Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds. 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.**

Federal Government Organizations: Funding made to federal government organizations (to include intramural DOD organizations) will be executed through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

II.F.1.a. PI Changes and Award Transfers

Changes in PI (Initiating or Partnering) or organizational transfer of award (Initiating or Partnering) are discouraged and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only allowed at the discretion of the Grants Officer, 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.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section B, for general information on organization or PI changes.

II.F.2. 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.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest [DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) and the [USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions](#) for further information.

Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources. The proposing entity must comply with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which requires that the PI, Partnering PIs (if applicable), and all key personnel:

- Certify that the current and pending support provided on the application is current, accurate, and complete;
- Agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and
- Have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act.

False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (18 USC 1001).

II.F.3. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements. ***If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing USAMRAA-sponsored awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.***

Annual progress reports as well as a final progress report will be required.

Annual/Final quad charts will be required within the progress reports.

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 must be submitted with the final progress report. Use the one-page template “Award Expiration Transition Plan,” available on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) under the “Progress Report Formats” section. The Award Expiration Transition Plan must outline whether and how the research supported by this award will progress and must include source(s) of funding, either known or pending.

Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (***only required for clinical research studies***): 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 the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>) in 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 FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period

and that were connected with 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 (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 5, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

Questions related to program announcement content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the pre-application or intramural application submission through eBRAP should be directed to the eBRAP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET (closed on most U.S. federal holidays). Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to extramural application submission through Grants.gov portal should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed on U.S. federal holidays). Note that the eBRAP Help Desk is unable to provide technical assistance with Grants.gov submission.

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

Sign up on Grants.gov for “send me change notification emails” by following the link on the “Synopsis” page for the program announcement or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the Grants.gov application package. If the Grants.gov application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

II.H. Other Information

II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 803a. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 803.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of applications, the following administrative actions may occur:

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application (LOI) was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Transition Plan ([Attachment 7](#)) is missing
- For applications involving animal research, the Animal Research Plan ([Attachment 8](#)) is missing.
- For applications involving human subjects, human samples, or human data sets, the Human Subject/Sample Acquisition and Safety Procedure ([Attachment 9](#)) is missing.
- For applications including the Partnering PI Option, the Partnership Statement ([Attachment 10](#)) is missing.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- An FY23 TERP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation. *A list of the FY23 TERP Programmatic Panel members can be found at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/terp/panels/panels23>.*
- The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.
- Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.

- Page size is larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (approximately 21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- To preserve the integrity of its peer and programmatic review processes, the CDMRP discourages inclusion of any employee of its review contractors having any role in the preparation, research or other duties for submitted applications. For FY23, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (<https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies may be administratively withdrawn.
- 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.
- Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP may be withdrawn.
- Applications submitted by an intramural DOD organization may be withdrawn if the intramural organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to extramural collaborators.
- The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research of which the anticipated outcomes may be classified or deemed sensitive to national security.
- The application fails to address at least one of the [FY23 TERP Program Goals](#) and at least one of the [FY23 TERP Topic Areas](#).
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.
- A clinical trial is proposed.
- The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- Failure to submit all associated (Initiating and Partnering PI[s]) applications by the deadline.

II.H.2.d. 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 USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.

II.H.3. Application Submission Checklist

Application Components	Action	Single or Initiating PI Completed	Partnering PI Completed
SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance (extramural submissions only)	Complete form as instructed		
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) (intramural submissions only)	Complete tabs as instructed		
Attachments	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name “ProjectNarrative.pdf”		
	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name “Support.pdf”		
	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name “TechAbs.pdf”		
	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name “LayAbs.pdf”		
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name “SOW.pdf”		
	Impact and Relevance to Military Health Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name “Impact.pdf”		
	Transition Plan: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name “Transition.pdf”		
	Animal Research Plan: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name “AnimResPlan.pdf” if applicable		
	Human Subjects/Samples Acquisition and Safety Procedures: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name “HumSubProc.pdf” if applicable		
	Partnership Statement: Upload as Attachment 10 with file name “Partnership.pdf” if applicable		
	Use of Hazardous Chemical or Biological Agents: Upload as Attachment 11 with file name “Hazardous.pdf” if applicable		

Application Components	Action	Single or Initiating PI Completed	Partnering PI Completed
	Study Personnel and Organization: Upload as Attachment 12 with file name "Personnel.pdf"		
	Representations (extramural submissions only): Upload as Attachment 13 with file name "RequiredReps.pdf"		
	Suggested Collaborating DOD Military Facility Budget Format: Upload as Attachment 14 with file name "MFBudget.pdf" if applicable		
Research & Related Personal Data	Complete form as instructed		
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field		
	Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field		
	Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field		
	Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field		
Research & Related Budget (extramural submissions only)	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field		
Budget (intramural submissions only)	Complete the Suggested DOD Military Budget Format, including justification		
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed		
Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	Complete form as instructed		

APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

ACOS/R&D	Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development
ACURO	Animal Care and Use Review Office
AHI	Anomalous Health Incidents
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting <i>In Vivo</i> Experiments
BBRAIN	Boston Biorepository, Recruitment and Integrated Network for GWI
CDC	Centers for Disease Controls and Prevention
CDE	Common Data Elements
CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CTA	Clinical Trial Award
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center
DMSS	Defense Medical Surveillance System
DOD	Department of Defense
DoDGARs	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DoDSR	Department of Defense Serum Repository
DOEHRs	Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
GW	Gulf War
GWECB	VA Gulf War Era Cohort and Biorepository
GWI	Gulf War illness
GWICTIC	Gulf War Illness Clinical Trials and Interventions Consortium
GWIRP	Gulf War Illness Research Program
GWVIB	VA Gulf War Veterans' Illness Biorepository Brain Bank
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IIRA	Investigator-Initiated Research Award
ILER	Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IRB	Institutional Review Board

LAR	Legally Authorized Representative
LOI	Letter of Intent
M	Million
MAVERIC	Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center
MB	Megabytes
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MVP	The Million Veteran Program
NAMs	New Approach Methodologies
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OHARO	Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight (previously Office of Research Protections)
OHRO	Office of Human Research Oversight (previously Human Research Protection Office)
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID, Inc.
PDF	Portable Document Format
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Principal Investigator
SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics
TERP	Toxic Exposures Research Program
TRA	Translational Research Award; when selecting eBRAP options, also refers to the Translational Research Award – Single PI Option for applications that do not involve human subjects, prospective or retrospective human biological samples or human data sets
TRA-HS	Translational Research Award – Single Principal Investigator, Human Subjects/Samples Option
TRA-PPIO	Translational Research Award – Partnering Principal Investigator Option
TRA-PPIO-HS	Translational Research Award – Partnering Principal Investigator Option - Human Subjects/Samples Option
UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRDC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
USC	United States Code
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs