I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Vision Research Program

Clinical Trial Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-17-VRP-CTA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 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), July 12, 2017

- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** August 23, 2017

- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, October 25, 2017

- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, November 1, 2017

- **Peer Review:** January 2018

- **Programmatic Review:** March 2018

This Program Announcement must be read in conjunction with the General Application Instructions, version 20170418. The General Applications 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 2017 (FY17) Vision Research Program (VRP) are being solicited for the Defense Health Agency (DHA) J9, Research and Development Directorate, by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 2358 (10 USC 2358). As directed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD[HA]), the DHA manages the Defense Health Program (DHP) Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) appropriation. The execution management agent for this Program Announcement is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). The VRP was initiated in 2009 to fund innovative research that has the potential to make a significant impact on improving the health and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, their caregivers, family members, and the American public living with visual dysfunction. Appropriations for the VRP from FY09 through FY16 totaled $55.2 million (M). The FY17 appropriation is $15M.

The FY17 VRP challenges the scientific community to design innovative research that will foster new directions for, and address neglected issues in, the field of vision research. Applications from investigators within the military Services and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other Federal Government agencies are highly encouraged.

II.A.1. FY17 VRP Capability Gaps and Focus Areas

FY17 VRP Capability Gaps

To meet the intent of the FY17 VRP Clinical Trial Award (CTA), the research applications *must* address one or more of the Capability Gaps listed below:

- Inadequate mitigation and treatment of damage to ocular structures and the visual system consequent to military-relevant injuries and diseases incident to military service. Research into ocular damage that occurs in the general public will also be considered, as there may be similarities and related treatments in the two populations.

    ○ Inadequate treatments and technologies for injuries and diseases to ocular structures and visual systems, to include optic neuropathy, retinal injury, lid and adnexal injuries, and ocular polytrauma.

    ○ Inadequate strategies and technique for controlling scarring and/or pathological healing response in traumatized ocular tissues.

- Inadequate vision restoration and regeneration.

    ○ Inability to restore form and function of lids, adnexal, orbital, and ocular tissues (optic nerve, cornea, retina, and uvea) following injury.

- ○ Inadequate vision surrogates and appropriate rehabilitation.

- Lack of knowledge, capabilities, and equipment for early responders to diagnose and mitigate military-relevant eye injuries and diseases in austere or remote environments.

  - ○ Lack of methods or devices to assist in the location of entrance wounds and rupture sites in traumatic eye injuries.

  - ○ Lack of portable diagnostic tools and technologies for field use to detect ocular injuries and diseases.

FY17 VRP CTA Focus Areas

The five Focus Areas listed below have been developed to address the Capability Gaps listed above. All applications are ***highly encouraged*** to address at least one of the following Focus Areas:

- Phase I and/or Phase II clinical trials to evaluate safety and/or efficacy of treatments or technologies to reduce/control scarring and/or pathological healing response(s) after military-relevant ocular/visual system injury.

- Phase I and/or Phase II clinical trials to evaluate safety and/or efficacy of treatments or technologies restoring form and function to (1) orbit and ocular tissues (optic nerve, retina, and uvea), (2) eyelid, and/or (3) adnexal structures.

- Phase I and/or Phase II clinical trials to demonstrate feasibility and safety and/or efficacy of vision surrogates for those with low or no vision post-injury or disease and appropriate rehabilitation.

- Phase I and/or Phase II clinical trials for evaluation of technologies to identify the location of entrance wounds and rupture sites in traumatic eye injuries.

- Phase I and/or Phase II clinical trials for evaluation of diagnostic technologies to detect and quantify changes in white blood cells, red blood cells, and proteins in both the aqueous and vitreous humor post-injury or concurrent with disease.

II.B. Award Information

The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY17 VRP Clinical Trial Award will not exceed **$5.25M**. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed funding information.

The FY17 VRP CTA supports research with the potential to have a major impact on the treatment or management of visual injury and/or dysfunction. ***Funding from this award mechanism must support a clinical trial and should not be used for preclinical research studies. Principal Investigators (PIs) seeking funding for preclinical research, including non-clinical trial research with human subjects, should apply to the FY17 VRP Technology/ Therapeutic Development Award mechanism (W81XWH-17-VRP-TTDA).***

Applications proposing research outside of the capability gaps listed above should ***not*** be submitted in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

A clinical trial is defined as a prospective accrual of human subjects where an intervention (e.g., device, drug, biologic, surgical procedure, rehabilitative modality, behavioral intervention, or other) is tested on a human subject for a measureable outcome with respect to safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy. This outcome represents a direct effect on the human subject of that intervention or interaction. The term "human subjects" is used in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity to refer to individuals who will be recruited for or who will participate in the proposed clinical trial. For more information, a Human Subject Resource Document is provided at https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm.

In keeping with the intent of this award mechanism, at the end of the period of performance funded research should show clear progress toward the next stage of implementation (i.e., next phase clinical trials, U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA] clearance for a medical device, etc.).

If the clinical trial involves the use of a drug that has not been approved by the FDA for the proposed investigational use, evidence that an Investigational New Drug (IND) application that meets all requirements under the code of Federal Regulation's, Title 21, Part 312 (21 CFR 312) has been submitted or will be submitted to the FDA ***within 60 days of award*** is required. If the investigational product is a device, evidence that an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) application that meets all requirements under 21 CFR 812 has been submitted or will be submitted to the FDA ***within 60 days of award***, or that the device is exempt from an IDE, is required. The Government reserves the right to withdraw funding if the IND or IDE application has not been submitted to the FDA within 60 days of the Department of Defense (DoD) award date or if the documented status of the IND or IDE has not been obtained within 6 months of the award date.

The following are important aspects of submission for the FY17 VRP CTA:

- The proposed clinical trial is expected to begin no later than 12 months after the award date.

- The proposed intervention to be tested should offer significant potential impact for military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with visual dysfunction.

- Inclusion of preliminary data relevant to the proposed clinical trial is required.

- The proposed clinical trial must be based on sound scientific rationale that is established through logical reasoning and critical review and analysis of the literature.

- The application should describe the planned indication for the product label, if appropriate, and include an outline of the regulatory strategy and development plan required to support that indication.

- The application should demonstrate availability of, and access to, a suitable patient population that will support a meaningful outcome for the study. The Principal Investigator

(PI) should discuss how accrual goals will be achieved and how standards of care may impact the study population.

- The application should demonstrate documented availability of and access to the drug/ compound, device, and/or other materials needed, as appropriate. The quality of the product should be commensurate with FDA manufacturing standards applicable to the type and phase of product being developed (i.e., Quality System Regulation, Good Manufacturing Practices).

- The proposed clinical trial design should include clearly defined and appropriate endpoints, and follow Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines.

- The application should include a clearly articulated statistical analysis plan, appropriate statistical expertise on the research team, and a power analysis reflecting sample size projections that will clearly answer the objectives of the study.

- The application should include a clearly articulated data management plan and use of an appropriate database to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the data.

- The application should include a clearly articulated safety management plan outlining how safety pharmacovigilance will be conducted, as applicable.

- The application should include a clearly articulated clinical monitoring plan outlining how the study will be monitored for GCP compliance.

- The application should include a study coordinator(s) who will guide the clinical protocol through the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) of record and other Federal agency regulatory approval processes, coordinate activities from all sites participating in the trial, and coordinate participant accrual.

- The application should include a Transition Plan (including potential funding and resources) showing how the product will progress to the next clinical trial phase and/or delivery to the market after the successful completion of the proposed research.

- The application should clearly demonstrate strong institutional support.

- Funded studies are required to file the study in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) clinical trials registry, www.clinicaltrials.gov.

Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers: All DoD-funded research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) prior to research implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local IRB or Ethics Committee (EC) review. Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is *not* required. The HRPO is mandated to comply with specific laws and requirements governing all research involving human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers that is supported by the DoD. These laws and requirements will necessitate information in addition to that supplied

to the IRB/EC. ***Allow a minimum of 2 to 3 months for HRPO regulatory review and approval processes***. When possible, protocols should be written for research with human subjects and/or human anatomical substances that are specific to the DoD-supported effort outlined in the submitted application. Submission to HRPO of protocols covering more than the scope of work in the DoD-funded award will require HRPO review of the entire protocol as DoD-supported research and may include extensive modifications to meet DoD human subjects protection requirements. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, and the Human Subject Resource Document available on the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) for additional information.

If the IRB determines that a trial presents greater than minimal risk to human subjects, the DoD requires an independent research monitor with expertise consistent with the nature of risk(s) identified within the research protocol. If applicable, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for more information on study reporting authorities and responsibilities of the research monitor.

Multi-Institutional Research: Multi-institutional projects are encouraged when combining the resources of two or more organizations will strengthen the research application. If the proposed research is multi-institutional, plans for communication and data transfer between the collaborating institutions, as well as how data, specimens, and/or imaging products obtained during the study will be handled, must be included. A separate intellectual and material property plan agreed upon by all participating institutions is also required for multi-institutional research. Participating institutions must be willing to resolve potential intellectual and material property issues and to remove any barriers that may interfere with achieving high levels of cooperation to ensure successful completion of this award.

DoD/VA Collaboration and Alignment Encouraged: Relevance to the healthcare needs of the Armed Forces, their family members, and/or the U.S. Veteran population is a key feature of this award. Therefore, PIs are strongly encouraged to collaborate, integrate, and/or align their research projects with military and/or VA research laboratories and programs. The following websites may be useful in identifying information about ongoing DoD and VA areas of research interest:

Air Force Research Laboratory
http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl

Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine
Research Program
https://crmrp.amedd.army.mil/

Congressionally Directed Medical
Research Programs
http://cdmrp.army.mil

Defense Advanced Research
Projects Agency
http://www.darpa.mil/

Defense Technical Information Center
http://www.dtic.mil

Health Center Office of Naval Research
http://www.med.navy.mil/

Naval Health Research Center
http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhrc

Naval Medical Research Center
http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmrc

Navy and Marine Corps Public
http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/

U.S. Army Medical Research
Acquisition Activity
http://www.usamraa.army.mil

U.S. Army Medical Research and
Materiel Command
https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil

U.S. Army Research Laboratory
http://www.arl.army.mil

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
https://www.nrl.navy.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Research and Development
www.research.va.gov

Vision Center of Excellence
http://vce.health.mil/

Use of Military and VA Populations or Resources: If the proposed research involves access to military and/or VA population(s) and/or resource(s), the PI is responsible for establishing access. If possible, access to target military and/or VA patient population(s) should be confirmed at the time of submission. A letter of support, signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority, should be included as part of Attachment 2 (see Section II.D.2.b.ii, Full Application Submission Components, Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation) for studies involving Service members, Veterans, military and/or VA-controlled study materials, and military and/or VA databases.

The CDMRP intends that information, data, and research resources generated under awards funded by this Program Announcement be made available to the research community (which includes both scientific and consumer advocacy communities) and to the public at large. For additional guidance, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section K.

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2018. For additional information refer to Section II.F.1, Federal Award Notices.

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: All organizations, including 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 academia, biotechnology companies, foundations, Government, and research institutes. *Extramural Submission: Application submitted by a non-DoD organization to Grants.gov.*

Intramural DoD Organization: A DoD laboratory, DoD military treatment facility, and/or DoD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. *Intramural Submission: Application submitted by a DoD organization for an intramural investigator who is a DoD military or civilian employee working within a DoD laboratory or military treatment facility or in a DoD activity embedded within a civilian medical center.*

Note: Applications from an intramural organization or from an extramural non-DoD Federal organization may be submitted through a research foundation.

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

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator: PIs must be at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent)

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

The CDMRP 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 http://orcid.org/.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Extramural 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.

Each investigator may submit only one VRP Clinical Trial Award application as a PI.

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

Extramural Submission is defined as an application submitted by a non-DoD organization to Grants.gov.

Intramural Submission is defined as an application submission by a DoD organization for an intramural investigator, who is 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.

II.D.1. Address to Request Application Package

Submitting Extramural and Intramural Organizations: Pre-application content and forms can be accessed at eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org).

Submitting Extramural Organizations: Full application packages can be accessed at Grants.gov.

Submitting Intramural DoD Organizations: Full application packages can be accessed at eBRAP.org.

Contact information for the CDMRP Help Desk and the Grants.gov Contact Center can be found in Section G, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts.

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

Submission is a two-step process requiring both *pre-application* and *full application* as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods.

Pre-application Submission: All pre-applications for both extramural and intramural organizations must be submitted through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/).

eBRAP is a multifunctional web-based system that allows PIs to submit their pre-applications electronically through a secure connection, to view and edit the content of their pre-applications and full applications, to receive communications from the CDMRP, and to submit documentation during award negotiations and period of performance.

Full Application Submission: Full applications must be submitted through the online portals as described below.

Submitting Extramural Organizations: Full applications from extramural organizations must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applications submitted by extramural organizations (e.g., research foundations) on behalf of intramural DoD or other Federal organizations or investigators will be considered extramural submissions.

Submitting Intramural DoD Organizations: Intramural DoD organizations may submit full applications to either eBRAP or Grants.gov. Intramural DoD organizations that are unable to

submit to Grants.gov should submit through eBRAP. Intramural DoD organizations with the capability to submit through Grants.gov may submit following the instructions for extramural submissions through Grants.Gov or may submit to eBRAP. Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DoD Federal organizations, received through eBRAP will be withdrawn. See definitions in Section II.C.1, Eligible Applicants.

eBRAP allows intramural organizations to submit full applications following pre-application submission.

For both Extramural and Intramural applicants: A key feature of eBRAP is the ability of an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the full application submissions associated with them. 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. It is the applicant's responsibility to review all application components for accuracy as well as ensure proper ordering as specified in this Program Announcement.

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 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 CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application deadline.

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

During the pre-application process, each submission is assigned a unique log number by eBRAP. This unique eBRAP log number will be needed 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 may result in delays in 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 CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

All pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP (https://eBRAP.org/). Because the invitation to submit an application is based on the contents of the pre-application, investigators should not change the title or research objectives after the pre-application is submitted.

PIs and organizations identified in the pre-application should be the same as those intended for the subsequent application submission.

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A change in PI or organization after submission of the pre-application may be allowed after review of a submitted written appeal (contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507) and at the discretion of the USAMRAA Grants Officer.

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**

- **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 (R&R) 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 (R&R) 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 PIs 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.

  FY17 VRP 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 CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

  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 pre-application or application preparation, research, or other duties for submitted pre-applications or applications. For FY17, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess). Pre-applications or applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies will be administratively withdrawn unless plans to manage conflicts of interest (COIs) are provided and deemed appropriate by the Grants Officer. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for detailed information.

- **Tab 4 – Conflicts of Interest (COIs).**

  List all individuals other than collaborators and key personnel who may have a COI in the review of the application (including those with whom the PI has a personal or professional relationship). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, Section C, for further information regarding COIs.

- **Tab 5 – Pre-Application Files.**

  Note: Upload documents as individual PDF files unless otherwise noted. eBRAP will not allow a file to be uploaded if the number of pages exceeds the limit specified below.

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

    The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

    – **Rationale:** State the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed research is based. Briefly describe how the preliminary data and rationale support the research idea. State how this project meets the intent of the award mechanism.

    – **Alignment:** Note specifically which of the FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gap(s) and, if applicable, the FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s) the proposed research addresses. Describe how the proposed research addresses the Capability Gap(s) and, if applicable, Focus Area(s).

    – **Hypothesis or Objective:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.

    – **Research Strategy:** Clearly describe the research being proposed and indicate the class of device/type of pharmacologic and regulatory status as appropriate. Concisely state the project's objectives, specific aims, and ultimate endpoints. If applicable, briefly describe the proposed methods, how they will accomplish the project's aims, and the outcome measures that will be used.

    – **Research Team:** Briefly state the relevant qualifications of the PI and key personnel to perform the proposed effort. (Detailed Key Personnel Biographical Sketches [six pages per individual] are allowed as part of pre-application supporting documentation, as described below.)

    – **Impact and Military Benefit:** Describe how the proposed work would impact the healthcare needs of military Service members and/or Veterans recovering from vision dysfunction incident to military service. Additionally, describe how the proposed work would impact the general public.

- **Budget:** Provide an overall estimated budget for the work proposed.

  ○ **Pre-Application Supporting Documentation:** The items to be included as supporting documentation for the pre-application *must be uploaded as individual files* and are limited to the following:

  - References Cited (one-page limit): List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, reference title, and reference source, including volume, chapter, page numbers, and publisher, as appropriate).

  - List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in the Preproposal Narrative.

  - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (six-page limit per individual). *All biographical sketches should be uploaded as a single combined file.* Biographical sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.

- **Tab 6 – Submit Pre-Application.**

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

Pre-Application Screening

Pre-Application Screening Criteria

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

  ○ **Alignment with Capability Gap(s), and, if applicable, the Focus Area(s):** How well the project addresses at least one of the FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gaps and, if applicable, the FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s).

  ○ **Impact and Military Benefit:** How the proposed work would benefit the healthcare needs of military Service members and/or Veterans recovering from vision dysfunction. Additionally, how the proposed work would impact the general public.

  ○ **Objective/Hypothesis and Rationale:** How well the objective/hypothesis is stated and supported through preliminary data, scientific rationale, and referenced literature.

  ○ **Research Strategy:** To what degree the rationale, objectives, and specific aims support the research idea. How well the endpoints are defined and are appropriate for the proposed study. Whether the proposed recruitment strategies and methodology are appropriate for accomplishing the research aims.

Notification of Pre-Application Screening Results

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weaknesses) on their pre-application. The estimated time frame for notification of invitation to submit an application is indicated in <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>. Invitations to submit a full application are based on the Pre-Application Screening Criteria listed above.

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

Applications will not be accepted unless the PI has received notification of invitation.

All contributors and administrators to the application must use matching compatible versions of Adobe software when editing and preparing application components. The use of different software versions will result in corruption of the submitted file. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for details on compatible Adobe software.

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 (<u>http://www.grants.gov/</u>) for extramural organizations or through eBRAP (<u>https://ebrap.org/</u>) for intramural organizations. See Table 1 below for more specific guidelines.

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

Extramural organizations, including non-DoD Federal agencies, must submit full applications through Grants.gov. Submissions of extramural applications through eBRAP may be withdrawn.

Table 1. Full Application Submission Guidelines

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DoD Submissions
Application Package Location	
Download application package components for W81XWH-17-VRP-CTA from Grants.gov (<u>http://www.grants.gov</u>).	Download application package components for W81XWH-17-VRP-CTA from eBRAP (<u>https://ebrap.org</u>).
Full Application Package Components	
SF424 (R&R) 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.

Extramural Submissions	Intramural DoD Submissions
Descriptions of each required file can be found under Full Application Submission Components: • [Attachments](#) • [Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)](#) • [Research & Related Budget](#) • [Project/Performance Site Location (s) Form](#) • [R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form](#) (if applicable)	**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: • [Attachments](#) • [Key Personnel](#) • [Budget](#) • [Performance Sites](#) **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.
Application Package Submission	
Submit package components to Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov). If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or if the Project Narrative or the budget need 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.	**Submit package components to eBRAP (https://ebrap.org).** **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 "Enter Your Password Here" and press the "Submit Full Application" button. eBRAP will notify your Resource Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official by email to log into eBRAP to review and to approve prior to the application submission deadline.
[**Application Verification Period**](#)	
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.	After eBRAP has processed the full application, the organizational Resource Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official and PI will receive an 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, *with the exception of the Project Narrative and Budget Form,* may be modified.
Further Information	
Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III, for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.	Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for further information regarding eBRAP requirements.

The organization's Business Official or Authorized Organization Representative (or Resource Manager/Comptroller) should approve/verify the full application submission prior to the application verification deadline.

Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP are strongly recommended, but not required. ***The Project Narrative and Budget cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.*** Prior to the full application deadline, a corrected or modified full application package may be submitted. Other application components may be changed until the end of the application verification period. After the end of the application verification period, the full application cannot be modified.

Material submitted after the end of the application verification period, unless specifically requested by the Government, will not be forwarded for processing.

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 (R&R) 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 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 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 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:** State the relevance of the research to at least one of the FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gaps, and, if applicable, the FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s) and explain the applicability of the proposed findings. Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work. ***Include preliminary and/or published data that are relevant to vision dysfunction and the proposed clinical trial.***

Describe in detail the rationale for the study. Provide a literature review and describe the preliminary studies and/or preclinical data that led to the development of the proposed clinical trial. Describe the current standard of care and identify how the proposed intervention will be an improvement. Describe the current standard of care and identify how the proposed intervention will be an improvement. Provide a summary of other relevant ongoing, planned, or completed clinical trials and describe how the proposed study differs. Include a discussion of any current clinical use of the intervention under investigation, and/or details of its study in clinical trials for other indications (as applicable). The background section should clearly support the choice of study variables and should explain the basis for the study questions and/or study hypotheses. This section should establish the relevance of the study and explain the applicability of the proposed findings.

If the proposed clinical trial was initiated using other funding prior to this application, explain the history and background of the clinical trial and declare the source of prior funding. Specifically identify the portions of the study that will be supported with funds from this award.

– **Objectives/Specific Aims/Hypotheses:** Provide a description of the purpose and objectives of the study with detailed specific aims and/or study questions/ hypotheses.

– **Study Design:** Describe the type of study to be performed (e.g., prospective, randomized, controlled) and outline the proposed methodology in sufficient detail to show a clear course of action. Describe potential challenges and alternative strategies where appropriate.

- Identify the intervention to be tested and describe the projected outcomes.

- Define the study variables, outline why they were chosen, and describe how they will be measured. Include a description of appropriate controls and the endpoints to be tested.

- Describe the study population and inclusion and exclusion criteria that will be used.

- Describe the methods that will be used to recruit a sample of human subjects from the accessible population (e.g., convenience, simple random, stratified random).

- Describe the human subject-to-group assignment process (e.g., randomization, block randomization, stratified randomization, age-matched controls, alternating group, or other procedures), if applicable. Explain the specific actions to accomplish the group assignment (e.g., computer assignment, use of table of random numbers).

- If using psychometric measures, describe their reliability and validity.

  – **Statistical Plan and Data Analysis:** Describe the statistical model and data analysis plan with respect to the study objectives. Specify the approximate number of human subjects to be enrolled. If multiple study sites are involved, state the approximate number to be enrolled at each site. Include a complete power analysis to demonstrate that the sample size is appropriate to meet the objectives of the study. If a subpopulation of a recruited sample population will be used for analysis, complete a statistical analysis to ensure appropriate power can be achieved within the subpopulation study.

○ **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. Any additional material viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will be removed or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested 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 or not 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 publications 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 Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate 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.

- Letters of Commitment: If the proposed study involves use of a commercially produced investigation 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.

- Intellectual Property: Information can be found in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200.315 (2 CFR 200.315), "Intangible Property."

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

- 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.

- Quad Chart: Complete and upload the Quad Chart template available from the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities and Forms" web page (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.

- **Background:** State how the proposed research addresses an FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gap and, if applicable, FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s). Present the ideas and rationale behind the proposed clinical trial.

- **Objective/Hypothesis:** State the objective/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence that supports the objective/hypothesis.

- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.

- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design including appropriate controls.

- **Impact and Military Benefit:** Briefly describe how the proposed project has the potential to have an immediate or long-term impact on the health and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with visual dysfunction.

○ **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***. 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. Do not duplicate the technical abstract.

- Describe the objectives and rationale for the proposed research in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.

- Describe the ultimate applicability and impact of the research.

  - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them? Include the current available statistics to the related injury/condition.

  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?

  - What is the projected timeline it may take to achieve the expected patient-related outcome?

  - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing the field of vision dysfunction?

  - Briefly describe how the proposed project will benefit military Service members, Veterans, and other individuals living with visual dysfunction.

○ **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-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). For the Clinical Trial Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled "SOW (Statement of Work) for Clinical Research." The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

The SOW should include a list of major tasks that support the proposed specific aims, followed by a series of subtasks outlined related to the major tasks and milestones within the period of performance. The SOW should describe only the work for which funding is being requested by this application and, as applicable, should also:

Include the name(s) of the key personnel and contact information for each study site/ subaward 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional information regarding regulatory requirements.

Briefly state the methods to be used.

For studies with prospective accrual of human subjects, indicate quarterly enrollment targets.

Identify cell line(s) and commercial or organizational source(s) to be used. If human anatomical substances (including cell lines) will be used, specify whether or not identifiable information is accessible to the research team by any means.

If applicable, indicate timelines required for regulatory approvals relevant to human subjects research (e.g., Investigational New Drug and Investigational Device Exemption applications) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or other Government agency.

- ○ **Attachment 6: Human Subject Recruitment and Safety Procedures (no page limit): Upload as "HumSubProc.pdf."** The Human Subject Recruitment and Safety Procedures attachment should include the components listed below.

   a. **Study Population:** Describe the target population (to whom the study findings will be generalized) and the nature, approximate number, and pertinent demographic characteristics of the accessible population at the study site(s) (population from whom the sample will be recruited/drawn). Demonstrate that the research team has access to the proposed study population. Furthermore, discuss past efforts in recruiting human subjects from the target population for previous clinical trials (if applicable). Address any potential barriers to accrual and plans for addressing unanticipated delays. Include justification of any age, race, ethnicity, or sex limitations provided. ***For clinical trials proposing to include military personnel, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for more information.***

   b. **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:** List the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the proposed clinical trial. Inclusion/exclusion criteria should take into consideration the

specific risk profile of the studies to be conducted and the standard of care for that patient population. Provide detailed justification for exclusions.

Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Study. Consistent with the Belmont Report, "Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects," and Congressional legislation, special attention is given to inclusion of women and/or minorities in studies funded or supported by the USAMRMC. This policy is intended to promote equity both in assuming the burdens and in receiving the benefits of human subjects research. Include an appropriate justification if women and/or minorities will be excluded from the clinical trial.

c. **Description of the Recruitment Process:** Explain methods for identification of potential human subjects (e.g., medical record review, obtaining sampling lists, and healthcare 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.

d. **Description of the Informed Consent Process:** Specifically describe the plan for obtaining informed consent from human subjects.

   - ***For the proposed study, provide a draft, in English, of the Informed Consent Form.***

   - 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 trial.

   - 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 or not the potential human subject will be allowed to discuss the study with anyone before making a decision.

- Consider the need for obtaining ongoing consent or for re-assessing 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. Note: The PI must describe a clear intent to benefit for human subjects who cannot give their own consent to participate in the proposed clinical trial to be in compliance with Title 10 United States Code Section 980 (10 USC 980) (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title10/pdf/USCODE-2011-title10-subtitleA-partII-chap49-sec980.pdf). If applicable, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for more information.

- *Assent.* If minors or other populations that cannot provide informed consent are included in the proposed clinical trial, 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.

e. **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. Please note that some screening procedures may require a separate consent or a two-stage consent process. Informed consent must be obtained prior to initiation of any procedures for the purpose of determining eligibility.

f. **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 subjected to as a result of participation in the clinical trial. Consider psychological, legal, social, and economic risks as well as physical risks. 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:**

  ○ Describe how safety surveillance and reporting to the IRB and FDA (if applicable) 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, to include 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.

- If the IRB determines that a trial presents greater than minimal risk to human subjects, the DoD requires an independent research monitor with expertise consistent with the nature of risk(s) identified within the research protocol. If applicable, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for more information on study reporting authorities and responsibilities of the research monitor.

- **Potential benefits:** Describe known and potential benefits of the study to the human subject, a specific community, or society.

○ **Attachment 7: Intervention (no page limit): Upload as "Intervention.pdf."** The Intervention attachment should include the components listed below.

a. **Description of the Intervention:** Identify the intervention to be tested and describe the particular outcomes. As applicable, the description of the intervention should include the following components: complete name and composition, storage and handling information, source, dose, schedule, administration route, washout period, duration of the intervention, and concomitant medications allowed. Description of devices should include general concept of design, detailed operational instructions, any potential risks to users, and intended benefits. Other types of interventions should be fully described.

Summarize key preclinical pharmacological findings, dosage studies, and other clinical studies (if applicable) that examine the safety of the intervention.

b. **Study Procedures:** Describe the interaction with the human subject to include the study intervention that he/she will experience. Provide sufficient detail in chronological order for a person uninvolved in the study to understand what the human subject will experience. Provide a schedule (e.g., flowchart or diagram) of study evaluations and follow-up procedures. Discuss how compliance with Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and other regulatory considerations will be established, monitored, and maintained, as applicable.

c. **Clinical Monitoring Plan:** Describe how the study will be conducted by and monitored for ICH E6 (International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use) GCP compliance, by an independent clinical trial monitor (or clinical research associate). The monitoring plan should describe the types of monitoring visits to be conducted, the intervals (based on level of risk), how corrective actions will be reported to the Sponsor and PI, and how they will be corrected and prevented by the clinical trial site/PI.

○ **Attachment 8: Data Management (no page limit): Upload as "Data_Manage.pdf."** The Data Management attachment should include the components listed below.

a. **Data Management:** Describe all methods used for data collection to include the following:

- **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. Describe where data (both electronic and hard copy) will be stored, who will keep the data, how the data will be stored, the process for locking the database at study completion, and the length of time data will be stored. Describe the proposed database, how it will be developed and validated, and its capability to safeguard and maintain the integrity of the data. For FDA-regulated studies, compliance with 21 CFR 11 is required.

- **Sharing study results:** In cases where the human subject could possibly benefit medically or otherwise from the information, explain whether or not the results of screening and/or study participation will be shared with human subjects or their primary care provider, to include results from any screening or diagnostic tests performed as part of the study.

b. **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, to include 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 to include 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, as well as 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 9: Study Personnel and Organization (no page limit): Start each document on a new page. Combine into one document and upload as "Personnel.pdf."** The Study Personnel and Organization attachment should include the components listed below.

a. **Organizational Chart:** Provide an organizational chart identifying key members of the study team including institution/center/department and name each person's position on the project. If applicable, include any external consultants or other experts who will assist with FDA applications. While there is no specified format for this information, a table(s) or diagram is recommended.

b. **Study Personnel Description:** Briefly describe the roles of the individuals listed in the organizational chart on the project. Describe relevant experience and qualifications that demonstrate appropriate expertise for the given role. An external research monitor (if applicable) and study coordinator(s) should be included.

c. **Study Management Plan:** Provide a plan for ensuring the standardization of procedures among staff and across sites (if applicable). If the proposed clinical trial is multi-institutional, plans for communication and data transfer between the collaborating institutions, as well as how data, specimens, and/or imaging products obtained during the study will be handled, should be included. Provide a plan for real-time communication among collaborating institutions (if applicable).

- ○ **Attachment 10: Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instruments, if applicable (no page limit): Upload as "Surveys.pdf."** The Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instruments attachment should include a copy of the most recent version of surveys, questionnaires, data collection forms, rating scales, interview guides, or other instruments. For each instrument, describe how the information collected is related to the objectives of the study. Describe how and when the instrument(s) will be administered. Describe how the instrument(s) will be adapted to the subject population, if applicable.

- ○ **Attachment 11: Impact and Military Benefit Statement (one-page limit). Upload as "Impact.pdf."** Describe the short- and long-term impact of this study on the field of vision research, patient care, and/or quality of life, including assessment of the likelihood that a successful outcome of the proposed research project will lead to a practical application in individuals recovering from military-relevant injuries and diseases incident to military service as well as injuries and diseases occurring in the general public. Address the impact on one or more FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gaps and, if applicable, FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s). Although not all-inclusive, the following are examples of ways in which research projects may have an impact, if successful:

  – Describe how the research has the potential to advance the field of vision research.

  – Describe how the research contributes to the development or validation of evidence-based policy or guidelines for patient evaluation and care.

  – Describe any relevant controversies or treatment issues that will be addressed by the proposed clinical trial.

  – Describe any potential issues that might limit the impact of the proposed clinical trial.

  – Describe how the intervention represents an improvement over currently available interventions and/or standards of care.

  – If the active duty military, Veteran, or military family member population(s) will be used in the proposed research project, describe the population(s), the appropriateness of the population(s) for the proposed research, and the feasibility of using the population. If a non-military population (NMP) will be used for the proposed research project, explain how the NMP simulates the targeted population.

- ○ **Attachment 12: Transition Plan (one-page limit). Upload as "Transition.pdf."** Describe/discuss the proposed methods and strategies to move the intervention to the next phase of development (clinical trials, commercialization, and/or delivery to the civilian or military market) after successful completion of the award. The post-award transition plan should include the components listed below.

  – The planned indication for the product label, if appropriate, and an outline of the regulatory strategy and development plan required to support that indication.

- Details of the funding strategy to transition to the next level of development and/or commercialization (e.g., specific potential industry partners, specific internal/external funding opportunities to be applied for).

- For Knowledge Products, a description of collaborations and other resources that will be used to provide continuity of development including proposed development or modification of clinical practice guidelines and recommendations, provider training materials, patient brochures, and other clinical support tools, scientific journal publications, models, simulations, and applications. A "Knowledge Product" is a non-materiel 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 materiel 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.

- A brief schedule and milestones for transitioning the intervention to the next phase of development (next-phase clinical trials, commercialization, delivery to the military or civilian market, incorporation into clinical practice, and/or approval by the FDA). Include identification of the FDA regulatory strategy (if appropriate).

- Ownership rights/access to the 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.

- A risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability.

○ **Attachment 13: IND/IDE Documentation:** If submitting multiple documents, start each document on a new page. **Combine and upload as a single file named "IND-IDE.pdf."**

- Complete the IND/IDE Documentation Form, which is available for download on the eBRAP "Funding Opportunities & Forms" web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) and on the Full Announcement page for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov.

- State whether the trial requires regulation by the FDA. If FDA regulation is required, describe the planned indication for the proposed product and whether an IND/IDE is necessary.

- If an IND or IDE has already been obtained for the investigational drug or device pertaining to the indication to be studied, provide evidence in the form of formal communication (e.g., letterhead correspondence) from the FDA.

- If an IND or IDE application has been submitted, provide an explanation of the status of the IND or IDE application (e.g., past the critical 30-day period, pending response to questions raised by the Agency, on clinical hold). Provide a summary of previous meetings with the FDA on development of this product, if appropriate. A copy of the

Agency meeting minutes should be included if available. Provide copies of communications from the FDA relevant to the most recent status of the IND or IDE application.

- – If the IND or IDE application is not yet submitted, provide evidence that an IND or IDE will be submitted within 60 days of award. Examples include results and minutes of a pre-IND or pre-IDE meeting with the FDA, a pre-IND/pre-IDE meeting request to the FDA, or other communication with the FDA. Provide the anticipated date of IND/IDE submission.

- – If an IND or IDE is not required for the proposed study, provide evidence in the form of formal communication (e.g., letterhead correspondence) from the FDA or the IRB of record to that effect.

- ○ **Attachment 14: DoD Military Budget Form(s), if applicable: Upload as "MFBudget.pdf."** If a military facility (military health system facility, research laboratory, treatment facility, dental treatment facility, or a DoD activity embedded with a civilian medical center) will be a collaborator in performance of the project, complete the DoD Military Budget Form, 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 and Related Budget form under subaward costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.

- **Extramural and Intramural Applications –**

  Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): 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.

  - ○ 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 National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used. All biographical sketches should be submitted in the portable document format (PDF) that is not editable.

    Biographical Sketches should be used to demonstrate background and expertise through education, positions, publications, and previous work accomplished.

  - ○ PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as "Support_LastName.pdf."

  - ○ 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."

Research & Related Budget: 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.

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.

Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form): 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.

- **Extramural Applications Only –**

    R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, for detailed information.

    ○ **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form through Grants.gov. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.6, for detailed information.)

    Intramural DoD Collaborator(s): Complete the DoD Military Budget Form and upload toGrants.gov as Attachment 14. (Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.A.7, for detailed information.) Intramural DoD Collaborator(s) costs per year should be included on the Grants.gov Research and Related Budget form under subaward costs.

II.D.3. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicant organizations and all subrecipient organizations must have a DUNS number to submit applications to Grants.gov. The applicant organization must also be registered in the Entity Management functional area of the SAM with an "Active" status to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Verify the status of the applicant's organization's Entity registration in SAM well in advance of the application submission deadline. Allow 3 to 4 weeks to complete the entire SAM registration process. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant. 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 <u>Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity</u>. 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

Prior to the end of the application verification period, PIs and organizational representatives can review and modify in eBRAP certain components of a submitted application. 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 retrieved files against the specific Program Announcement requirements and discrepancies will be noted in both the email and in the Full Application Files tab in eBRAP. eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. 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 Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is **4** years.

The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **$5.25M**. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the Government exceeding **$5.25M** total costs or using an indirect rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate.

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 **4** years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs must be requested for:

- Travel costs for the PI to disseminate project results at a one-day DoD VRP review meeting. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that the meeting will be held in the National Capital Area. These travel costs are in addition to those allowed for annual scientific/technical meetings.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Salary

- Equipment

- Research-related subject costs

- Clinical research costs

- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations

- Travel between collaborating organizations

- Travel costs for up to one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year in addition to the required meeting described above.

Extramural (non-Federal) awards will consist solely of assistance agreements (Cooperative Agreements and Grants). 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 fund transfer. Intragovernmental only funding to intramural DoD and other Federal agencies will be managed through a direct fund 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.4, 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.4.*

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately $5.25M of the $15M FY17 VRP appropriation to fund approximately one Clinical Trial Award applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement is contingent upon the availability of Federal funds for this program.

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 listed in decreasing order of importance:

- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**

  ○ How well the scientific rationale for testing the intervention is supported by the preliminary data, critical review and analysis of the literature, and/or laboratory/ preclinical evidence.

  ○ How well the study aims, hypotheses or objectives, experimental design, methods, data collection procedures, and analyses are designed to answer clearly the clinical objective.

  ○ How well the inclusion and randomization criteria meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

  ○ How well the exclusion criteria are justified.

  ○ How well plans to collect specimens and conduct laboratory evaluations are addressed, if applicable.

  ○ To what degree the data collection instruments (e.g., surveys, questionnaires), if applicable, are appropriate to the proposed study.

  ○ How well potential challenges and alternative strategies are discussed.

- **Impact**

  ○ How well the proposed research project addresses one or more of the FY17 VRP CTA Capability Gaps and, if applicable, FY17 VRP CTA Focus Area(s).

  ○ How well the proposed research project addresses a critical problem in vision research, patient care, and/or quality of life.

  ○ How effective the proposed research project will be in making important contributions toward the goal of advancing vision research and/or patient care.

  ○ To what degree the intervention represents an improvement over currently available interventions and/or standards of care.

  ○ How the potential outcomes of the proposed clinical trial will provide short-term benefits for individuals with visual dysfunction.

  ○ To what extent the practical application of the proposed intervention will have a long-term benefit in individuals living with visual dysfunction and impact patient care and/or quality of life.

- **Intervention**

  ○ Whether there is evidence of support, indicating availability of the intervention from its source, for the duration of the proposed clinical trial (if applicable).

  ○ To what degree the intervention addresses the clinical need(s) described.

- ○ To what degree preclinical and/or clinical evidence to support the safety of the intervention has been provided.

- ○ Whether a member of the study team holds the IND/IDE for the indication proposed or whether the timeline proposed for obtaining the IND/IDE is appropriate (if applicable).

- ○ For investigator-sponsored INDs, whether there is evidence of appropriate institutional support, including capabilities to ensure monitoring as required by the FDA.

- ○ Whether plans to comply with GMP, GLP, and GCP guidelines are appropriate.

- ○ Whether measures are described to ensure the consistency of dosing of active ingredients for nutritional supplements (if applicable).

- **Transition Plan**

  - ○ Whether the funding strategy described to bring the outcome(s) to the next level of development (e.g., higher phase clinical trial, transition to industry, delivery to the market, incorporation into standard practice) is appropriate.

  - ○ How the regulatory strategy and development plan to support a product label change, if applicable, is appropriate and well described.

  - ○ Whether appropriate collaborations and other resources for providing continuity of development are established and/or well described.

  - ○ How the schedule and milestones for bringing the outcome(s) to the next level of development (e.g., higher phase clinical trial, transition to industry, delivery to the market, incorporation into standard practice) are appropriate.

  - ○ How well the risk analysis for cost, schedule, manufacturability, and sustainability is developed.

  - ○ How well the application identifies intellectual property ownership, describes an appropriate intellectual and material property plan among participating organizations (if applicable), and addresses any potential impact of intellectual property issues on product development and subsequent Government access to products supported by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

  - ○ For knowledge products, to what degree the transition includes appropriate strategies for further knowledge development, dissemination, and incorporation into clinical care.

- **Statistical Plan**

  - ○ To what degree the statistical model and data analysis plan are suitable for the planned study.

- ○ How the statistical plan, including sample size projections and power analysis, is adequate for the study and all proposed correlative studies.

- ○ Whether the statistical plan compensates for the use of a subpopulation of a recruited sample population to ensure appropriate power can be achieved within the subpopulation study.

- **Personnel and Communication**

  - ○ Whether the composition of the study team (e.g., study coordinator, statistician, etc.) is appropriate.

  - ○ To what degree the study team's background and expertise are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work (e.g., statistical expertise, expertise in the disease, and clinical studies).

  - ○ How the levels of effort of the study team members are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed trial.

  - ○ How well the logistical aspects of the proposed clinical trial (e.g., communication plan, data transfer and management, standardization of procedures) meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

- **Recruitment, Accrual, and Feasibility**

  - ○ How well the PI addresses the availability of human subjects for clinical trial and their prospect of their participation.

  - ○ Whether the PI has demonstrated access to the proposed human subjects population.

  - ○ The degree to which the recruitment, informed consent, screening, and retention processes for human subjects will meet the needs of the proposed clinical trial.

  - ○ How well the application identifies possible delays (e.g., slow accrual, attrition and presents adequate contingency plans to resolve them).

  - ○ To what extent the proposed clinical trial might affect the daily lives of the individual human subjects participating in the study (e.g., Will human subjects still be able to take their regular medications while participating in the clinical trial? Are human subjects required to stay overnight in a hospital?)

- **Military Benefit**

  - ○ How relevant the anticipated outcomes of the proposed research are to military Service members and Veterans recovering from military-relevant injuries and diseases incident to military service.

○ The potential immediate and/or long-term benefits of the proposed research on the health and well-being of Service members, Veterans, and/or their families or communities.

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

- **Environment**

  ○ To what degree the scientific environment, clinical setting, and the accessibility of institutional resources support the clinical trial at each participating center or institution (including collaborative arrangements).

  ○ To what degree the quality and extent of institutional support/commitment are appropriate for the proposed research project.

- **Ethical Considerations**

  ○ How the level of risk to human subjects is minimized and how the safety monitoring and reporting plan is appropriate for the level of risk.

  ○ Whether a research monitor with expertise consistent with the nature of the potential risk(s) is identified, if applicable.

  ○ How well the evidence shows that the procedures are consistent with sound research design and, when appropriate, that these procedures are already in use for diagnostic or treatment purposes.

  ○ To what degree privacy issues are appropriately considered.

  ○ To what degree the process for seeking informed consent is appropriate and whether safeguards are in place for vulnerable populations.

- **Budget**

  ○ Whether the **total** maximum costs are equal to or less than the allowable total maximum costs as published in the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

  ○ Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

- **Application Presentation**

  ○ To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

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 DHP and FY17 VRP, as evidenced by the following:

   ○ Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism

   ○ Program portfolio composition

   ○ Relative impact and military relevance

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 of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. Each application is evaluated for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is a programmatic review that makes recommendations for funding to the Commanding General, USAMRMC, on behalf of the DHA and the OASD(HA), based on technical merit, the relevance to the mission of the DHP VRP, the specific intent of the award mechanism, and to other specified evaluation criteria in the Program Announcement. Programmatic review is a comparison-based process in which applications with scientific and technical merit compete in a common pool. ***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 http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/fundingprocess.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement 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 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 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 (currently $150,000) 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, at its option, may review FAPIIS, accessible through SAM, and submit comments to FAPIIS on any information about itself 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 (DoDGAR), 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 will be made no later than September 30, 2018. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for additional award administration information.

Awards are made to organizations, not to individual PIs. The types of awards made under the Program Announcement will be assistance agreements (grants or cooperative agreements). The level of involvement on the part of DoD during project performance is the key factor in determining whether to award a grant or cooperative agreement.

Extramural Organizations: An assistance agreement (grant or cooperative 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. 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). Substantial involvement may include 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.

After email notification of application review results through the 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.

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 documents.

Intramural Organizations: Awards 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 managers (RM).

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

II.F.1.a. Award Transfers

The organization transfer of an award supporting a clinical trial is strongly discouraged and in most cases will not be allowed. Approval of a transfer request will be on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Grants Officer. 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 DoDGAR found in 32 CFR, Chapter 1, 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 USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions for Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Non-Profit Organizations and the USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions with For-Profit Organizations for further information.

II.F.3. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, Section A, for general information on reporting requirements.

Quarterly technical progress reports, quad charts, and in-person presentations will be required.

Awards resulting from this Program Announcement will incorporate 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 $10,000,000 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. Recipients are required to disclose semiannually information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Terms and Conditions. The applicable Terms and Conditions for institutions of higher education, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations is available in OAR Article I, Section B, in the July 2016 R&D General Terms and Conditions . The applicable Terms and Conditions for for-profit organizations is available in Section 34 of the February 2017 USAMRAA General Research Terms and Conditions with For-Profit Organizations.

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. CDMRP 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 CDMRP Help Desk, which is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. 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 CDMRP 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 20170418b. The Program

Announcement numeric version code will match the General Applications Instructions version code 20170418.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

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

II.H.2.a. Rejection

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

- Preproposal Narrative exceeds page limit.

- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

- The **total** maximum costs exceed the allowable total maximum costs as published in the Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.

- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.

- Project Narrative is missing.

- Budget is missing.

- Human Subject Recruitment and Safety Procedures (Attachment 6) is missing.

- Intervention (Attachment 7) is missing.

- Data Management (Attachment 8) is missing.

II.H.2.b. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Preproposal Narrative and Project Narrative.

- Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the pre-application or application:

- An FY17 VRP 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 FY17 VRP***

Programmatic Panel members can be found at http://cdmrp.army.mil/VRP/panels/panels17.

- The application fails to conform to this Program Announcement description to the extent that appropriate review cannot be conducted.

- 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 FY17, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (http://cdmrp.army.mil/about/2tierRevProcess). Applications that include names of personnel from either of these companies will be administratively withdrawn unless plans to manage COIs are provided and deemed appropriate by the Grants Officer. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for detailed information.

- Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review 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 as subawards or subcontracts to extramural collaborators.

- The invited application does not propose the same research project described in the pre-application.

- The proposed research is not a clinical trial.

- The proposed project includes preclinical research.

- An application submitted by a PI who does not meet the eligibility criteria will be withdrawn.

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	Completed
SF424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance **(Extramural submissions only)**	Complete form as instructed.	
Summary (Tab 1) and Application Contacts (Tab 2) **(Intramural submissions only)**	Complete these 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."	
	Human Subject Recruitment and Safety Procedures: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "HumSubProc.pdf."	
	Intervention: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Intervention.pdf."	
	Data Management: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "Data_Manage.pdf."	
	Study Personnel and Organization: Upload as Attachment 9 with file name "Personnel.pdf."	
	Surveys, Questionnaires, and Other Data Collection Instruments: Upload as Attachment 10 with file name "Surveys.pdf," if applicable.	
	Impact and Military Benefit Statement: Upload as Attachment 11 with file name "Impact.pdf."	
	Transition Plan: Upload as Attachment 12 with file name "Transition.pdf."	
	IND/IDE Documentation: Upload as Attachment 13 with file name "IND-IDE.pdf."	
	DoD Military Budget Form(s): Upload as Attachment 14 with file name "MFBudget.pdf," as applicable.	
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.	

Application Components	Action	Completed
Research & Related Budget **(Extramural submissions only)**	Complete as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field.	
Budget **(Intramural submissions only)**	Complete the DoD Military Budget Form and justification.	
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed.	
R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form, if applicable	Complete form as instructed.	

APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

CDMRP	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
COI	Conflict of Interest
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CTA	Clinical Trial Award
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHP	Defense Health Program
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDGAR	Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
eBRAP	Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal
EC	Ethics Committee
ET	Eastern Time
FAD	Funding Authorization Document
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
GCP	Good Clinical Practice
GLP	Good Laboratory Practices
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HRPO	Human Research Protection Office
ICH	International Conference on Harmonisation
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board
LAR	Legally Authorized Representative
M	Million
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NMP	Non-military population
OASD(HA)	Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID
ORP	Office of Research Protections
PDF	Portable Document Format
PI	Principal Investigator
RDT&E	Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation
RM	Resource Manager

SAM	System for Award Management
SOW	Statement of Work
TTDA	Technology/Therapeutic Development Award
USAMRAA	U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USAMRMC	U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
USC	United States Code
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VRP	Vision Research Program