

Program Announcement

for the

Defense Health Program

Department of Defense

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Prostate Cancer Research Program

Synergistic Idea Development Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-14-PCRP-SIDA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), June 12, 2014
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** early August 2014
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, September 24, 2014
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, September 29, 2014
- **Peer Review:** November 2014
- **Programmatic Review:** January 2015

Change for Fiscal Year 2014: *The CDMRP eReceipt System has been replaced with the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP). Principal Investigators and organizational representatives should register in eBRAP as soon as possible. All pre-applications must be submitted through eBRAP. In addition, applications submitted through Grants.gov will now be available for viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP prior to the end of the application verification period.*

This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is one of two documents with instructions to prepare and submit an application for this funding opportunity. The second document, the General Application Instructions, is available for downloading from Grants.gov.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Program Description

Applications to the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) are being solicited for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Defense Health Program (DHP), by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisitions Activity (USAMRAA). The PCRP was initiated in 1997 to promote innovative research focused on eradicating prostate cancer. Appropriations for the PCRP from FY97 through FY13 totaled \$1.29 billion. The FY14 appropriation is \$80 million (M).

The mission of the FY14 PCRP is to find and fund research that will lead to the elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhance the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease. Specifically, the PCRP seeks to promote highly innovative, groundbreaking research; high-impact research with near-term clinical relevance; multidisciplinary, synergistic research; translational studies to support the fluid transfer of knowledge between bedside and bench; research on patient survivorship and quality of life; the next generation of prostate cancer investigators through mentored research; and research on disparities in the incidence and mortality of prostate cancer.

PCRP Overarching Challenges (*revised for FY14*)

Consistent with the program's mission to eliminate death from prostate cancer and enhance the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease, including those from disproportionately affected populations, each PCRP funding opportunity either requires or encourages (see [Section I.B., Award Information](#)) applications to address one of the following four PCRP overarching challenges:

- Develop better tools for early detection of clinically relevant disease
- Distinguish aggressive from indolent disease in men newly diagnosed with prostate cancer
- Develop effective treatments and address mechanisms of resistance for men with high-risk or metastatic prostate cancer
- Develop strategies to optimize the physical and mental health of men with prostate cancer

PCRP Focus Areas

All applications for the FY14 PCRP funding opportunities are also expected to address at least one of the following PCRP focus areas:

- **Biomarker Development:** Validation and qualification of biomarkers for early detection of clinically relevant disease or for prognosis or prediction and assessment of response to therapies

- **Genetics:** Understanding host or tumor genetics and epigenetics responsible for susceptibility, disease progression, and treatment outcomes for clinically relevant prostate cancer
- **Imaging:** Development of new anatomic, functional, and molecular imaging approaches for the detection and management of clinically relevant prostate cancer
- **Mechanisms of Resistance:** Understanding primary and acquired resistance to therapy
- **Survivorship and Palliative Care:** Improving the quality of life and well-being of prostate cancer patients and their families
- **Therapy:** Identification of new targets, pathways, and therapeutic modalities
- **Tumor and Microenvironment Biology:** Understanding the intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms contributing to tumor development and the progression of prostate cancer

B. Award Information

The PCRP Synergistic Idea Development Award mechanism was first offered in FY07. Since then, 452 Synergistic Idea Development Award applications have been received, and 47 (representing 106 individual awards) have been recommended for funding.

The Synergistic Idea Development Award supports new ideas that represent innovative approaches to prostate cancer research involving two or three independent, faculty-level (or equivalent) Principal Investigators (PIs). These investigators should utilize their complementary and synergistic perspectives to address a central problem or question in prostate cancer research. This award is designed to support both new and pre-existing partnerships.

The overall goal of this award is to significantly accelerate advances in prostate cancer research to support the PCRP vision of conquering prostate cancer. Although groundbreaking research often involves a degree of risk, applications should be based on a sound scientific rationale that is established through logical reasoning and/or critical review and analysis of the literature. Due to this award's emphasis on innovation, presentation of preliminary data relevant to prostate cancer and the proposed project is encouraged but not required. Research deemed innovative may represent a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other highly creative qualities. Research that is an incremental advance upon published data is not considered innovative.

The PCRP seeks applications from investigators working in a wide spectrum of disciplines including, but not limited to, basic science, engineering, bioinformatics, population science, translational research, and clinical research. ***In addition, applicants are expected to address at least one of the PCRP focus areas and are highly encouraged to address one of the PCRP overarching challenges.*** If the proposed project does not address any of the overarching challenges, the application should include a description to justify how the project will nevertheless address a critical need in the field of prostate cancer research and/or patient care.

The Synergistic Idea Development Award requires that multiple investigators jointly design a single project, with comparable levels of intellectual input from each PI. However, each partner will be recognized as a PI, submit a separate application (even if the partners are at the same

organization), and receive an individual award. The research project must be supported by the unique expertise, experience, and abilities of each PI, and it must clearly define the synergistic components that will facilitate and accelerate progress in a way that could not be accomplished through independent efforts. Multidisciplinary projects are encouraged, and multi-institutional projects are allowed. Each proposed study must include clearly stated plans for interactions among all PIs and organizations involved. The plans must include communication, coordination of research progress and results, and data transfer. Additionally, multi-institutional applications must provide an intellectual property plan to resolve potential intellectual and material property issues and to remove institutional barriers that might interfere with achieving high levels of cooperation to ensure the successful completion of this award.

Research involving human subjects is permitted under this funding opportunity, but is restricted to studies without clinical trials. Correlative studies associated with an existing clinical trial are particularly encouraged, provided that they are determined to be no greater than minimal risk by the local IRB of record and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Office of Research Protections (ORP), Human Research Protection Office (HRPO). For definitions and other information on clinical trials and clinical research overall, a Human Subject Resource Document is provided on the CDMRP eBRAP System at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program>

All investigators applying to FY14 PCRP funding opportunities are encouraged to consider leveraging resources available through the PCRP-funded Prostate Cancer Biorepository Network (PCBN) (<http://www.prostatebiorepository.org>) and/or the North Carolina – Louisiana Prostate Cancer Project (PCaP) (<http://www.ncla-pcap.org>) if retrospectively collected human anatomical substances or correlated data are relevant to the proposed studies.

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) intends that data and research resources generated under awards funded by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity 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 4, Section L.

C. Eligibility Information

- Each PI must be an independent investigator at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent).
- Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.
- Eligible investigators must apply through an organization. Organizations eligible to apply include national, international, for-profit, non-profit, public, and private organizations.
- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

D. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **3** years.
- The maximum allowable combined direct costs for the entire period of performance are **\$750,000** plus indirect costs.
- All direct and indirect costs of any subaward (subgrant or subcontract) must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.
- The applicants may together request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **3** years.
- Regardless of the period of performance proposed, the applicants may not exceed the maximum allowable direct costs. Indirect costs shall be proposed in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate agreement.
- A separate award will be made to each PI, even if the PIs are at the same organization.
- The PIs are expected to be equal partners in the research, and direct cost funding should be divided accordingly, unless otherwise warranted and clearly justified.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for budget regulations and instructions for the Research & Related Budget. ***For all federal agencies or organizations collaborating with federal agencies, budget restrictions apply as are noted in Section II.C.4. of the General Application Instructions.***

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

- Salary
- Research supplies
- Equipment
- Clinical research costs (other than cost for clinical trials, which are not allowed)
- Support for multidisciplinary collaborations
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs of up to \$1,800 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings. ***The Government reserves the right to direct the selection of one of these meetings, should a PCRP-sponsored meeting be convened during the award period of performance.***

Intramural (DoD), other federal agency, and extramural investigators are encouraged to apply to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. An intramural investigator is defined as a DoD military or civilian employee working within a DoD laboratory or medical treatment facility, or working in a DoD activity embedded within a civilian medical center. Intramural applicants and collaborators are reminded to coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective resource managers. It is permissible for an intramural investigator to be named as a collaborator on an application submitted by an extramural investigator. ***In such cases, the extramural investigator must include a letter from the intramural collaborator's Commander or Commanding Officer that authorizes the involvement of the intramural collaborator.***

As required of all applicants to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity, if PIs from federal agencies submit applications, they must submit through Grants.gov. Therefore, federal applicants must be familiar with Grants.gov requirements, including the need for an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration and a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Refer to Appendix 3 of the General Application Instructions for further information regarding Grants.gov requirements.

Awards to extramural organizations will consist solely of assistance agreements (Cooperative Agreements and Grants). Awards to intramural agencies and other federal agencies will be executed through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Funding Authorization Document (FAD) process. Direct transfer of funds from the recipient to a federal agency is not allowed except under very limited circumstances. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4. Research & Related Budget, for additional information on budget considerations for applications involving federal agencies.

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$10.8M of the \$80M FY14 appropriation to fund approximately 9 Synergistic Idea Development Award projects, representing 18 to 27 individual applications, depending on the quality and number of applications received. Funding of applications received in response to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program.

II. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission is a two-step process requiring both (1) pre-application submission through the electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP) (<https://eBRAP.org/>) and (2) application submission through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

New for FY14: *The CDMRP has replaced its eReceipt System with eBRAP.* Submission remains a two-step process requiring both pre-application and application submission.

PIs must be registered in eBRAP in order to submit a pre-application and receive notification of the status of a pre-application or application. A key feature of eBRAP is that an organization's representatives and PIs are able to view and modify the Grants.gov application submissions associated with them, but only if the organization, Business Officials, and PIs are registered and affiliated to the organization in eBRAP (see *eBRAP User Guide* at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/UserGuide.pdf>). Upon completion of an organization's registration in eBRAP and approval by the CDMRP Help Desk, the organization name will be displayed in eBRAP to assist the organization's business officials and PIs as they register.

Note: Submission of either the pre-application to eBRAP or application to Grants.gov does not require registering an organization and affiliating its Business Officials and PIs in eBRAP; however, the ability to view and modify the Grants.gov application in eBRAP is contingent upon the registration and affiliation. ***Application viewing, modification, and verification in eBRAP is strongly recommended, but not required. The Project Narrative and Budget cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Any other application component cannot be changed after the end of the application verification period.*** If verification is not completed by the end of the application verification period, the application will be reviewed as submitted through Grants.gov, provided there is no cause for administrative rejection of the application (see [Section IV.A., Rejection](#)).

The Synergistic Idea Development Award mechanism is structured to accommodate two or three PIs. One Partner will be identified as the Initiating PI and will be responsible for the majority of the administrative tasks associated with application submission. The other PI(s) will be identified as Partnering PI(s). Initiating and Partnering PIs each have different submission requirements; however, all PIs should contribute significantly to the development of the proposed research project including the Project Narrative, Statement of Work, and other required components. The Initiating PI must complete the pre-application submission process and submit the contact information for each Partnering PI. Each Partnering PI will then be notified of the pre-application submission separately by email. ***Each Partnering PI must follow the link in this email and register with eBRAP in order to associate his/her grant application package with that of the Initiating PI.*** If an application is invited, only the Initiating PI will receive notification of invitation via email from CDMRP.

Submission of applications that are essentially identical or propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application.

A. Where to Obtain the Application Package

To obtain the complete application package, including all required forms, perform a Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>) basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-14-PCRP-SIDA.

B. Pre-Application Submission and Content Form

All pre-application components must be submitted by the Initiating 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. If any changes are necessary after submission of the pre-application, the PI must contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

The Initiating PI is responsible for submission of all pre-application components.

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):

- **Application Information – Tab 1**
- **Application Contacts – Tab 2**
 - It is recommended that PIs identify an Alternate Submitter in the event that assistance with pre-application submission is needed.

- **Collaborators and Conflicts of Interest (COI) – Tab 3**

The Initiating PI must enter the contact information for each Partnering PI in the Partnering PI section. This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity allows a *maximum of two* Partnering PIs.

FY14 PCRP Integration Panel (IP) members should not be involved in any preapplication or application. A list of FY14 PCRP IP members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pcrp/panels/panel14>. For questions related to IP members and pre-applications or applications, refer to [Section IV.C., Withdrawal](#), or contact the CDMRP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

- **Required Files – Tab 4**

Notes: Upload document(s) 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 (New for FY14!): A new process is being used for FY14 PCRP Synergistic Idea Development Award preproposal narratives. The content of the narrative must be provided via text boxes in eBRAP.

Provide responses in the appropriate data fields for the following:

1. What is the proposed research idea to be pursued? (4,000-character limit) Include background and rationale, hypothesis, and brief description of specific aims to address the hypothesis. ***This award cannot be used to conduct clinical trials.***
2. Who will be the PIs of the project, what expertise does each bring to the project, and how will the expertise and combined efforts on the project synergize to produce an outcome greater than any that could be achieved by independent efforts? Include a description of how the combined efforts are centered on a unified objective and how the PIs will work together to achieve that objective from different perspectives. (1,000-character limit)
3. What is the potential impact of the proposed research on one or more of the PCRP overarching challenges, or a different well-justified critical need, and how does the proposed research represent an innovative approach that will produce a more than incremental advancement? (1,000-character limit)

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

- One page for additional information that can be used, at the PIs' discretion, to provide supporting data or rationale for the pre-application. Upload as "AddInfo.pdf." If no additional information will be submitted, upload a page with the statement "No additional information."
- Initiating and Partnering PI Biographical Sketches (four-page limit per individual). Upload all biosketches as a single, combined file with the file name "Biosketch.pdf."

- **Submit Pre-Application – Tab 5**

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 PCRIP, pre-applications will be screened by the PCRIP IP based on the criteria below.

- **Synergy:** How well the proposed study represents a synergistic collaboration that will produce results greater than those of the PIs working independently. To what degree it is evident that all PIs have provided comparable levels of intellectual input into the proposed project.
- **Innovation:** To what degree the proposed research is highly creative and is likely to result in more than an incremental advance upon published data.
- **Impact:** To what degree the proposed research, if successful, could make a significant impact on prostate cancer research and/or patient care by contributing to solutions for the PCRIP overarching challenges or other critical issues in prostate cancer.

- **Notification of Pre-Application Screening Results**

Following the pre-application screening, Initiating 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 timeframe for notification of invitation to submit an application is indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

C. Application Submission Content and Forms

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

Each application submission must include the completed application package of forms and attachments provided in Grants.gov for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. The application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

New for FY14: *Applications submitted through and validated by Grants.gov will be retrieved and processed by eBRAP to allow for review, modification, and verification.* The PI and organizational representatives will receive an email request from eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the application submitted to Grants.gov. During this verification period, the PI may upload missing files (excluding those listed in [Section IV.A., Rejection](#)), replace files, and re-categorize files. These modifications must be completed by the end of the verification period.

Note: Changes to either the Project Narrative or Budget are not allowed in eBRAP; if such changes are required, the entire application package must be submitted through Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the Previous Grants.gov Tracking ID **prior to the application submission deadline (which occurs earlier than the end of the application verification period).**

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

Application Components for the Initiating PI:

Grants.gov application package components: For the Synergistic Idea Development Award, the Grants.gov application package includes the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for additional information on application submission):

- 1. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C., for detailed information.
- 2. Attachments Form**
 - **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, etc.) 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 will result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. The inclusion of preliminary data relevant to prostate cancer and the proposed project is encouraged, but not required. Any preliminary data provided should be from the laboratories of the PIs or member(s) of the collaborating team.

- **Background:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed research; include relevant literature citations. Describe previous experience most pertinent to this application.
- **Hypothesis or Objective:** State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project’s specific aims. If this application is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund.

- **Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses including appropriate controls, in sufficient detail for analysis. Clearly describe the statistical plan and the rationale for the statistical methodology as well as an appropriate power analysis, if applicable. *Include specific examples of synergistic elements incorporated into the research design.* Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches. If human subjects or human biological samples will be used, include a detailed plan for the recruitment of subjects or the acquisition of samples. *This award cannot be used to conduct clinical trials.*
- **Project Coordination and Communication:** Describe plans for communication, decision-making, allocation of resources, coordination of research progress and results, and sharing of data among all PIs and organizations participating in the project.
- **Overarching Challenges and Focus Areas:** Describe how the proposed research is relevant to one or more of the PCRP focus areas and responsive to one of the PCRP overarching challenges. If the proposed project does not address any of the overarching challenges, provide a description to justify how the project will nevertheless significantly address a critical need in the field of prostate cancer research and/or patient care.
- **Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation.** Start each document on a new page. Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf.” If documents are scanned to pdf, the lowest resolution (100 to 150 dpi) should be used. *There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested may result in the removal of those items or 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. *Provide this information for both the Initiating and Partnering PI(s).*
 - Publications and/or Patent Abstracts (five-document limit): Include relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If publications are not publicly available, then a copy/copies of the published manuscript(s) must 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. ***Provide a letter from each PI's organization.***
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PIs have the support or resources necessary for the proposed work.
- Intellectual Property
 - Background and Proprietary Information: All software and data first produced under the award are subject to a federal purpose license in accordance with applicable DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGAR) requirements. Provide a list of all background intellectual property to be used in the project or provide a statement that none will be used. If applicable, state and identify the proprietary information that will be provided to the Government and indicate whether the applicant will require a waiver of the federal purpose license.
 - 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 4, Section L for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.”
 The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Of particular importance, programmatic reviewers rely on the technical abstract for appropriate description of the project’s key aspects. Therefore, clarity and completeness within the space limits of the technical abstract are highly important.
 Describe the proposed research project including the following elements:
 - Background: Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed project.
 - Hypothesis/Objective: State the hypothesis to be tested or the objective to be reached. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objective/hypothesis.
 - Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
 - Study Design: Briefly describe the study design.
 - Impact: Summarize the impact of the proposed research, if successful, on the PCRP overarching challenges or other critical issues in prostate cancer.

- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “LayAbs.pdf.”

Lay abstracts should be written using the outline below. ***Do not duplicate the technical abstract.*** Minimize use of acronyms and abbreviations, where appropriate. The lay abstract is an important component of the application review process because it addresses issues of particular interest to the consumer advocate community.

- Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that will be ***readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine.***
- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research.
 - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?
 - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
 - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?
 - If the research is too basic for clinical applicability, describe the interim outcomes.
- What are the likely contributions of this study to advancing the field of prostate cancer research?

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit):** Upload as “SOW.pdf.” Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.2., for detailed guidance on creating the SOW.

The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Program Announcement and Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For the Synergistic Idea Development Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW for Collaborative PI projects.” The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

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

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Impact.pdf.”

Explain in detail why the proposed research project is important, as follows:

Describe the short-term impact: Detail the anticipated outcome(s)/product(s) that will be directly attributed to the results of the proposed research.

Describe the long-term impact: Explain the anticipated long-term gains from the proposed research, including the anticipated advantages that the new understanding may contribute to the goal of elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhancing the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease.

PCRP overarching challenges: Summarize how the proposed project addresses one of the PCRP overarching challenges. If the project does not address any of the overarching challenges, provide a description to justify how the project will nevertheless significantly address a critical need in the field of prostate cancer research and/or patient care.

- **Attachment 7: Innovation Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Innovation.pdf.”

Describe how the proposed work is innovative. Research that represents an incremental advancement on published data is not considered innovative.

The following examples of ways in which the proposed work may be innovative, although not all-inclusive, are intended to help the PIs frame the innovative features of their application:

- Study concept: Investigation of a novel idea and/or research questions.
- Research method or technology: Use of novel research methods or new technologies, including technology development, to address a research question.
- Novel method or technology: Development of a novel method or technology for prevention, detection, diagnosis, or treatment.
- Existing methods or technologies: Application or adaptation of existing methods or technologies for novel research or clinical purposes, or for research or clinical purposes that differ fundamentally from those originally intended.

- **Attachment 8: Synergy Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Synergy.pdf.”

Discuss in detail the advantages of addressing this problem through the combined expertise of the PIs and how this contributes to the synergy of the application. Include each PI’s history of synergistic and collaborative study with one another and/or with other investigators.

Describe the elements of interdependence in the proposed work and the contributions of each PI to the overall synergy of the project. Describe how the combined efforts of the PIs will result in a level of productivity that is greater than that achievable by each PI working independently.

3. **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.3., for detailed information. *Note: Some of the items in this attachment may be made available for programmatic review.*

- PI Biographical Sketch (four-page limit): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (four-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - **Include biographical sketches for both the Initiating and Partnering PI(s).**

- Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
 - *Include previous/current/pending support for both the Initiating and Partnering PI(s).*
- 4. Research & Related Budget:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for detailed information.
- Budget Justification (no page limit): Upload as “BudgetJustification.pdf.”
- Initiating and Partnering PIs must each submit a budget and justification specific to their own portion of the efforts as part of their separate Grants.gov application packages. The Research & Related Budget for the Initiating PI should not include budget information for Partnering PI(s), even if they are located within the same organization. The combined total direct costs for the Initiating and Partnering PI(s)’ budgets cannot exceed \$750,000.*
- 5. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., for detailed information.
- 6. R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.6., for detailed information.

Application Components for the Partnering PI(s):

Each Partnering PI MUST follow the link in the email from eBRAP and complete the registration process prior to the application submission deadline in order to associate his/her grant application package with that of the Initiating PI.

The application submission process for Partnering PI(s) uses an abbreviated application package of forms and attachments from Grants.gov that includes:

- 1. SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance Form**
- 2. Attachments Form**

- **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (SOW) (three-page limit):** Upload as “SOW.pdf.” Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.2., for detailed information on completing the SOW.

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

The suggested SOW format and examples specific to different types of research projects are available on the eBRAP “Program Announcement and Forms” web page (<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm>). For the Synergistic Idea Development Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW for Collaborative PI projects” located at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program>

3. Research & Related Budget: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C, for detailed information.

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

Initiating and Partnering PIs must each submit a budget and justification specific to their own portion of the efforts as part of their separate Grants.gov application packages. The Research & Related Budget for the Partnering PI(s) should not include budget information for the Initiating PI, even if they are at the same organization. The combined total direct costs for the Initiating and Partnering PIs' budgets cannot exceed \$750,000.

4. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form: Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., for detailed information.

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

D. Verification of Grants.gov Application in eBRAP

For FY14, a new process has been initiated whereby organizational representatives and PIs can view their applications as submitted through Grants.gov and prior to peer review of the application. This will enable applicants to make modifications prior to scientific and programmatic evaluation of applications, provided the modifications are made by either the end of the application verification period or, for changes to the Project Narrative or Budget, by the application submission deadline.

After application submission to Grants.gov, eBRAP will retrieve and validate the application submission. eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI via email and instruct them to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the application. Files that fail eBRAP validation will be noted in both the email and in the Full Application Files tab. eBRAP does not validate the accuracy or completeness of content in the files. PIs are strongly encouraged to review all application components. If either the Project Narrative or the Budget fail eBRAP validation, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov prior to the application submission deadline, which occurs earlier than the end of the application verification period. *The Project Narrative and Budget cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. Any other application component cannot be changed after the end of the application verification period.*

E. Submission Dates and Times

All submission dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Pre-application and application submissions are required. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in application rejection.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for detailed formatting guidelines.

All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicant organizations and all subrecipient organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to submit applications to Grants.gov. The applicant organization must also be registered in the Entity Management functional area of the System for Award Management (SAM) with an “Active” status to submit applications through the Grants.gov portal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for information on Grants.gov requirements.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Application Review and Selection Process

All applicants are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates using a two-tier review process. The first tier is peer review of applications against established criteria for determining technical merit. The second tier is a programmatic review that makes recommendations for funding to USAMRMC, based on (a) technical merit and (b) the relevance to the mission of the DHP and PCRP and to the specific intent of the award mechanism. The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. 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 non-disclosure 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 Title 18 United States Code 1905.

B. Application Review Process

- 1. Peer Review:** To determine technical merit, all applications will be evaluated according to the following scored criteria, of these, Synergy, Innovation, and Impact are equally the most important, with the remaining criteria listed in decreasing order of importance:

- **Synergy**
 - How the proposed partnership between the PIs is likely to result in a level of productivity that is greater than that achievable by each PI working independently.

- To what degree the contributions of each PI to the project are appropriate and balanced.
- How the proposed project is centered on a unified theme that addresses a central problem or question rather than a set of less related subprojects.
- How well the application addresses processes for ongoing communication, decision-making, allocation of resources, coordination of research progress and results, and sharing of data among all participating PIs and organizations.
- **Innovation**
 - How the research proposes new paradigms or challenges existing paradigms, or is otherwise highly creative.
 - To what degree the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance upon published data.
- **Impact**
 - How the proposed project could, whether in the short-term or long-term, make a significant impact on prostate cancer research and/or patient care, including its potential contribution to the elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhancing the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease.
 - How well the proposed research addresses one of the PCRP overarching challenges or is otherwise justified as significantly addressing another critical issue in prostate cancer research and/or patient care.
- **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
 - How well the scientific rationale supports the project and its feasibility as demonstrated by a critical review and analysis of the literature, prostate cancer-relevant preliminary data, and/or logical reasoning.
 - How well the hypotheses or objectives, aims, experimental design, methods, and analyses, including statistical analyses, are developed.
 - How well the PIs acknowledge potential problems and address alternative approaches.
- **Personnel**
 - To what degree the PIs each possess the research experience to function as equals in the oversight and management of a synergistic project.
 - How the research team's background and prostate cancer-related expertise are appropriate with respect to its ability to perform the proposed work.
 - To what degree the levels of effort are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed work.

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

- **Environment**
 - To what degree the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research.
 - How well the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements).
 - To what degree the quality and extent of organizational support are appropriate.
 - If applicable, to what degree the intellectual and material property plan is appropriate.
 - **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
 - Whether funds and resources are divided appropriately among all PIs.
 - **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.
- 2. Programmatic Review:** To make funding recommendations, the following equally considered criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:
- a. Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers**
 - b. Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY14 PCRFP, as evidenced by the following:**
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Programmatic relevance in relation to the PCRFP overarching challenges and focus areas
 - Relative impact and innovation
 - Program portfolio composition

C. Recipient Qualification

For general information on required qualifications for award recipients, refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1.

D. Application Review Dates

All application review dates and times are indicated on the [title page](#) of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

E. Notification of Application Review Results

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.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

After receipt of pre-applications from eBRAP or applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.
- All associated (Initiating and Partnering PI) applications are not submitted by the application submission deadline.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

B. Modification

- Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.
- Documents not requested will be removed.
- Following application submission to Grants.gov, the PI will receive an email request from eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the application submitted to Grants.gov. During this verification period, the PI may upload missing documents (excluding those listed in [Section IV.A., Rejection](#)), replace files, and re-categorize files. These modifications must be completed by the end of the application verification period; otherwise, the application will be reviewed as submitted.

C. Withdrawal

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

- A FY14 PCRP Integration Panel (IP) 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 FY14 PCRP IP members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pcrp/panels/panels14>.
- The application fails to conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity description to the extent that appropriate review cannot be conducted.
- Direct costs as shown on the Research & Related Budgets exceed the maximum allowed by this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

- 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).
- Inclusion of any employee of CDMRP review contractors in applications for funding without adequate plans to mitigate conflicts of interest. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.B., 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.
- The proposed research is, or requests funding for, a clinical trial.
- The Initiating or Partnering PI(s) does/do not meet the eligibility criteria as described in this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- The invited application does not propose the same research project described in the pre-application.

D. Withhold

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending institutional investigation. The institution 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.

V. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2015. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional award administration information.

B. Administrative Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4 for general information regarding administrative requirements.

C. National Policy Requirements

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

D. Reporting

For the Synergistic Idea Development Award, each PI, whether Initiating or Partnering, must submit individual progress reports as required by his or her individual assistance agreement; however, PIs are expected to work together in preparing the reports. The reports must detail both the research progress made and the impact of the synergistic collaboration.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section J, for general information on reporting requirements.

E. Award Transfers

Changes in PI and institutional transfers for PCRP Synergistic Idea Development Awards are allowed, but require the documented support of all PIs on the project. Evaluation and approval of these modifications will be on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, Section M, for general information on organization or PI changes.

VI. AGENCY CONTACTS

A. CDMRP Help Desk

Questions related to Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity content or submission requirements as well as questions related to the submission of the pre-application 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

B. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions related to 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

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/Funding Opportunity or by responding to the prompt provided by Grants.gov when first downloading the application package. If the application package is updated or changed, the original version of the application package may not be accepted by Grants.gov.

VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Action	Initiating PI Completed	Partnering PI Completed
SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance	Complete form as instructed.		
Attachments Form	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf."		
	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf."		
	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf."		
	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf."		
	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf."		
	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf."		
	Innovation Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Innovation.pdf."		
	Synergy Statement: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "Synergy.pdf."		
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	Attach PI Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.		
	Attach PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (Support_LastName.pdf) to the appropriate field.		
	Attach Biographical Sketch (Biosketch_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.		
	Attach Previous/Current/Pending (Support_LastName.pdf) for each senior/key person to the appropriate field.		
Research & Related Budget	Complete form as instructed. Attach Budget Justification (BudgetJustification.pdf) to the appropriate field.		
Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	Complete form as instructed.		
R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	Complete form as instructed.		