

Program Announcement

for the

Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Prostate Cancer Research Program

Postdoctoral Training Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-15-PCRP-PTA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), July 30, 2015
- **Confidential Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 13, 2015
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, August 13, 2015
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 18, 2015
- **Peer Review:** October 2015
- **Programmatic Review:** January 2016

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 2015 (FY15) Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) are being solicited for the Defense Health Agency, Research, Development, and Acquisition (DHA RDA) Directorate, by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA). As directed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the DHA RDA Directorate manages and executes the Defense Health Program (DHP) Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) appropriation. The executing agent for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). The PCRP was initiated in 1997 to promote innovative research focused on eradicating prostate cancer. Appropriations for the PCRP from FY97 through FY14 totaled \$1.37 billion. The FY15 appropriation is \$80 million (M).

The mission of the FY15 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.

The FY15 funding opportunities offered by the PCRP attempt to address these priorities with a reduced number of award mechanisms. The PCRP has consolidated many of the discipline-specific mechanisms that have been offered in prior fiscal years to provide a more simplified funding approach, focused around the program's priorities of innovation, impact, and training. Specific mechanisms also incorporate options to support both individual awards and team-based awards. All mechanisms continue to maintain the program's focus toward meeting the PCRP mission.

PCRP Overarching Challenges

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.C., 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

B. FY15 PCRP Focus Areas (*revised for FY15*)

All applications for the FY15 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 and Response:** Understanding primary and acquired resistance as well as exceptional response to therapy
- **Survivorship and Palliative Care:** Improving the quality of life and well-being of prostate cancer patients and their families
- **Therapy:** Identification of targets and pathways, and optimization (including sequencing and combination therapies) of therapeutic modalities, including metastatic prostate cancer
- **Tumor and Microenvironment Biology:** Understanding the intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms contributing to tumor development and the progression of prostate cancer

C. Award Information

The PCRP Postdoctoral Training Award mechanism was first offered as the Postdoctoral Traineeship Award in FY99 and was incorporated into the Prostate Cancer Training Award in FY06-FY10. In total, 1,575 Postdoctoral Training Award applications have been received, and 482 have been recommended for funding.

The Postdoctoral Training Award supports prostate cancer research training opportunities for recent doctoral graduates. These awards primarily provide salary support for the Principal Investigator (PI); the postdoctoral trainee is considered the PI of the application. The PI must exhibit strong potential for, and commitment to, pursuing a career as an investigator at the forefront of prostate cancer research; however, the PI is not required to have previous prostate cancer research experience. Applications must include at least one mentor, appropriate to the proposed training and research project, who has experience in prostate cancer research and training as demonstrated by a record of active funding, recent publications, and successful mentorship. The selected mentor(s) should demonstrate a clear commitment to the PI's training and be well qualified to contribute significantly to the development of the PI toward independence as a prostate cancer researcher.

The PI must outline an individualized, prostate cancer-focused training plan, which may include coursework, laboratory techniques, conferences, seminars, journal clubs, teaching responsibilities, clinical responsibilities, grant writing, and/or other activities that will provide

the PI with experience in key areas relevant to the proposed work and foster the PI's development as an independent prostate cancer researcher. An environment appropriate to the proposed training and research project must be clearly described. If the PI is receiving postdoctoral training in the same environment where predoctoral training was received, the PI should provide a description of how the postdoctoral training is different from or additive to the predoctoral training.

All applications for the Postdoctoral Training Award are to be written by the PI, with appropriate direction from the mentor(s). The PCRCP seeks applications from investigators from a wide spectrum of disciplines including, but not limited to, basic science, engineering, bioinformatics, population science, translational research, and clinical research. Multidisciplinary projects and training are encouraged. In addition, applicants are expected to address at least one of the PCRCP focus areas and are highly encouraged to address one of the PCRCP 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.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to incorporate the following components into their study design where appropriate in order to maximize the potential impact of the proposed research project: authentication of proposed cell lines; statistical rigor of preclinical animal experiments; incorporation of experiments to assess clinical relevance and translatability of findings. As such, the PCRCP-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>) are important resources to consider if retrospectively collected human anatomical substances or correlated data are critical to the proposed studies. Studies utilizing data derived from large patient studies that include long-term health records, biospecimen repositories, and pre-existing research and that apply state-of-the-art genomic and/or proteomic analysis, bioinformatics, and/or mathematical models to such data are also encouraged.

The CDMRP intends that information, 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 3, Section L.

D. Eligibility Information

- The PI must:
 - Have successfully defended a doctoral thesis or possess an M.D. degree (or equivalent) by March 31, 2016;
 - Be involved in an accredited training or residency program; ***and***
 - Have 3 years or less of postdoctoral research experience (excluding clinical residency or clinical fellowship training) by March 31, 2016.
- Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

- Eligible investigators must apply through an organization. Organizations eligible to apply include national, international, for-profit, nonprofit, public, and private organizations.
- Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for general eligibility information.

E. Funding

- The maximum period of performance is **2** years.
- The anticipated direct costs budgeted for the entire period of performance will not exceed **\$125,000**. Associated indirect costs can be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. No budget will be approved by the Government exceeding **\$125,000** direct costs or using an indirect rate exceeding the organization's negotiated rate. The direct costs may not exceed **\$62,500** per year.
- All direct and indirect costs of any subaward (subgrant or subcontract) must be included in the total direct costs of the primary award.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., 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.5. of the General Application Instructions.***

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

- Salary/stipends for the PI only
- Costs/Tuition for coursework, seminars, and workshops (including textbooks and/or related materials)
- Publication Costs
- Research materials/supplies/consumables
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs to attend scientific/technical meetings. ***The Government reserves the right to direct the selection of one of these meetings, should a PCRSP-sponsored meeting be convened during the award period of performance.***

Shall not be requested for:

- Mentor or other salary
- Equipment
- Research costs for studies on animals, human subjects, human biological substances, or clinical trials

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 Section II.A. 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 may be executed through a direct fund transfer (e.g., 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.5. Research & Related Budget, for additional information on budget considerations for applications involving Federal agencies.

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$5M of the \$80M FY15 PCRP appropriation to fund approximately 25 Postdoctoral Training Award 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 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.

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/>). Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A. for registration and submission requirements for eBRAP and Grants.gov.

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. A key feature of eBRAP is the ability of an organization's representatives and PIs to view and modify the Grants.gov application submissions associated with them. eBRAP will validate Grants.gov application files against the

specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity 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/Funding Opportunity.

PIs should ensure that their name and email address are the same as the name and email address that will be provided on the SF-424 Form of the Grants.gov application package submitted to Grants.gov. The organization, Business Officials, PI(s), and eBRAP log number named in the full application submitted to Grants.gov must match those named in the pre-application in eBRAP.

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.

A. Where to Obtain the Grants.gov Application Package

To obtain the Grants.gov application package, including all required forms, perform a basic search using the Funding Opportunity Number W81XWH-15-PCRP-PTA in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

B. Pre-Application Submission Content

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**
 - 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 SF-424 Form). The Business Official must either be selected from the eBRAP 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.
- **Collaborators and Key Personnel – Tab 3**
 - Enter the name, organization, and role of all collaborators and key personnel associated with the application.
 - **FY15 PCRP Integration Panel (IP)** members should not be involved in any pre-application or application. 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.

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

- 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).

- **Pre-Application Files – Tab 5**

Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit): Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review sessions.

List of Individuals Providing Confidential Letters of Recommendation: Enter contact information for the mentor (and co-mentor, if applicable), who will provide letters of recommendation. Each individual will receive an email generated from eBRAP containing specific instructions on how to upload his/her letter. The name of at least one additional individual must also be entered to provide a letter of recommendation; however, *the total number of letters must not exceed three.*

- **Submit Pre-Application – Tab 6**

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

C. Full Application Submission Content

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 Grants.gov application package provided in Grants.gov for this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. The Grants.gov application package is submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative through the Grants.gov portal (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

Note: The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or if the Project Narrative or Budget Form needs to be modified, an updated Grants.gov application package must be submitted via Grants.gov as a “Changed/Corrected Application” with the previous Grants.gov Tracking ID *prior to the application submission deadline.*

Grants.gov application package components: For the Postdoctoral Training 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**

Each attachment to the Grants.gov application forms must be uploaded as an individual PDF file in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in Appendix 2 of the

General Application Instructions. For all attachments, ensure that the file names are consistent with the guidance. Grants.gov will reject attachments with file names 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, Grants.gov has file size limits that may apply in some circumstances. Individual attachments may not exceed 20 MB and the file size for the entire Grants.gov application package may not exceed 200 MB.

- **Attachment 1: Project Narrative (six-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 may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

The PI must describe the proposed training and research 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 PI, mentor(s), or member(s) of the collaborating team. *The Project Narrative must be written by the PI while also showing evidence of appropriate direction from the mentor(s).*

- **PI’s Career Goals:** The PI should describe his/her career goals and how the proposed training and research experience will promote his/her career development in prostate cancer research. The PI should discuss his/her career plans and research plans after the completion of this award.
- **Training Plan:** Describe the individualized training plan, which may include coursework, laboratory techniques, conferences, seminars, journal clubs, teaching responsibilities, clinical responsibilities, grant writing, and/or other activities. Provide details for any multidisciplinary training that will occur. Provide a timeline for the training plan and describe how it is integrated with and designed to support the proposed research. Explain how the training plan is supported by the training environment; this should include a description of ongoing prostate cancer research at the organization. Include information on training or collaborations with other investigators. If the PI is receiving postdoctoral training in the same environment where predoctoral training was received, the PI should provide a description of how the postdoctoral training is different from or additive to the predoctoral training.
- **Mentoring Plan:** Describe the mentor’s background and experience in prostate cancer research and training. Explain how the mentor’s (and co-mentor’s, if applicable) mentoring plan will assist the PI throughout the period of performance in developing toward independence in prostate cancer research. Provide details on the amount and types of interactions between the mentor(s) and the PI.

- **Research Project:** Describe the proposed research project, including the background, hypothesis/purpose and rationale, broad objectives and specific aims, and methods. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
- **Overarching Challenges and Focus Areas:** Briefly describe how the proposed research and training are relevant to at least one 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 will result in 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 Patent Abstracts (five-document limit):** 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/Funding Opportunity, 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.

- Intellectual Property
 - Intellectual and Material Property Plan (if applicable): Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.
- Transcripts: Include a copy of the *PI's* transcripts from all graduate institutions attended. All foreign-language transcripts must be accompanied by a certified English translation. The Government reserves the right to request official transcripts during award negotiations. Diplomas are not acceptable in lieu of academic transcripts. If an institution does not provide academic transcripts (i.e., a record of courses completed, grades and credit hours earned, and indication of completion of degree), complete and include the Academic Statement (available for download on the Full Announcement page in Grants.gov) in place of the transcript.
- Mentor Qualifications (one-page limit): Include a description of the qualifications of the mentor. Specifically address the following:
 - Experience in prostate cancer research to include recent publications and active funding, if applicable (either the mentor or co-mentor should possess prostate cancer research experience).
 - Record and evidence of success in mentoring pre- and/or postdoctoral trainees.
- Co-Mentor Qualifications (if applicable, one-page limit): Include a description of the qualifications of the co-mentor. Specifically address the following:
 - Experience in prostate cancer research to include recent publications and active funding, if applicable (either the mentor or co-mentor should possess prostate cancer research experience).
 - Record and evidence of success in mentoring pre- and/or postdoctoral trainees.
- **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “TechAbs.pdf.”** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. Of particular importance, programmatic reviewers typically 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:

- Training Plan
 - The PI should describe his/her career goals and how the proposed training supports him/her in achieving these goals.

- The PI should describe how the proposed research project will prepare him/her to make valuable contributions to the understanding and management of prostate cancer.
- Briefly describe the mentoring plan, including the mentor(s) and relevant experience.
- Research Plan
 - Background: Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
 - Objective/Hypothesis: State the objective/hypothesis to be tested. 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 including appropriate controls.
- Impact: Summarize how the proposed research will have an impact on progress toward the elimination of death from prostate cancer and enhancing the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease.
- **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit): Upload as “LayAbs.pdf.”** Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

The lay abstract 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 PI’s career goals in prostate cancer research.
 - How does the training plan support the PI in achieving these goals?
 - How does the research plan support the PI in achieving these goals?
- 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.”** 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 Postdoctoral Training Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW for Basic Research (Training Section optional).” The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.3., for detailed guidance on creating the SOW.

In addition to outlining tasks for the research proposed, applicants must include tasks for both the training and mentoring plans.

- **Attachment 6: Impact Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Impact.pdf.” State explicitly how the proposed research project will have an impact on prostate cancer research and/or patient care, including its contribution to the goal of eliminating death from prostate cancer and/or enhancing the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease. Describe how the proposed research addresses one of the PCRP overarching challenges, or another critical issue in prostate cancer research and/or patient care.
- **Attachment 7: Eligibility Statement (one-page limit):** Upload as “Eligibility.pdf.” Use the Eligibility Statement template (available for download on the Full Announcement page under this funding opportunity on Grants.gov) signed by the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official to verify that the eligibility requirements will be met.
- **Attachment 8: Collaborating DoD Military Facility 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 Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form (available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page), including a budget justification, for each Military Facility as instructed. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.8., for detailed information.

3. Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.4., for detailed information. Note: Some of the items in this attachment may be made available for programmatic review.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-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 five-page National Institutes of Health Biographical Sketch may also be used.

- PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
 - Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each): Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf.”
 - Include the mentor’s (and co-mentor’s, if applicable) biographical sketch.
 - Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
 - Include mentor’s (and co-mentor’s, if applicable) previous/current/pending support.
- 4. Research & Related Budget:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.5., 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.
- 5. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.6., for detailed information.
- 6. R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.C.7., for detailed information.

Additional Application Components:

Confidential Letters of Recommendations (two-page limit per letter recommendation):

In addition to the complete Grants.gov application package of forms and attachments, the Postdoctoral Training Award applications require submission of confidential letters of recommendation to support the trainee. The letters of recommendation should be provided on letterhead, signed, and uploaded as PDF files to eBRAP by 5:00 p.m. ET on the application deadline. The PI should monitor whether the letters have been received in eBRAP by viewing the status in the “Pre-Application Files” tab of the pre-application; however, the PI will not be able to view these letters.

The confidential letters should include the following:

- ***A confidential letter of recommendation from each mentor***, describing his/her commitment to the PI’s training, career development, and mentorship in prostate cancer research. Mentor letters should address the following:
 - The PI’s potential to become a successful and independent prostate cancer researcher;
 - The commitment of the mentor to the training, career development, and mentorship of the PI, including details of the proposed interactions of the mentor with the PI during the PI’s training;
 - The training environment, including ongoing prostate cancer research in the mentor’s laboratory and in the organization as a whole, resources available, and

- how this environment will promote the development of the PI as a prostate cancer researcher;
- The individualized training plan and how it will facilitate the PI's development as a successful prostate cancer researcher;
 - The degree to which the PI participated in the project development and application preparation, and the degree to which the PI will participate in the execution of the application if funded.
- ***Additional confidential letters of recommendation (one is required; maximum of two).*** Additional letters should describe the PI's unique qualifications and accomplishments that highlight his/her potential for success in pursuing a career in prostate cancer research. Specifically, each letter should offer the writer's perspective on:
 - The PI's qualifications, characteristics, and achievements;
 - The PI's potential for productivity and desire for establishing a successful and independent career in prostate cancer research;
 - The relevance of the proposed research project to training the PI in prostate cancer research; and
 - The suitability of the mentor(s) and training environment for providing the PI with a solid foundation to support an independent career in prostate cancer research.

D. Applicant Verification of Grants.gov 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 an application submitted to Grants.gov. Following retrieval and processing of the Grants.gov application, eBRAP will notify the organizational representatives and PI by email to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the Grants.gov application submission. eBRAP will validate retrieved files against the specific Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity 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/Funding Opportunity. ***If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation, 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.*** The Project Narrative and Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline.

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 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. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section II.A., for information on Grants.gov registration requirements.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications 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 the DHA RDA Directorate and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, based on (a) technical merit and (b) the relevance to the mission of the DHP and PCRCP, and to the specific intent of the award mechanism. The highestscoring 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 nondisclosure 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, which are of equal importance:
 - **Principal Investigator**
 - How the PI’s achievements (as reflected by academic performance, awards, honors, and/or previous publications and funding) indicate the potential for a successful career as a prostate cancer researcher.

- To what extent the PI's stated career goals demonstrate a strong personal commitment to pursuing an independent career as a leader in prostate cancer research.
- To what extent the letters of recommendation from the mentor(s) and others support the PI's potential for a highly productive career as a prostate cancer researcher.
- Whether the PI's proposed level of effort, if not 100%, is appropriate for successful training and completion of the proposed work.
- **Mentor(s)**
 - Whether there is at least one mentor who is an established prostate cancer researcher, as evidenced by a demonstrated record of active funding and recent publications in prostate cancer research.
 - How the mentor's (and co-mentor's, if applicable) own training and experience indicate the potential of the mentor(s) to successfully train the PI in prostate cancer research.
 - Whether the proposed mentoring plan provides evidence of sufficient involvement in guiding the PI toward a successful career as an independent prostate cancer researcher.
 - To what extent the track record(s) of the mentor(s), regarding previous trainees' career achievements and areas of interest, indicate the potential for successful training of the PI in prostate cancer research.
 - Whether the mentor letter(s) indicate a high level of commitment to training the PI.
 - Whether the quality of the application suggests that the mentor(s) provided appropriate guidance in its preparation.
- **Training Plan and Environment**
 - How well the PI has outlined a detailed, individualized training plan that will effectively develop and prepare him/her for a career as an independent prostate cancer researcher.
 - Whether the training plan and research project are appropriately integrated, especially with regard to multidisciplinary aspects, if applicable.
 - To what extent the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed training activities, including professional interaction with established prostate cancer researchers.
 - If the environment is the same as for the predoctoral training of the PI, whether there is evidence that the postdoctoral training will be appropriately additive.
 - To what extent the training and research requirements are adequately supported by the availability and accessibility of facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements and/or intellectual property plans as applicable).

- **Research Project**
 - How 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 (if included), and/or logical reasoning.
 - How well the hypotheses or objectives, aims, experimental design, methods, and analyses are developed.
 - How well the PI acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.
- **Impact**
 - To what degree the expected results of the project will contribute to the goal of eliminating death from prostate cancer and enhancing the well-being of men experiencing the impact of the disease.
 - To what degree the proposed training and research project will bring the PI to the forefront of prostate cancer research.

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

- **Responsiveness to Overarching Challenges and Focus Areas**
 - How well the proposed research addresses at least one of the PCRP focus areas and one of the PCRP overarching challenges, or is otherwise justified as significantly addressing another critical issue in prostate cancer research and/or patient care.
- **Budget**
 - Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research and within the limitations of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.
- **Application Presentation**
 - To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

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

- a. **Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers**
- b. **Relevance to the mission of the DHP and FY15 PCRP, as evidenced by the following:**
 - Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
 - Programmatic relevance in relation to the PCRP overarching challenges and focus areas
 - Relative impact
 - 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 applications from Grants.gov, the following administrative actions may occur:

A. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- 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.

C. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the application:

- A FY15 PCRP 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 FY15 PCRP IP members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/pcrp/panels/panel15>.

- The application fails to conform to this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity 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).
- 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.
- An application submitted by a PI who does not meet the eligibility criteria will be withdrawn.

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, 2016. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, for additional award administration information.

Any assistance instrument awarded under this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity will be governed by the award terms and conditions, which conform to DoD's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars applicable to financial assistance. Terms and conditions of new awards made after December 26, 2014 may include revisions to reflect DoD implementation of new OMB guidance in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (2 CFR part 200).

B. Administrative Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3 for general information regarding administrative requirements.

C. National Policy Requirements

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

D. Reporting

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, Section I, for general information on reporting requirements.

Annual progress reports should include a comprehensive description of progress toward the tasks related to the training and mentoring plans as well as the research underway.

E. Award Transfers

Changes in PI are strongly discouraged for the Postdoctoral Training Award mechanism. Extenuating circumstances necessitating a change of PI or mentor will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Grants Officer.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 3, 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 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.

VII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Grants.gov Application Components	Upload Order	Action	Completed
SF-424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance		Complete form as instructed.	
Attachments Form	1	Project Narrative: Upload as Attachment 1 with file name "ProjectNarrative.pdf."	
	2	Supporting Documentation: Upload as Attachment 2 with file name "Support.pdf."	
	3	Technical Abstract: Upload as Attachment 3 with file name "TechAbs.pdf."	
	4	Lay Abstract: Upload as Attachment 4 with file name "LayAbs.pdf."	
	5	Statement of Work: Upload as Attachment 5 with file name "SOW.pdf."	
	6	Impact Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf."	
	7	Eligibility Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Eligibility.pdf."	
	8	Collaborating DoD Military Facility Budget Form(s): Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "MFBudget.pdf," if 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.	
Research & Related Budget		Complete 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.	
Additional Application Components	Upload Order	Action	Completed
Confidential Letters of Recommendation		Confirm upload to eBRAP.	