

Program Announcement

for the

Defense Health Program

Defense Medical Research and Development Program

Department of Defense

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research Program

Therapeutic Idea Award

Funding Opportunity Number: W81XWH-14-ALSRP-TIA

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 12.420

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- **Pre-Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), May 13, 2014
- **Invitation to Submit an Application:** June 2014
- **Application Submission Deadline:** 11:59 p.m. ET, August 20, 2014
- **End of Application Verification Period:** 5:00 p.m. ET, August 25, 2014
- **Peer Review:** October 2014
- **Programmatic Review:** December 2014

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) Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research Program (ALSRP) 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 ALSRP was initiated in 2007 to provide support for research of exceptional scientific merit aimed at preclinical assessment of therapeutics for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Appropriations for the ALSRP from FY07 through FY13 totaled \$39.4 million (M). The FY14 appropriation is \$7.5M.

The goal of the ALSRP is to contribute to a cure for ALS by funding innovative preclinical research to develop new treatments for ALS.

B. Award Information

The ALSRP Therapeutic Idea Award mechanism was first offered in FY10. Since then, 149 Therapeutic Idea Award applications have been received, and 16 have been recommended for funding.

The Therapeutic Idea Award is designed to promote new ideas that are still in the early stages of development with the potential to yield highly impactful data and new avenues of investigation for novel therapeutics for ALS treatment. This mechanism supports conceptually innovative, high-risk/high-reward research that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancement in ALS therapeutics. Proposed research projects should include a well-formulated, testable hypothesis based on strong scientific rationale that holds translational potential to improve ALS treatment and/or advances a novel treatment modality. Projects that focus primarily on investigating the pathophysiology of ALS are outside the scientific scope of this mechanism.

Presentation of preliminary data is not consistent with the intent of the Therapeutic Idea Award mechanism. While the inclusion of preliminary data is not prohibited, the strength of the application should not rely on preliminary data.

Innovation and impact are the most important aspects of the Therapeutic Idea Award.

Innovation: Research deemed innovative may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, introduce novel concepts or agents, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities that may lead to potential therapeutics for ALS.

The following list, ***although not all-inclusive***, provides examples of research that is NOT innovative and will not be considered for funding under this mechanism:

- Investigating the next logical step or continuation of a previous or ongoing research project.
- Proposing work that is an incremental advancement of published data.

- Proposing a project whose scope is primarily small-molecule or genomic/proteomic screening.
- Exploring a previously tested hypothesis in a different cell line or in a new population.
- Using a published series of in vitro assays to further characterize a model system.
- Incorporating known biomarkers into in vitro, preclinical or clinical models of ALS.

Impact: The ALSRP Therapeutic Idea Award aims to support research that has high potential to significantly impact development of therapeutics for ALS. Potential therapeutic impact as well as steps toward clinical translation of projected study outcomes should be outlined in the Impact/Transition Statement (Attachment 6) for the application.

Use of human subjects and human anatomical substances: Because these awards are designed for basic preclinical research, projects involving human subjects or human anatomical substances will not be supported unless they are exempt under Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219, Section 101(b) (32 CFR 219.101[b]). *Applications for studies involving human subjects or human anatomical substances that do not qualify for exempt status will be administratively withdrawn and will not be funded.* For studies using only commercially available or de-identified specimens, a Claim of Exemption Form will be requested if the application is recommended for funding. Additional information regarding exempt status may be found on the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) Human Research Protection Office website (<https://mrmc.amedd.army.mil/rodorphrpo.asp>) and the Human Subject Resource Document at <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program> Clinical trials are not permitted under this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity.

New for FY14

All projects should adhere to a core set of standards for rigorous study design and reporting to maximize the reproducibility and translational potential of preclinical research. The standards are described in Landis, S. C., et al. A call for transparent reporting to optimize the predictive value of preclinical research. *Nature* 2012, 490: 187-191 (www.nature.com/nature/journal/v490/n7419/full/nature11556.html). While these standards are written for preclinical studies, the basic principles of randomization, blinding, sample-size estimation, and data handling derive from well-established best practices in clinical studies. Projects that include research on animal models are required to submit Attachment 8, Animal Research Plan, as part of the application package to describe how these standards will be addressed. Applicants should consult the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting *In Vivo* Experiments) guidelines to ensure relevant aspects of rigorous animal research are adequately planned for and, ultimately, reported. The ARRIVE guidelines can be found at <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=1357>.

The types of awards made under this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity will be assistance agreements. Reference the General Application Instructions, Appendix 4, for additional information regarding award types.

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

- Investigators at all academic levels (or equivalent) are eligible to submit applications.
- 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 **2** years.
- The maximum allowable direct costs for the entire period of performance are **\$400,000** 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 applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum **2** years.
- Regardless of the period of performance proposed, the applicant may not exceed the maximum allowable direct costs. Indirect costs shall be proposed in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate agreement.

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:

Must be requested for:

- Travel costs for the PI to disseminate project results at one DoD military research-related meeting to be determined by the CDMRP during the award performance period. Cost associated with travel to this meeting should be included in year 2 of the budget. These costs are independent of travel costs between collaborating organizations.

May be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Salary
- Research supplies

- Equipment
- Clinical research costs (research must be exempt under 32 CFR 219.101[b])
- Travel between collaborating organizations
- Travel costs of up to \$1,800 per year to attend scientific/technical meetings in addition to the required meeting described above

The CDMRP expects to allot approximately \$1.28M of the \$7.5M FY14 appropriation to fund approximately 2 Therapeutic Idea 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 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](#)).

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-ALSRP-TIA.

B. Pre-Application Submission and Content Form

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

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

FY14 ALSRP 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.

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

The Preproposal Narrative should include the following:

- **Research Idea:** State the ideas and reasoning on which the proposed work is based.
- **Research Strategy:** Concisely state the project's objectives and specific aims.
- **Innovation:** Describe how the project may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, introduce novel concepts or agents, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities that may lead to potential therapeutics for ALS.
- **Impact:** State explicitly how the proposed work will have an impact on the development of therapeutics for ALS. Outline, in general terms, steps to transition the concept or potential agent to therapeutic application.

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

- References Cited (one-page limit): List the references cited (including URLs if available) in the Preproposal Narrative using a standard reference format that includes the full citation (i.e., author[s], year published, 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 used in the Preproposal Narrative.
- Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (four-page limit per individual).
- **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 ALSRP, pre-applications will be screened based on the following criteria:

- **Research Idea:** How the proposed research will advance the development of therapeutics for ALS.
- **Research Strategy:** How the specific aims are feasible and support the research idea.
- **Innovation:** How the project may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, introduce novel concepts or agents, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities that may lead to potential therapeutics for ALS.
- **Impact:** How the proposed work will have an impact on the development of therapeutics for ALS. Evidence of an outline for transition of study outcomes to therapeutic application.

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

Following the pre-application screening, PIs will be notified as to whether or not they are invited to submit applications; however, they will not receive feedback (e.g., a critique of strengths and weakness) 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 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).

Grants.gov application package components: For the Therapeutic Idea 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 (8-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. Throughout the project narrative, describe how the proposed research is innovative and the potential

impact it may have on the development of ALS therapeutics. ***Presentation of preliminary data is not consistent with the intent of the Therapeutic Idea Award mechanism. While the inclusion of preliminary data is not prohibited, the strength of the application should not rely on preliminary data.*** However, PIs must demonstrate logical reasoning and a sound scientific rationale established through a critical review and analysis of the literature for the application to be competitive.

- **Background:** Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work. Cite relevant literature.
- **Hypothesis or Objective:** State the hypothesis(es) to be tested or the objective(s) to be reached.
- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the project's specific aims and their relevance to the study objective(s).
- **Research Strategy:** Describe the experimental design, methods, and analyses including appropriate controls in sufficient detail for analysis. Describe the statistical plan, if appropriate, for the proposed research. Address potential problem areas and present alternative methods and approaches.
- **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.
 - **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.
- 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.
- 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 typically do not have access to the full application and therefore 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.

Use the outline below:

- Background: Present the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work.
- Objective/Hypothesis: State the objectives/hypothesis to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the objectives/hypothesis.
- Specific Aims: State the specific aims of the study.
- Study Design: Briefly describe the study design including appropriate controls.
- Impact: Summarize briefly how the proposed project will impact the development of therapeutics for ALS.
- Innovation: Summarize briefly the innovative aspects of the proposed project.

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

Do not duplicate the technical abstract. The lay abstract is used by all reviewers along with other components of the application package. Describe the scientific objective and rationale for the proposed project in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without scientific or medical backgrounds.

Describe the ultimate applicability of the research.

- What type of ALS 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 in advancing the development of therapeutics for ALS?
- **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 Therapeutic Idea Award mechanism, use the SOW format example titled “SOW (Statement of Work) Generic Format.” The SOW must be in PDF format prior to attaching.

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

Describe the ultimate vision for how the proposed work, if successful, will impact the development of therapeutics for ALS. Outline future steps for transition of study outcomes to therapeutic application.

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

Summarize how the proposed study is innovative. Investigating the next logical step or incremental advancement on published data is not considered innovative. The following examples of ways in which proposed studies may be innovative, *although not all-inclusive*, are intended to help PIs frame the innovative features of their applications:

- Study concept: Investigation of a novel idea and/or research question.
- Research method or technology: Use of novel research methods or new technologies, including technology development, to address a research question.
- Clinical interventions: Use of a novel method or technology for preventing, detecting, diagnosing, 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: Animal Research Plan (three-page limit):** Upload as “AnimalPlan.pdf.” When the proposed study involves animals, the applicant is required to submit a summary describing the animal research that will be conducted. Applicants should not submit a verbatim replica of the protocol(s) to be submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as the Animal Research Plan. The Animal Research Plan should address the following points for each proposed animal study:

- Briefly describe the research objective(s) of the animal study. Explain how and why the animal species, strain, and model(s) being used can address the scientific objectives and, where appropriate, the study's relevance to human biology.
 - Summarize the procedures to be conducted. Describe how the study will be controlled.
 - Describe the randomization and blinding procedures for the study, and any other measures to be taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias during animal treatment and assessment of results. If randomization and/or blinding will not be utilized, provide justification.
 - Provide a sample size estimate for each study arm and the method by which it was derived, including power analysis calculations.
 - Describe how data will be handled, including rules for stopping data collection, criteria for inclusion and exclusion of data, how outliers will be defined and handled, statistical methods for data analysis, and identification of the primary endpoint(s).
- 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.”
 - Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit): Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf.”
- 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.”
- 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.

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 the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), based on (a) technical merit and (b) the relevance to the mission of the DHP and ALSRP 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 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, innovation and impact are equally the most important, with the remaining criteria listed in decreasing order of importance:

- **Innovation**

- How well the research proposes new paradigms or challenges existing paradigms in one or more of the following ways: Concept or question, research methods or technologies, or adaptations of existing methods or technologies that will lead to new therapies for ALS;
- How well the application describes a new research idea and not the next logical step or continuation of a previous or ongoing research project;
- How the proposed research represents more than an incremental advance upon published data;
- How the proposed research introduces a novel concept or agent for treatment of ALS.

- **Impact**

- How the research, if successful, might make a significant contribution toward the development of therapeutics for ALS;
- Whether transition of study outcomes to therapeutic application is presented in the Impact/Transition Statement;
- How the potential gain warrants the perceived risk.

- **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 and/or by logical reasoning;
- How well the hypotheses or objectives, aims, experimental design, methods, and analyses are developed and integrated into the project;

- How well the PI acknowledges potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.

For studies involving animal research:

- How well the animal study (or studies) is designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.
- How well the study (or studies) is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization, and data handling.

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

- **Personnel**

- How the PI's, the research teams, and any collaborators' background and expertise are appropriate to accomplish the proposed work;
- How the levels of effort are appropriate for successful conduct of the proposed work.

- **Environment**

- How the scientific environment is appropriate for the proposed research;
- How the research requirements are supported by the availability of and accessibility to facilities and resources;
- How the quality and extent of organizational support are appropriate for the proposed research.

- **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, 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 ALSRP, as evidenced by the following:

- Program portfolio composition
- Relative innovation and impact
- Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
- Programmatic relevance

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 pre-application:

- Preproposal Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Preproposal Narrative is missing.

The following will result in administrative rejection of the application:

- Submission of an application for which a letter of invitation was not received.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
- Budget is missing.
- 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 Preproposal Narrative and 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 ALSRP 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 ALSRP IP members can be found at <http://cdmrp.army.mil/alsrp/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 Budget 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 application is or includes a clinical trial or expedited clinical research.

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

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

E. Award Transfers

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	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/Transition Statement: Upload as Attachment 6 with file name "Impact.pdf."	
	Innovation Statement: Upload as Attachment 7 with file name "Innovation.pdf."	
	Animal Research Plan: Upload as Attachment 8 with file name "AnimalPlan.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 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.	