

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

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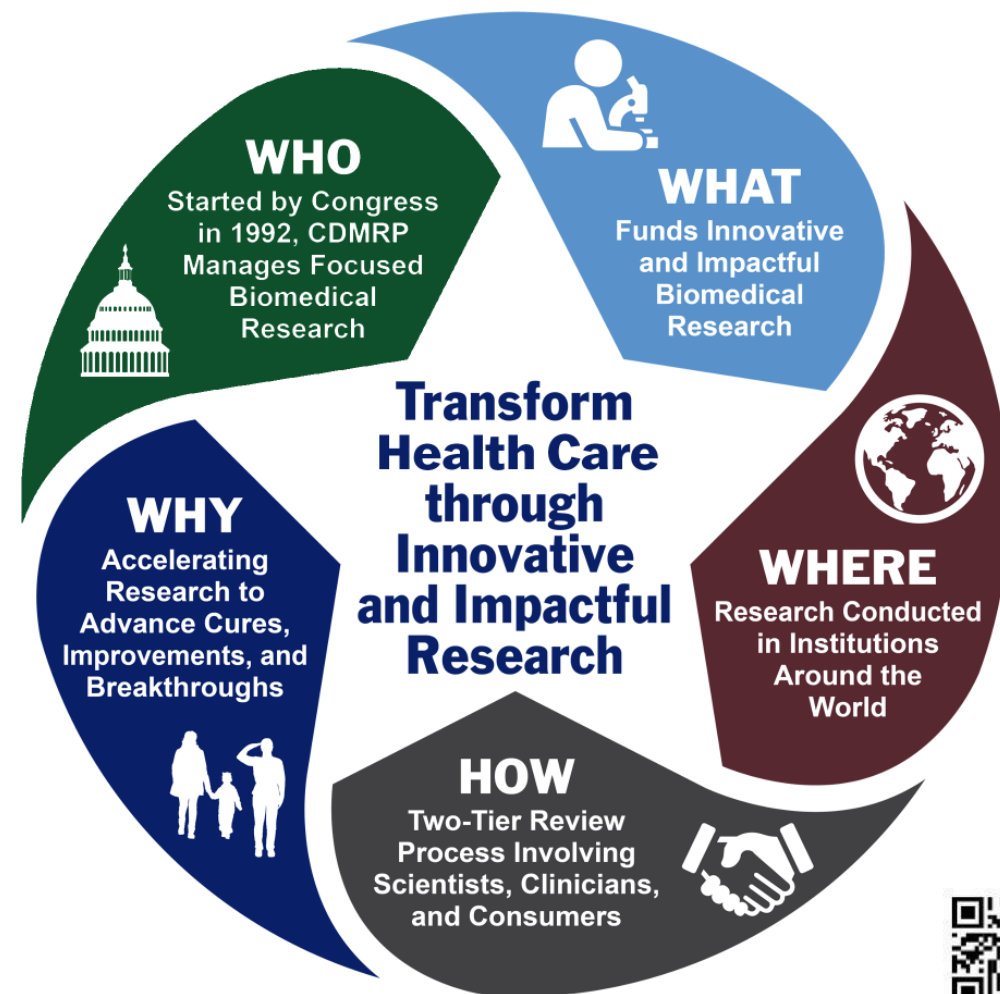


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Mission

Responsibly manage collaborative research that discovers, develops and delivers health care solutions for Service Members, their Families, Veterans and the American public



<https://cdmrp.health.mil>

IMPACT



- » Funds impactful, innovative research for specific programs added by Congress to the Defense Appropriations Bill
- » Targets research to fill gaps and address high-priority needs
- » Focuses on improving health, well-being, and health care quality for those affected

STRATEGY



- » Annually adapts each program's vision and investment strategy, allowing rapid response to changing needs, opportunities, and congressional intent
- » Publicly announces and competes funding opportunities
- » Ensures scientific excellence and programmatic relevance through the National Academy of Medicine-recommended two-tier review process

COLLABORATION



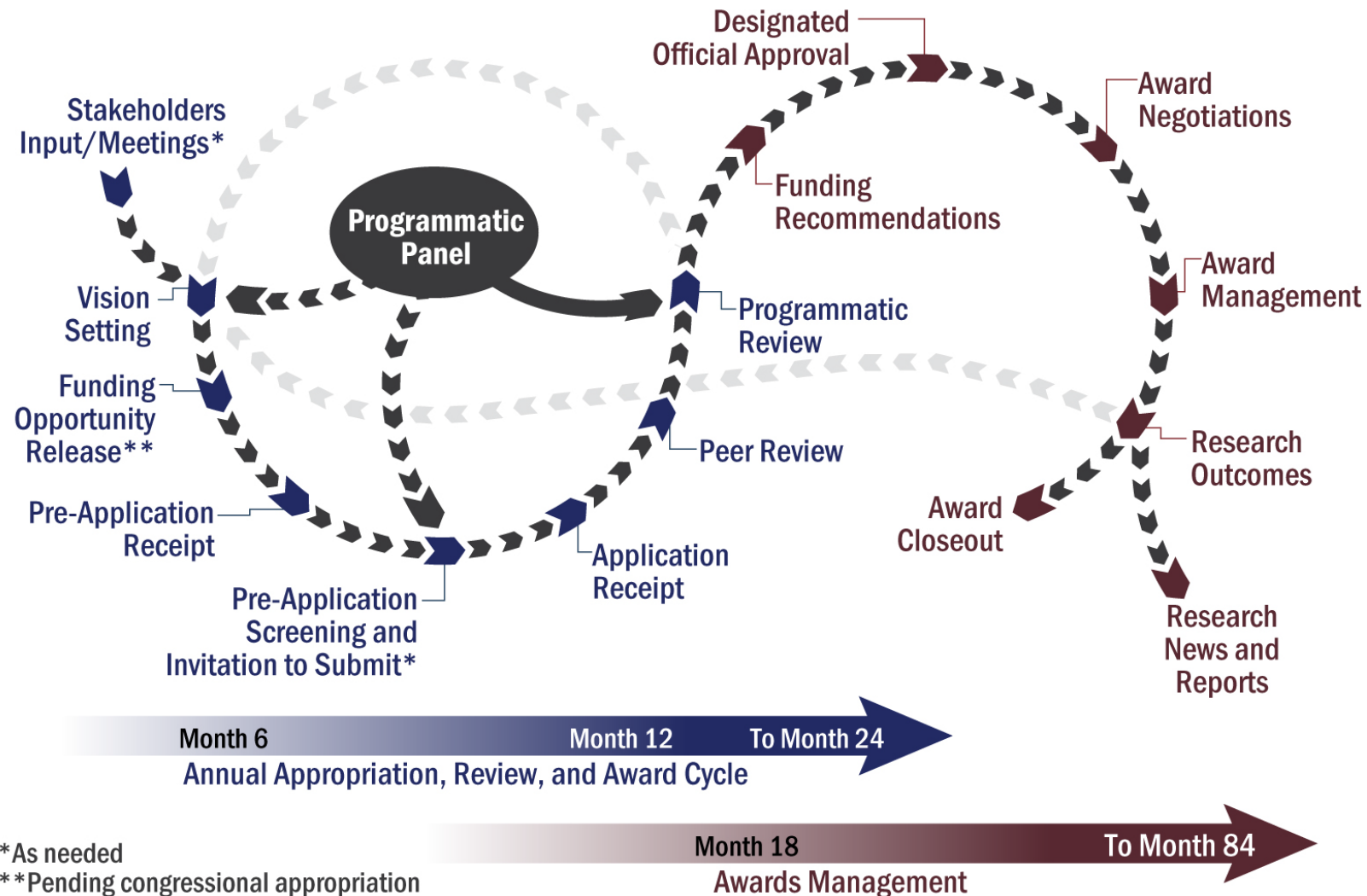
- » Integrates consumers as full participants throughout program processes and as the “True North” of the CDMRP
- » Collaborates with other funding organizations – complementary, not duplicative

STEWARDSHIP



- » Obligates funds up front; limited out-year budget commitments
- » Maximizes funding available for research through low management costs and efficient processes
- » Maintains transparency and accountability

Program Cycle



To develop funding recommendations that balance *the most meritorious science* and offer the highest promise to *fulfill the programmatic goals* set forth in the funding opportunity

Peer Review

- » Criterion-based evaluation of full proposal
- » Determination of “absolute” scientific merit
- » **Outcome: Summary Statements**
 - » No standing panels; programs recruit reviewers based on expertise needed
 - » No contact between applicants, reviewers, and program staff

Partnership



Programmatic Review

- » Comparison among proposals of high scientific merit
- » Determination of adherence to intent, program relevance, and potential for impact
- » **Outcome: Funding Recommendations**
 - » No “pay line”; consider portfolio balance
 - » Funds obligated up front; limited out-year budget commitments, but milestones imposed
 - » No continuation funding



Additional information available at: <https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess>

CDMRP FY 2026 Appropriations

Research Program	FY 2026 \$M	Research Program	FY 2026 \$M
Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	\$4.0	Neurofibromatosis	\$25.0
Alzheimer's	\$15.0	Orthopaedic	\$20.0
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	\$40.0	Ovarian Cancer	\$50.0
Arthritis	\$10.0	Pancreatic Cancer	\$20.0
Autism	\$8.0	Parkinson's	\$16.0
Bone Marrow Failure	\$7.5	Peer Reviewed Cancer, 20 topics	\$165.0
Breast Cancer	\$145.0	Peer Reviewed Medical, 52 topics	\$370.0
Combat Readiness Medical	\$5.0	Prostate Cancer	\$75.0
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$12.5	Rare Cancers	\$17.5
Epilepsy	\$12.0	Reconstructive Transplant	\$12.0
Hearing Restoration	\$5.0	Spinal Cord Injury	\$33.0
Joint Warfighter Medical	\$10.0	Tick-Borne Disease	\$7.0
Kidney Cancer	\$15.0	Toxic Exposures	\$15.0
Lung Cancer	\$20.0	Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health	\$40.5
Lupus	\$10.0	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex	\$10.0
Melanoma	\$40.0	Vision	\$10.0
Military Burn	\$10.0		
Multiple Sclerosis	\$15.0		
		TOTAL	\$1.27B

History

- » In fiscal year 2009, the U.S. Congress initiated the PRCRP with an appropriation of \$16 million.
- » Congressional language directs the program to address research into specific cancers and other research areas, known as topic areas.
- » From FY 2009 to FY 2025, Congress directed 34 different topic areas under the PRCRP.

Vision

Eliminate the burden of cancer

Mission

To successfully promote high-impact cancer research for prevention, detection, treatment, quality of life, and survivorship for Service Members, their Families, Veterans, and the American public



<https://cdmrp.health.mil/PRCRP>

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

20 Topic Areas in FY 2026

- » Bladder Cancer
- » Blood Cancers
- » Brain Cancer
- » Colorectal Cancer
- » Endometrial Cancer
- » Esophageal Cancer
- » Germ Cell Cancers
- » Glioblastoma
- » Liver Cancer
- » Lymphoma
- » Mesothelioma
- » Metastatic Cancer
- » Myeloma
- » Neuroblastoma
- » Neuroendocrine Tumors
- » Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers
- » Pediatric Brain Tumors
- » Sarcoma
- » Stomach Cancer
- » Thyroid Cancer

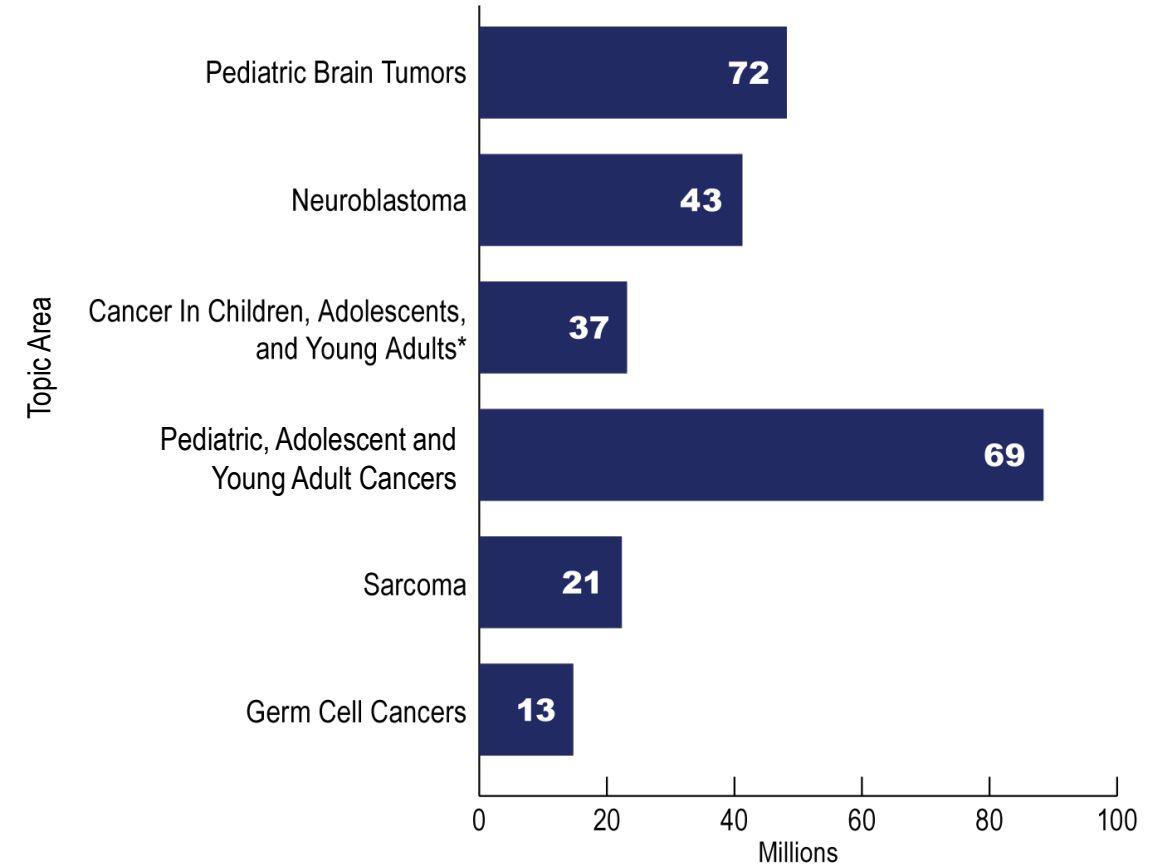
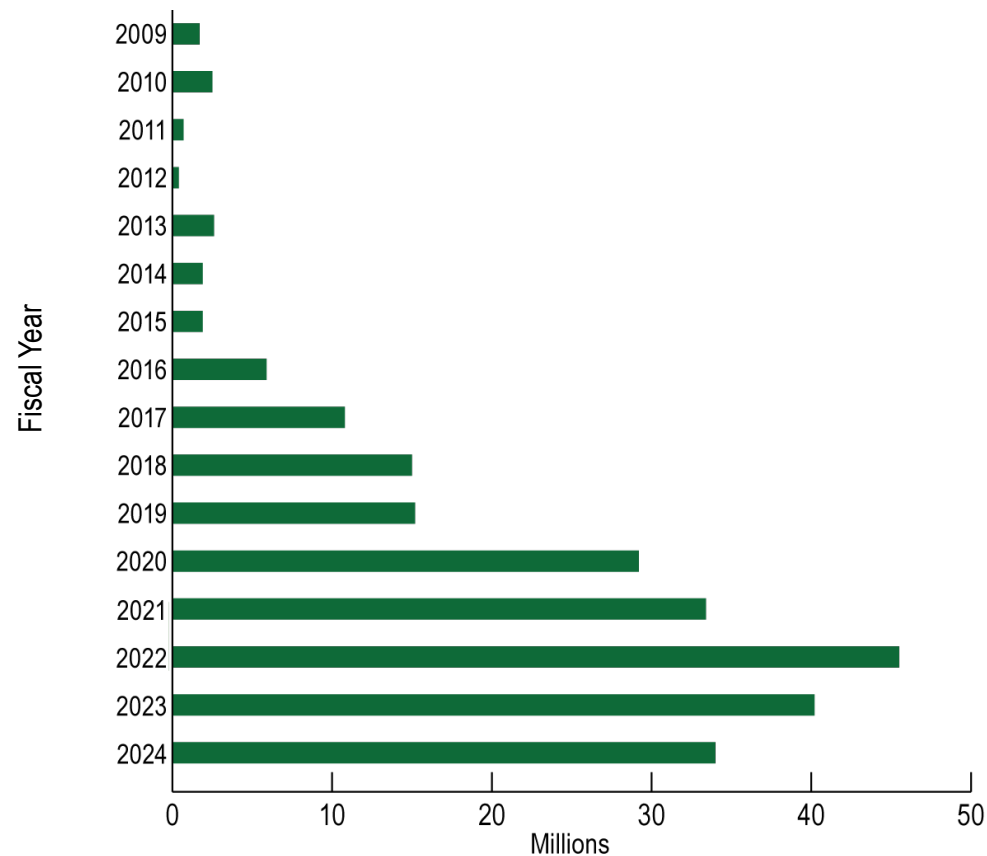
Applicants must address at least one topic area, as directed by Congress.

Research must address relevance to military health for Service Members, their Families, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries.



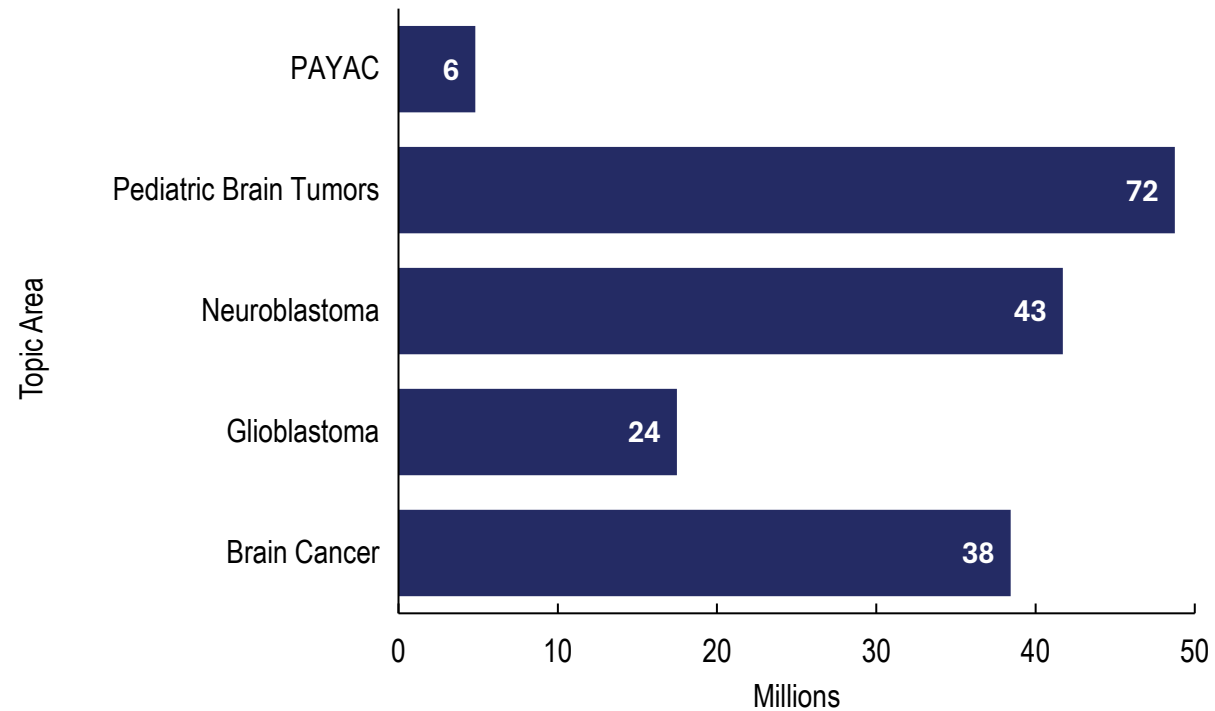
Research may not address cancers originating in the breast, prostate, kidney, ovary, lung, or pancreas, or melanoma and rare cancers, except topic areas considered rare by definition.

Investment by Fiscal Year and PAYAC-Related Topic Areas, FY09-FY24

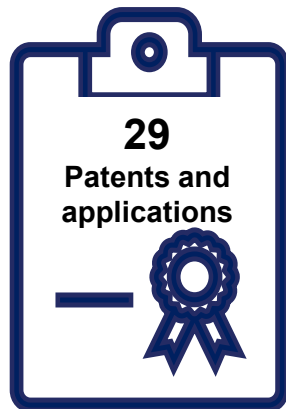


* First directed as a topic area in FY 2017 with a \$60M appropriation to the PRCRP. By FY 2020, the topic area name changed to PAYAC and program funding increased to \$110M

Investments in Brain Cancer-Related Topic Areas, FY 2009-FY 2024



Brain Cancer-Specific Outcomes



2
Clinical Trials
Open

Products Targeting Other Cancers

- » **PMB-CT01**
Chimeric antigen receptor, CAR, T-cell therapy targeting B-cell activating factor receptor for treatment of B-cell lymphomas
- » **Denosumab**
Monoclonal antibody treatment for advanced melanoma patients, especially those with metastatic disease
- » **Selinexor**
Nuclear export inhibitor for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- » **NVN1000**
Topical nitric oxide therapy to treat cervical neoplasias and prevent human papillomavirus-associated cancers
- » **iSORT**
Facilitates rapid data analysis and interpretation of a variety of tissue sample types and provides information about tissue composition
- » **Mesothelin-targeted CAR T-cell therapy**
CAR T-cell therapy for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma

RNA-Nanoparticles Targeting H3.3 K27M Epitopes in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma

Elias Sayour, M.D., Ph.D., University of Florida

Goal: Develop and test an RNA-nanoparticle vaccine to attack tumor cells in preclinical models of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma

Result: An RNA-lipid particle vaccine advanced to a first-in-human phase 1 clinical trial of children and adults newly diagnosed with brain cancer*

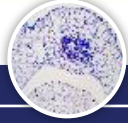
Impact: With additional clinical testing, the vaccine may offer long-standing, personalized immunity for patients with inoperable brain tumors

*[NCT04573140](#), funded by other sources



Blood Cancers

- Blood Cancers
- Lymphoma
- Myeloma



Gastroenterological Cancers

- Colorectal Cancer
- Esophageal Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Stomach Cancer



Neurological Cancers

- **Brain Cancer**
- **Glioblastoma**
- **Pediatric Brain Tumors**



Pediatric, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers, PAYAC

- **PAYAC**
- Germ Cell Cancers*
- Neuroblastoma
- Sarcoma*
- Thyroid Cancer*



Solid Tumors

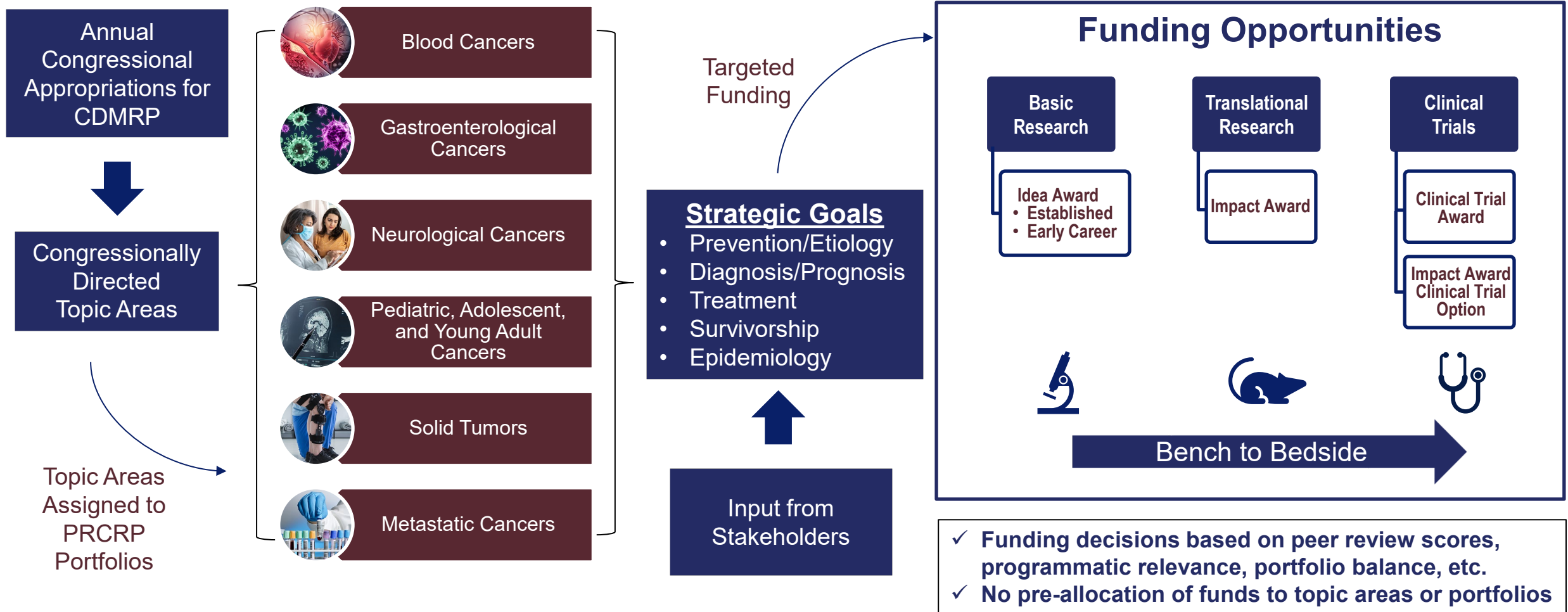
- Bladder Cancer
- Endometrial Cancer
- Germ Cell Cancers*
- Mesothelioma
- Neuroendocrine Tumors
- Sarcoma*
- Thyroid Cancer*



Metastatic Cancers

- Metastatic Cancers, limited to PRCRP topic area cancers

**Topic occurs in more than one portfolio*



For each portfolio of topic areas, the PRCRP identifies **strategic goals** aligned to **research categories**.
All applications must address one topic area and one strategic goal.

Research Category	PAYAC Strategic Goals
Prevention and Etiology	» Molecular basis of cancer pre-disposition syndromes » Genetic versus environmental differences » Epigenetic influences on cancer development and progression » Biological and environmental risk factors » Microbiome composition
Diagnosis and Prognosis	» Early detection » Biomarkers » Preclinical models
Treatment	» Less toxic therapies » Develop treatments for relapse/recurrence, metastatic and advanced disease » Increase clinical trials
Survivorship	» Minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities » Improve quality of life for survivors and/or caregivers » Improve survivorship guidelines
Epidemiology	» Design population-based studies

For each portfolio of topic areas, the PRCRP identifies **strategic goals** aligned to **research categories**. All applications must address one topic area and one strategic goal.

Research Category	Neurological Cancers Strategic Goals
Prevention and Etiology	» Identify biological and environmental exposures
Diagnosis and Prognosis	» Early detection methods » Effective monitoring for recurrence » Less invasive diagnostic procedures
Treatment	» New, less toxic therapies » Overcome treatment resistance » Personalized oncological care
Survivorship	» Minimize and mitigate treatment toxicities » Improve quality of life » Develop effective screening, monitoring, and provision of psychosocial support/care
Epidemiology	» Analyze and assess the incidence/prevalence of brain tumors
Technology Development	» Artificial intelligence and machine learning, human microbiota, genomics, nanoparticles and robotics

The PRCRP *requires* applications address **military health focus areas** described in each funding opportunity.

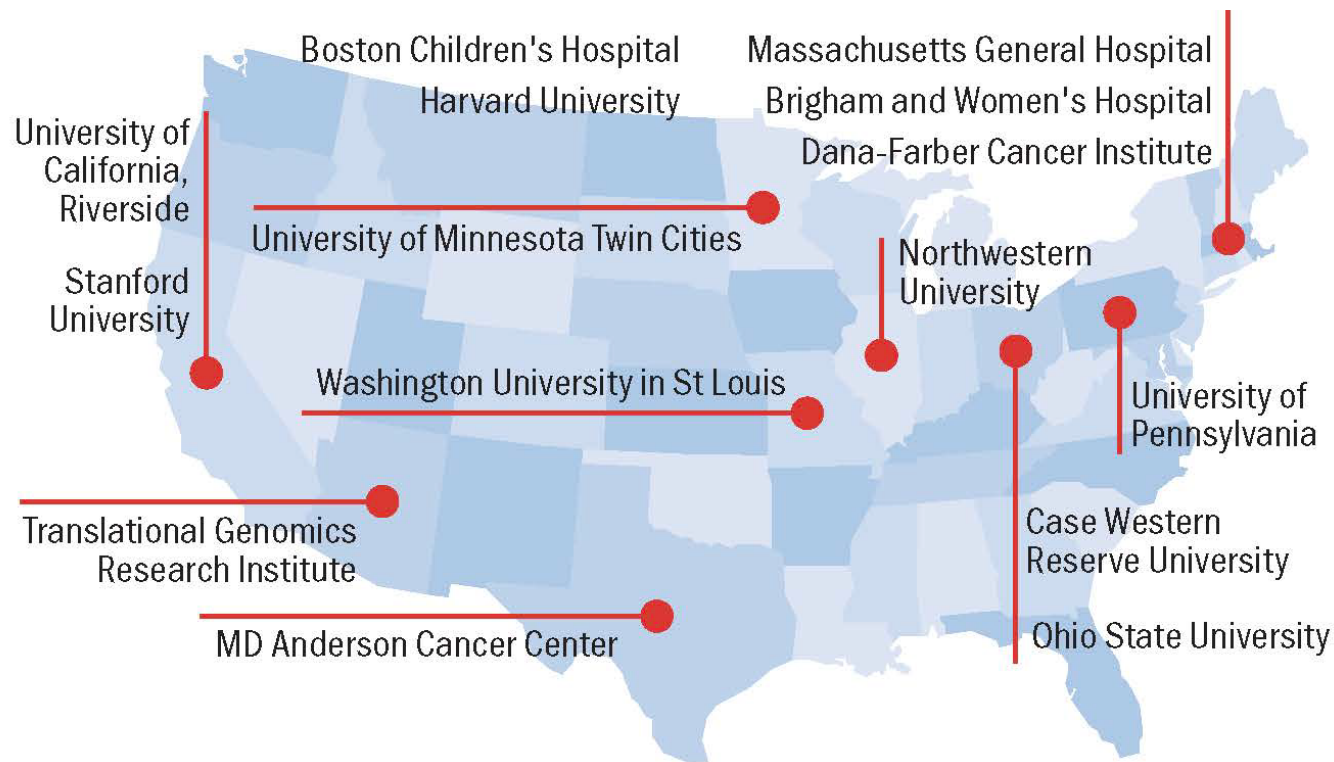
- » Environmental exposure risk factors associated with cancer, e.g., ionizing radiation, chemicals, infectious agents, and environmental carcinogens
- » Gaps in cancer research that may affect mission readiness
 - » Cancer prevention, early detection/diagnosis, prognosis, and/or treatment
 - » Quality of life and/or survivorship

<i>Relevance to Military Health</i>	
 Cancer Risk Factors	 Mission Readiness
Traumatic brain injury increases hazard ratio for development of brain cancer	Cancer diagnoses in Service Members and their Families lead to force vulnerabilities
Environmental exposures , such as carcinogenic contaminants in water, may lead to different cancers	Gaps in our knowledge of cancer care cause gaps in mission readiness
Exposures to ionizing radiation lead to uterine, thyroid, blood and other cancers	Cancer affects the whole unit's readiness , not just a single Service Member
Infectious diseases , such as <i>H. pylori</i> , increase stomach cancer risk	Military Health Systems carry the burden of health care costs due to cancer diagnoses and treatment



CONVERGENT SCIENCE VIRTUAL CANCER CENTER

- » Focuses research on improving cancer and patient outcomes
- » Expands research capacity by engaging early-career investigators across the U.S.
- » Incorporates military health experts on the leadership team



Award mechanisms support the full continuum of research

Idea Award

- » Innovative basic research
- » Established Investigator Option
 - » Independent investigators
- » Early-Career Investigator Option
 - » Within 7 years of last training position
 - » Below level of associate professor, or equivalent
- » \$600,000 for 2 years*

Impact Award

- » High impact, hypothesis-driven research, including clinical trials
- » Independent investigators at all career levels
- » Cost limits differ for single PI and partnering PI options
 - » \$1.5M for single PI or \$2M for partnering PI for 3 years*

Clinical Trial Award

- » Phase 0-3 clinical trials
- » Independent investigators at all career levels
- » \$4.5M for 4 years*

*Funding supports total costs, which include direct and indirect costs

Applications must meet the funding requirements

Applications *must* address

- » At least one FY 2026 PRCRP Topic Area
- » At least one FY 2026 PRCRP Military Health Focus Area
- » At least one strategic goal

Preannouncement

<https://cdmrp.health.mil/pubs/press/2026/prcrppreann>

The CDMRP will post FY26 PRCRP funding opportunity announcements on the Grants.gov website. Once released, the funding opportunity announcements will include pre-application and application deadlines.

Understanding the *goals of the program, intent of the award mechanism, and review criteria* is critical for a successful application.



- » The funding opportunity announcement contains information on:
 - » Program goals
 - » Focus areas/topics
 - » Award intent
 - » Required elements, eligibility, and funding
 - » Review criteria
 - » Deadlines

Single most important tip:
Read the announcement carefully

✓ Relevance

- » Address program-specific goals
- » **Align** the proposed work with specific guidance from the announcement

✓ Impact

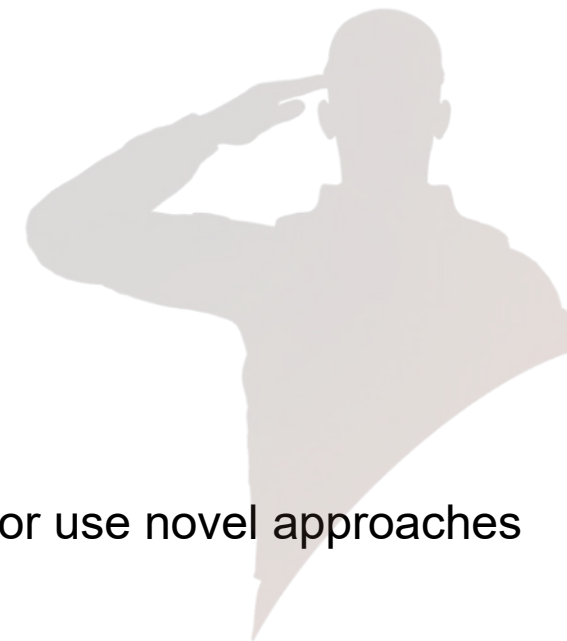
- » Propose **solutions** to important problems or gaps
- » Clearly articulate translatability – how will this work **make a difference**?

✓ Innovation

- » Provide clear rationale if proposing to test new, potentially high-risk ideas or use novel approaches

✓ Feasibility

- » Justify a technically sound plan with clear approaches for contingencies
- » Include evidence of appropriate **expertise**, such as collaboration, consultants, etc.
- » Ensure to **appropriately power** the study for the proposed research outcome
- » Demonstrate **availability** and **access** to critical resources, reagents, and/or subject populations



✓ Planning/Timelines

- » Include and allow adequate time in project plan for **regulatory approvals** if required
- » For multi-organizational efforts, show a clear plan for **coordination** and communication
- » For DOW collaborations, understand rules and plan for differences in funding process

✓ Grantsmanship

- » Explain the proposed work with **clarity, unburdened** by jargon
- » Understand the different audiences of the peer and programmatic reviews and **communicate** the potential impact effectively
- » Review application documents carefully before submission – enlist experienced colleagues to help
- » Don't break the rules for deadlines or requirements – **be compliant**



- » Pre-announcements and funding opportunity release notifications
 - » CDMRP website and email blasts
- » Funding opportunity postings
 - » CDMRP website, cdmrp.health.mil
 - » Grants.gov, CFDA 12.420
 - » electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal system, eBRAP.org
- » Quickly find open CDMRP funding opportunities on the CDMRP website here:



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Fiscal Year 2026 CDMRP Research Funding

FY26 Funded Research Programs
★ Currently Has Open Funding Opportunities

Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	Hearing Restoration	Peer Reviewed Medical
Alzheimer's	Joint Warfighter Medical	Prostate Cancer
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Kidney Cancer	Rare Cancers
Arthritis	Lung Cancer	Reconstructive Transplant
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Breast Cancer	Military Burn	Toxic Exposures
Combat-Readiness Medical	Multiple Sclerosis	Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health
Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy	Neurofibromatosis	Orthopaedic
Epilepsy	Ovarian Cancer	Tuberculous Sclerosis
	Pancreatic Cancer	Vision
	Parkinson's	
	Peer Reviewed Cancer	

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Find the links on the CDMRP website, eBRAP, or here:

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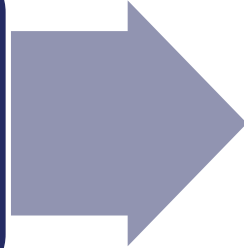
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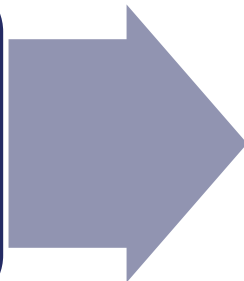


Journey of an Application Videos

Learn more about different funding opportunities, where CDMRP posts opportunities, and how to start the application process once you've found the opportunity most appropriate for your research.



Follow the journey of your application through the two-tier application review process and see how programs make funding recommendations.



The background is a collage of three grayscale images. The top left shows a military helicopter with a person being hoisted by a rope. The bottom left shows two soldiers in full combat gear carrying a patient on a stretcher. The right side of the image shows a close-up of a medical professional wearing a surgical cap, mask, and face shield, focused on a task.

QUESTIONS?

For more information, please visit:



cdmrp.health.mil