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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# **INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS**

**High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards  
RFA R-26.2-HIHR**

**FY 2026**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026

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## **VERSION HISTORY**

8/5/25

Instructions for Applicants (IFA) document posted

## 1. ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a Texas-based entity.
- Any not-for-profit institution or organization that conducts research is eligible to apply for funding under this award mechanism.
- A public or private company is also eligible for funding under this award mechanism.
- At the time of application submission, the Principal Investigator (PI) must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and reside in Texas throughout the entire award period.
- The PI must hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, or professor at an accredited academic institution, research institution, industry, government agency, or private foundation.
- The PI must have appropriate designated laboratory or clinical spaces or other facilities in which to conduct the proposed studies.
- A PI may submit only 1 new or resubmission application under this Request for Applications (RFA) for this funding cycle.
- The PI must commit a minimum of 5% effort throughout the entire award period.
- Multi-Principal Investigators (MIs) are not permitted.
- One Coinvestigator may be included. The Coinvestigator must reside in Texas during the time that the research is conducted.
- An individual may serve as a Coinvestigator on more than 1 application but should ensure that they can dedicate adequate time and effort should more than 1 application be funded.
- Collaborations are permitted and encouraged, and collaborators may or may not reside in Texas. However, **collaborators who do not reside in Texas are not eligible to receive Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) funds.** Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles. Subcontracting and collaborating organizations may include public, not-for-profit, and for-profit entities. Such entities may be located outside of the State of Texas, **but non-Texas-based organizations are not eligible to receive CPRIT funds.**

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://cpritgrants.org>) provides a means for the research community (ie, PIs and Application/Authorized Signing Officials [ASOs]) to respond to CPRIT funding opportunities electronically over the Internet through a secure connection. This document provides instructions and guidance to applicants to submit an application in response to CPRIT's RFA for High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards (RFA R-26.2-HIHR). Applications may be submitted from September 9, 2025, through December 2, 2025.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: CPRIT is imposing an institutional limit of 5 HIHR Research Award applications from an academic research institution and 1 each from public or private companies during this funding cycle.**

## 3. SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS

- **Technical Support:** Applicants are strongly advised to carefully read this document in its entirety before starting an application. The Helpdesk ([section 21.1](#)) is available to answer technical questions and guide applicants with application submission. This *Instructions* document will be updated as necessary. Revisions will be listed in the *Version History*.
- **Document Format for Uploaded Files:** Use Portable Document Format (PDF) only.
  - Do NOT password protect documents.
  - Do NOT submit documents that are bound together in a single PDF package.
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point).
- **Page Format:** Single spacing, 0.75-inch margins in all directions.
- **Templates:** Templates are provided under [Current Funding Opportunities](#) in CARS. Applicants are encouraged to use the templates provided. For a list of required templates please refer to [section 18](#). NIH biosketches may be used.
- **Submission Process:**
  - The applicant completes/finalizes all sections and forwards it to the organization's ASO for review and final submission to CPRIT. The ASO is an individual authorized to submit an application for the organization.

- The application must be submitted **by the ASO** by **December 2, 2025, 4 PM central time**.
- **NOTE:** CARS will be unavailable the third Thursday of each month between 7 PM and 9 PM central time for routine system maintenance.
- **Tab Finalization and Reset:**
  - Application information saved “as draft” can be edited later.
  - Once application information is “finalized for ASO approval,” it can be edited only after an ASO has reset the section to draft mode at the request of the Contact PI.
- **Adding an ORCID iD to Applicant Profile (optional step):**
  - All applicants who are currently registered with ORCID are encouraged to associate their iDs with CARS as described below in [section 7](#). Applicants who are not registered with ORCID can do so using the link provided above or within CARS as described in [section 7](#).
- **Application Submission Deadline**
  - The application must be submitted on or before **December 2, 2025, 4 PM central time**.

#### **4. APPLICATION PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS**

- The applicant completes/finalizes a series of numbered tabs of the application.
- Finalized tabs can be reset by the ASO.
- Once all tabs are finalized, the ASO reviews, approves, and submits the application to CPRIT.

#### **5. APPLICATION/AUTHORIZED SIGNING OFFICIAL (ASO)**

The ASO is an individual authorized to submit an application on behalf of an organization. An ASO is required on the application and must be identified by the Contact PI. As the organization’s representative, the ASO is required to review the tabs finalized by the Contact PI and subsequently submit the application. Only the ASO is authorized to officially submit the application to CPRIT. The ASO can reset Contact PI-finalized tabs to draft at the request of the Contact PI.

## 6. GRANTS CONTRACT/OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS OFFICIAL

The Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official is the individual who will manage the grant if an award is made. This individual must be identified for the application. The Contact PI or the ASO can assign this individual to this role.

## 7. USER REGISTRATION AND/OR LOGIN

Applicants begin the application process by registering or logging into CARS (<https://cpritgrants.org>). On successful login into the system, applicants will be presented with the *My Applications* page. All prior submitted applications by that user are listed on this page. After initial registration or after login, all users are encouraged to complete/verify the information under the *My Profile* link on the top left of this screen.

The screenshot displays the 'My Profile: Account Info' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links like 'My Profile', 'My Applications', 'Bridge', 'My Grants', 'Manage Organizations', 'Current Funding Opportunities', 'Feedback', 'Review Grants', 'HelpDesk', and 'Administrative'. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with 'Account Information', 'Contact Information', 'Descriptive Information', and 'Biosketch'. The main content area is titled 'My Profile: Account Info' and contains a form for account information. The form includes fields for 'Role' (with a dropdown menu), 'Salutation' (with a dropdown menu), 'First Name' (text input), 'Middle Initial' (text input), 'Last Name' (text input), 'Suffix' (with a dropdown menu), 'Login/Username' (text input), and 'Password' (text input). There are also links for 'Update Password' and 'Update Security Questions'. A red asterisk indicates required fields. A button labeled 'Register or Connect your ORCID ID' is highlighted with a red arrow. The page also includes a 'Save Changes' button at the bottom.

As directed by the modal window, during the initial login, on the “My Profile” page, the user is displayed a description of the authentication process and is invited through an ORCID-branded link to correlate his/her CARS and ORCID profiles. Note that the system will also provide identical functionality within the “Contacts” tab of all new applications.

Upon clicking on the ORCID-branded link, the system will open a new tab on the user’s browser that will direct the user to enter his/her ORCID username and password. Users without an ORCID account can initiate one from this window.

Upon a successful login to the ORCID system, the user will be directed to a modal window that explicitly requests permission from the user to share his/her public ORCID profile with CARS.

If permission to correlate the 2 accounts has been provided by the authenticated user, the system then returns the user to the page from which the authentication started (ie, either the “My Profile” page or the “Contacts” tab of a new application). The system will then display a brief message confirming the authentication and replacing the ORCID-branded link with a new button that directs the user to his/her specific ORCID profile page.

## 8. STARTING A NEW APPLICATION

New applications can be started in 1 of 2 ways:

1. My Applications (this is the default page after login) → click *Start New Application* → *FY 2026 Academic Research Programs* → select *High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards* → click *New Application*, or
2. Current Funding Opportunities → click *FY 2026 Academic Research Programs* → select *High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards* → click *Start New Application*.

Upon starting a new application, applicants are required to enter the title of the application (160-character limit, including spaces; can be edited later) and select the submitter role. Do NOT use symbols or special characters (eg, Greek letters)—these will not be transmitted correctly.

Applicants are also required to select the category of research to be supported. If the research is directed toward childhood and adolescent cancer, select “Yes” and enter a brief explanation (250 characters; this can be edited later).

Once this step is completed, applicants will be directed to the summary page.

Applicants are advised to carefully read the information on the summary page before moving on to the numbered tabs.

- Tab 1 (*Contacts*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 3 (*Project Personnel & Collaborators*).
- Tab 2 (*Application Information*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 5 (*Budget*).

All tabs must be completed/finalized by the Contact PI before the ASO can review, approve, and successfully submit the application.



## 9. STARTING A RESUBMISSION APPLICATION

Resubmission applications can be started from the *My Applications* page by clicking the *Start Resubmission Application* link of a previously not funded application.

Upon starting a resubmission application, applicants may revise the title of the application (prepopulated from the previous submission; 160-character limit) and select the submitter role. Do NOT use symbols or special characters—these will not be transmitted correctly.

Applicants are also required to select the category of research to be supported. If the research is directed toward childhood and adolescent cancer, select “Yes” and enter a brief explanation (250 characters; this can be edited later).

Once this step is completed, applicants will be directed to the summary page.

**IMPORTANT: More than 1 resubmission is not permitted.** An application is considered a resubmission if the proposed project is the same project presented in the original submission. A change in the identity of the PI for a project, a change in the project title that was previously submitted to CPRIT, or omission or modification of an aim do not constitute a new application; the application would be considered a resubmission. **Applications resubmitted more than once will be administratively withdrawn.**

**NOTE:** Only the title of the previously submitted application is prepopulated for a resubmission application. All other information, including any Coinvestigators, collaborators, and all required documents must be submitted afresh. If a summary statement was prepared for the previous application, it will be automatically uploaded as part of the resubmission application (see [section 15](#): Tab 4, *Required Documents*). If a summary statement was not prepared, no document will be uploaded.

Applicants are advised to carefully read the information on the summary page before moving on to the numbered tabs.

- Tab 1 (*Contacts*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 3 (*Project Personnel & Collaborators*).
- Tab 2 (*Application Information*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 5 (*Budget*).

All tabs must be completed/finalized by the Contact PI before the ASO can review, approve, and successfully submit the application.

## 10. STATUS DISPLAY

### 10.1. Tab Status

The status of each tab is displayed under the row of numbered tabs. The figure below is an example of the status of Tab 1.



Status	Status Definition
DRAFT	The tab is being prepared by the applicant.
PENDING ASO APPROVAL	The tab has been finalized by the applicant. When all tabs are finalized and reflect this status, the ASO will receive email notification stating that the application can be reviewed/submitted. The applicant is included on this notification.
ASO APPROVED AND SUBMITTED	The ASO has reviewed, approved, and submitted the application to CPRIT. Once the application has been submitted by the ASO, the Contact PI is notified via email.

### 10.2. Application Status

The status displayed under the row of numbered tabs on the *Summary* tab indicates the status of the application (as indicated in the figure below).

## 11. TAB: SUMMARY

The status of each tab is also displayed on this page. Status definitions are described below.

**My Applications: Summary**

Summary
**1** Contacts
**2** Application Information
**3** Personnel & Collaborators
**4** Required Documents
**5** Budget
**6** Final Review & Submit

Summary
Application ID: XXXXXXXX
Phase: Full Application
Status: **DRAFT**

Application Title: screen shot  
 Program: FY 2014 Research Programs  
 Award Type: Individual Investigator Research Awards

Please be sure to verify format requirements. Applications that do not meet format requirements and/or reviewers' determination of readability may result in rejection of your application. Please check the format requirements found in the [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#).

Full Application Deadline: February 3, 2014 by 3:00 PM CT ([check current official time](#))

This application is in progress and is not ready for ASO approval. Each section outlined below must be completed, finalized, and approved by the ASO at your institution prior to the submission deadline. When all sections have been completed and set to "PENDING ASO APPROVAL", the Application Signing Official will need to approve the application submission in order for it to be forwarded for review. The table below shows the status of each section in the submission process as of December 20, 2013 5:12 PM CT.

Section #	Application Section	Status
1	<a href="#">Contacts</a>	<b>draft</b>
2	<a href="#">Application Information</a>	draft
3	<a href="#">Project Personnel and Collaborators</a>	draft
4	<a href="#">Required Documents</a>	draft
5	<a href="#">Budget</a>	draft
6	Final Review and Submit	NOT APPROVED

Section	Status	Status Definition
1-5	Draft	The tab is being prepared by the applicant.
1-5	Pending ASO Approval	The tab has been finalized by the applicant. When all tabs are finalized and reflect this status, the ASO will receive email notification stating that the application can be reviewed/submitted. The applicant is included on this notification. Only the ASO can revert a tab with this status back to draft.
6	Not Approved	The application has not been approved/submitted by the ASO.
6	Pending	All tabs have been finalized by the applicant and reflect the status "PENDING ASO APPROVAL." At this point, the application is awaiting ASO approval and subsequent submission.
All Tabs	ASO Approved and Submitted	The ASO has reviewed, approved, and submitted the application to CPRIT. Once the application has been submitted by the ASO, the PI is notified via email.

**NOTE:** As stated in the preceding section, the status displayed under the row of numbered tabs on this page indicates the status of the entire application.

## 12. TAB 1: CONTACTS

- **Contact Principal Investigator:** Verify information for the Contact PI; update as necessary.
- **Alternate Submitter (Optional):** An alternate submitter may be designated on the application by the Contact PI.
  - Click the *Search for Alternate Submitter* button.
  - Enter information and click the *Search Contacts* button.
  - If the individual is listed on the subsequent search results page, that individual may be added to the application via the *Add Contact* link.
  - If the individual is not listed, different search criteria may be used (eg, using the last name only, spelling variations). Alternatively, the individual may be invited to register in CARS and be part of the application by clicking the *Send Invitation* link. On the subsequent page, complete the fields, and click the *Send Invitation* button.
  - Change or remove an individual by clicking the appropriate button.
- **Application Signing Official (Required):** An ASO must be listed to complete/finalize this tab. Click the *Search for Application Signing Official* button. Follow the search guidelines above.
- **Alternate Application Signing Official (Optional):** This individual can be assigned only by the ASO. Follow the search guidelines above.
- **Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official (Required):** A Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official must be listed to complete/finalize this tab. This individual can be assigned by the Contact PI or the ASO. Follow the search guidelines above.

When all information is entered, click the *Finalize Contacts Section* button. Note that this tab cannot be finalized until the 3 required fields of this section, namely, “Contact Principal Investigator,” “Application Signing Official,” and “Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official” have been completed. Contact PI information is entered automatically; an ASO must be identified and added by the Contact PI. The Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official may be identified and added by the Contact PI or the ASO.

### 13. TAB 2: APPLICATION INFORMATION

- **Application Identification:**
  - **Award Mechanism:** Verify the listed award mechanism. Note that the award mechanism cannot be changed here.
  - **Application Type:** Verify application type (drop list defaults to New Application or Resubmission, as applicable).
  - **Application Title:** The application title is stated. Edit if necessary.
  - **Category of research/project to be supported:** Applications that support research/projects directed toward childhood and adolescent cancer must select “Yes.” If “Yes” is selected, description text is displayed. Edit as necessary.
  - **Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer (TREC) Eligibility:** Select the appropriate option based on your institution’s eligibility as a TREC institution (see [appendix 3](#)).
- **Project Information:**
  - **Contract Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy):** The contract start date of 6/1/2026 is prepopulated.
  - **Proposed End Date (mm/dd/yyyy):** Enter the proposed end date of the project. The maximum duration is 2 years (24 months) for HIHR Award applications.
- **Application Classification:**
  - **Research Area:** Select the research area that best describes the proposed work. Please refer to [appendix 1](#) for a detailed description of each research area.
  - **Program Focus:** Select the focus of the proposed work. Please refer to [appendix 2](#) for definition of cancer research types.
  - **Cancer Focus:** Select the most relevant cancer focus addressed, up to a maximum of 3. If the focus of the project is not on a specific cancer site(s), select All Cancers. The selection of cancer focus in this section assists CPRIT with reporting on cancer research that is being performed.
- **Vertebrate Animals:** Indicate whether vertebrate animals will be used.
- **Biologic/Anatomic Substances:** Indicate whether cadavers will be used. In addition, specify the use of human anatomical substances. If human anatomical substances will be used, specify if the substances are traceable to specific donors. Also, select applicable safety provisions.

- **Human Subjects:** Indicate whether human subjects will be used. Specify the gender, age, and ethnicity of the study population. Specify the method of data collection. Provide the general demographic focus. Select the type of clinical trial, if applicable.
- **State Legislative Districts:**
  - **State Senate District:** Enter the State Senate District of your institution. Use the link provided to find this information using the applicant’s institutional address.
  - **State House District:** Enter the State Senate District of your institution. Use the link provided to find this information using the applicant’s institutional address.
- **Cancellation of Applications/Awards by Granting Organization (in past 5 years):**
  - Select whether the Contact PI is currently eligible to receive federal grant funds. If “No” is selected, provide a reason.
  - Select whether the Contact PI had an application or award terminated for cause within the last 5 years. If yes, then select the category of Application or Award. Select the Granting Organization. Enter the Award Title, Award Number, Award Amount, and the Reason for Cancellation. Click the “Add Application/Award” link to add additional applications or awards.
- **Donations:**
  - Select whether the Contact PI or any individual listed on the application has made a donation, gift, or grant to CPRIT, the CPRIT Foundation, the Texas Cancer Coalition, or any nonprofit organization/entity established to benefit CPRIT.
  - If yes, then enter the name of the donor, entity name, donation amount, and date of donation. Click the “Add Donation” link to add additional donations.
- **CPRIT Priorities Addressed (from Statute or Texas Cancer Plan):**
  - Choose the CPRIT priority addressed in the application. More than 1 priority may be selected.

Review the instructions and click the appropriate button (*Save Application Information as Draft* or *Finalize Application Information for ASO Approval*) to save entered application information.

**NOTE:** Application information saved “as draft” can be edited later. Application information “finalized for ASO approval” can be edited only after the ASO has reset the application to draft mode at the request of the Contact PI.

## 14. TAB 3: PROJECT PERSONNEL AND COLLABORATORS

- **Investigators and Submitters**

- Please make sure that the Contact PI is appropriately listed here.
- **Contact Principal Investigator:** The Contact PI will be responsible for the submission of the application, all reporting requirements, and all budgeting decisions.
- **Multi-Principal Investigator(s):** MIIs are not allowed under this RFA. Note that CPRIT does not allow the use of the term Co-PI.
- Please note that the biosketch for the Contact PI must be uploaded under the *Required Documents* tab (see [section 15](#)). Biosketches previously uploaded in *My Profile* will not be included in the application

- **Project Personnel and Collaborators**

- It is your responsibility to enter information for all project personnel, paid or unpaid, including any Coinvestigators and collaborators.
- **All roles listed for a specific person under this tab must match the role listed for that person under the Budget for All Key Personnel and Budget Justification.**
- A Coinvestigator is an individual involved with the Contact PI in the scientific development or execution of a project. The Coinvestigator may be at the same institution as the Contact PI or at another organization in Texas. A Coinvestigator should have a specific level of effort dedicated to the project and is considered senior/key personnel.
- A collaborator is an individual who contributes to the scientific or business development or execution of the project but is not responsible for leadership or accountability for managing the project. A collaborator can be paid or unpaid. Please note that collaborators at organizations outside of the State of Texas cannot be paid with CPRIT funds.
- The purpose of this section is for reviewers to be able to determine if they have any conflicts of interest with any of the listed individuals, at which point they would be required to recuse themselves from the review of the application. Select the appropriate *Role for Application* from the drop list. Click the *Save as Draft* button to save additions.

When all information is entered, click the *Finalize Project Personnel & Collaborators* button. Note that this tab can be finalized only after Tab 1 (*Contacts*) has been finalized.

## 15. TAB 4: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

**NOTE:** All documents must be uploaded in PDF format only. The system will not allow upload of documents in other formats or of documents that exceed the page limits specified in the individual RFAs. Do NOT password protect documents. Do NOT submit documents that are bound together in a single PDF package.

- **Application Abstracts: Abstract and Significance and Layperson's Summary:** Enter the Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters) and Layperson's Summary (2,000 characters) of the proposed work. Character limits include letters, spaces, and punctuation. Do NOT use symbols or special characters (eg, Greek letters)—these will not be transmitted correctly. Save the entered information by clicking the *Save Application Abstracts as Draft* button. Information must be saved before any documents are uploaded below or the Abstract and Significance and/or Layperson's Summary will be lost when the upload refreshes the web page.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to capture CPRIT's attention primarily with the information provided in the Abstract and Significance. Please refer to the RFA for specific requirements. The Layperson's Summary will be used by advocate reviewers to evaluate the significance and impact of the proposed work. The information provided in the Layperson's Summary should describe, in simple, **nontechnical terms**, the overall goals of the proposed work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the field of cancer research, early detection, prevention, treatment, or survivorship. The information provided in the Layperson's Summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. Do not include any proprietary information in the Layperson's Summary.

- **Specific Aims and Subaims:** Enter your specific aims and subaims as plain text (1,200 characters per aim and per subaim). Please provide a description of the aims and subaims and milestones to be achieved for each year of the project. Provide 2 to 3 sentences describing activities to be performed and anticipated milestones. Your goal is to develop



aims that are attainable during the proposed award duration and have clear end points that reviewers can readily evaluate. The project's subaims are the steps you will build to reach your specific aim. The specific aims and subaims will also be used during the evaluation of annual progress reports to assess project outcomes and progress. HTML formatting, tables, charts, and diagrams are not supported. Specific aims and subaims may be saved as a DRAFT at any time by clicking the *Save Aims and Subaims as Draft* button. Any unsaved specific aims and subaims will be lost.

- **At least 1 specific aim and 1 subaim are required. At least 1 subaim is required per aim. Up to 5 specific aims and 5 subaims per specific aim may be entered.**
- Click the *Add Sub Aim* link to add an additional subaim to a specific aim.
- Click the *Add Specific Aim* link to add additional specific aims.
- **Timeline (1 page):** The timeline should include key dates, tasks, responsible parties, and milestones, all clearly outlining the project's progression and feasibility. It should demonstrate how the project will be executed within the given time frame and budget, and it should be detailed enough for reviewers to understand the project's management and timeline. Upload a PDF of the timeline document. The timeline must correspond with the specific aims and subaims and the duration requested for the award. Timelines will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. A sample timeline can be found under [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.
- **Specific Aims (1 page):** Upload the Specific Aims page document See RFA for details and template provided in CARS under [Current Funding Opportunities](#). A template is also provided for the Specific Aims page [here](#).
- **Resubmission Summary (1 Page):** Upload the Resubmission Summary PDF document. This option is available for resubmission applications only.
- **Research Plan (up to 4 pages):** Upload the Research Plan PDF document (see RFA for details).

- **Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects (up to 2 pages):** Upload the Vertebrate Animals and/or Human Subjects PDF document. If not applicable, upload a page with the following statement: “No vertebrate animals and/or human subjects will be used.”
- **Publications/References:** Upload the Publications/References PDF document. Complete journal articles are not allowed in this section.
- **Contact PI Biographical Sketch (up to 5 pages):** Upload a PDF of the Contact PI’s Biosketch. An NIH biosketch may be used.
- **Coinvestigator Biographical Sketch (up to 5 pages):** If a Coinvestigator has been designated for the application, upload a PDF biosketch for the Coinvestigator here. An NIH biosketch may be used.
- **Biographical Sketches of 2 Additional Key Personnel (up to 10 pages):** If desired, up to 2 additional biosketches for key personnel may be provided (a template is posted under the *Summary* tab, but NIH biosketches may also be used). Biosketches must not exceed 5 pages for each individual. If 2 biosketches are being provided, these must be combined into a single file and submitted as a single PDF document (ie, a 10-page document consisting of two 5-page biosketches).
- **Current and Pending Support:** Information on all active and pending support should be listed on the Current and Pending Support document including any potential overlap in funding. For all personnel for whom a biosketch is submitted with the application, upload their current and pending support (use the template posted under the *Summary* tab). **Do not provide current and pending support for individuals for whom a biosketch was not included in the application.** Multiple documents must be combined and submitted as a single PDF document. At a minimum, the current and pending support of the Contact PI and Coinvestigators (if designated) must be included in this document. Each Current and Pending Support document must include the corresponding investigator’s name at the top of the page.
- **Institutional/Collaborator Support and/or Other Certification (up to 2 pages):** If applicable/desired, upload letters of institutional and/or collaborator support and other certification documents. Multiple letters/files must be combined and submitted as a single PDF document. A maximum of 2 letters may be present on a page. Applicants **MUST NOT** submit “appendix material,” such as publications, figures, and/or data.

- **Budget Justification:** Upload the Budget Justification PDF document. Provide a brief and concise justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support for all charge categories: personnel (salaries and fringe benefits), travel, equipment, supplies, consultant charges, contractual (subaward/consortium) charges, research-related subject charges, other expenses (including animal care charges), and indirect charges. Each subaward must itemize project charges for all charge categories. (see also [section 16.4](#))
- **Summary Statement of Previous Application:** (Applicable for HIHR resubmissions only.) If a summary statement was prepared for the previous application, it will be automatically uploaded as part of a resubmission application. If a summary statement was not prepared, no document is uploaded.

When all information is entered, click the *Finalize Required Documents* button.

## 16. TAB 5: BUDGET

**This tab should include only the amount requested from CPRIT; do NOT include the amount of the matching funds.**

The Budget section is composed of 4 subtabs:

1. Budget for All Project Personnel
2. Detailed Budget for Year 1
3. Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Performance
4. Budget Justification

All 4 subtabs must be completed to finalize this section. A detailed budget for the first year of the project is required. For HIHR Awards, applicants may request up to \$250,000 over 24 months, inclusive of both direct and indirect charges.

**NOTE:** Some or all of the following buttons appear on each subtab:

**Previous** = Move to the previous subtab

**Next** = Move to the next subtab

**Save Budget as Draft** = Save entered information

**Finalize Budget for ASO Approval** = Finalize section

The *Previous* and *Next* buttons allow the user to move between subtabs while retaining entered information for as long as the user is on the *Budget* tab. Information entered on any subtab is NOT saved until the *Save Budget as Draft* button is clicked. Moving to another tab without saving will result in loss of any unsaved changes.

Expenses in the proposed budget must be categorized as personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, other, and indirect costs. Information on the expenses associated with these budget categories and allowable costs can be found in Chapters 9 and 10 of the [CPRIT Policies and Procedures Guide](#). The guide's expense classifications in each budget category carry over to the quarterly financial status report that must be completed for every funded project and approved by CPRIT. If for any reason an expense is not categorized correctly in the budget of an application that becomes an approved project, that expense will have to be recategorized to conform to CPRIT's requirements and be approved in a quarterly financial status report.

### **16.1. Budget for All Project Personnel (use web form provided)**

Complete the requested information.

**First Name and Last Name:** The Contact PI's name is prepopulated. Enter names of other individuals, as necessary. Additional rows will autoappear once text is entered into the existing last row.

**Role on Project:** The Contact PI's role is prepopulated. Enter roles of other individuals, as necessary. Please make sure that the individual's role matches their role entered under Tab 3: Project Personnel and Collaborators and their role in the Budget Justification document.

**Type of Appointment (Months):** For each individual listed, enter his or her appointment type (eg, 6-month, 9-month, 12-month appointment).

**Annual Base Salary:** For each individual listed, enter his or her institutional base salary. The salary cap for CPRIT awards for FY 2026 (September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026) is \$225,000; see [section 16.5](#) Salary Cap.

**Effort on Project:** For each individual listed, enter his or her percent effort on the project. Note the Contact PI must commit a minimum 5% level of effort throughout the entire award period.

An individual's effort on the project must be entered here even if they will be paid through a subcontract award and their salary is entered as \$0.

**Salary Requested:** After entering the information in these categories, click “Calc” to autocalculate the requested salary. If project personnel is being paid through a subcontract award, enter a \$0 amount in the Annual Base Salary field and the Salary Requested field. Their salary can be included in the Contractual (Subaward/Services Contracts) section of the detailed budget.

**Fringe Benefits:** For each individual listed, their institutional fringe benefits must be calculated based on their direct *Salary Requested*. Fringe benefits may not exceed 35% of the salary requested (a warning will be displayed).

## 16.2. Detailed Budget for Year 1

Provide the information requested for other direct charges in the first year of the project.

**Travel:** Requests for funds for travel to scientific meetings other than the CPRIT biennial conference are not appropriate for this funding mechanism. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to CPRIT's biennial conference. CPRIT cannot support patient-related travel charges. International travel requires approval prior to the travel occurrence through either the application or the submission of a request after a project is funded.

**Equipment (400-character limit):** Equipment having an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application. Per Texas Grant Management Standards, as of September 1, 2024, for all CPRIT grantees, the minimum threshold for equipment purchases is \$10,000. Generally, any purchases up to \$9,999 should now be categorized as supplies. However, any proposed equipment purchase in an application removed by a peer review panel will not be reconsidered if the project is funded.

**Construction and Renovation** requested funds are not appropriate for this funding mechanism.

**Supplies (800-character limit):** Itemize costs for research materials, consumable office supplies, and tangible equipment with a cost under \$9,999.

**Contractual (Subaward/Services Contracts) (400-character limit):** Itemize each subaward, consulting service contract, and service contract directly related to the project such as those for contract research organizations or other specialized services. For the purposes of the budget, these are all considered subcontracts. If project personnel are paid through a subcontract award, enter \$0 in the Annual Base Salary field and the Salary Requested field and enter their salary information here. Provide direct contract costs only. Any indirect costs charged on a subcontract must be categorized as an *Indirect Cost* and are calculated in the overall 5% indirect cost limitation. Each subcontract must be itemized in the *Budget Justification* subtab by providing project charges for personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, and other expenses.

**Other (800-character limit):** Itemize other project-associated expenses such as the organization's costs for the participation of human subjects in clinical trials or animal care charges for animal studies that will not be paid through a contractual arrangement. Funds can be used to pay for any patient care costs outlined in the RFA as well as patient participation incentive gift cards or direct paid transportation services; however, grant funds cannot be used to reimburse a patient or pay for travel expenses or other participation expenses of a patient participating in a clinical trial at this time.

**Indirect Costs:** Texas state law limits the amount of award funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (or 5.263% of the direct costs).

Total Indirect Charges for Year 1 (line D) should not exceed 5% of the Total Charges for Year 1 (line E). As an example, for a total award of \$100,000, indirect charges may not exceed \$5,000; direct charges would be \$95,000.

Calculate as follows:  $\text{Total Indirect Charges} = (\text{Total Direct Charges} / 0.95) - \text{Total Direct Charges}$ .

**Note on Subaward Contracts:** Subawards may recover up to the maximum of 5% in indirect charges of the total requested subaward amount. However, any indirect charges recovered in a subaward count toward the overall 5% indirect cost limitation of the funded award. Therefore, the primary institution completing the application must ensure that all indirect costs are calculated correctly in the total amount requested. If a project is funded, the primary institution receiving the award must manage the subaward contract costs including the allowable indirect costs.

### 16.3. Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Performance

Amounts for *Budget Year 1* will be autopopulated based on the information provided on the previous subtabs, namely, *Budget for All Project Personnel* and *Detailed Budget for Year 1*. For each additional year of support requested, enter the budget requested for personnel charges and other applicable direct charges. Fringe benefits may not exceed 35% of the salary (a warning will be displayed). Adjustments of up to a 3% annual increase for salary and other categories are permitted for Year 2. A 3% salary increase for Year 2 is permitted up to the cap of \$225,000. The salary cap ([section 16.5](#)) may be revised every year at CPRIT's discretion.

Enter the indirect charges for each additional year of support requested. *Total Indirect Charges* (line D) should not exceed 5% of the total requested award amount for that year (sum of lines C and D).

### 16.4. Budget Justification

Provide a brief and concise justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support for all budget categories: Personnel (salaries and fringe benefits), travel, equipment, supplies, contractual charges, other expenses, and indirect charges. **Each subaward must itemize project charges for all budget categories.**

**If you uploaded this document under Tab 4 (*Required Documents*) (see [section 15](#)), you can click on the link directing you to your uploaded file. If you have not uploaded this document yet, please click on the link that will direct you to Tab 4 (*Required Documents*) where you can upload this file (see [section 15](#)).**

### 16.5. Salary Cap

The salary cap for CPRIT awards in FY 2026 (September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026) is \$225,000. Thus, the maximum direct salary support an individual can request is up to \$225,000 of his or her institutional salary based on effort on a project. Note: Salary does not include fringe benefits and/or facilities and administrative costs, also referred to as indirect costs (See RFA for details).

The following table outlines the salary cap guidelines; note that the maximum salary for levels of effort below 100% is proportionate to the allowable direct salary (see the third line in the table as an example). Institutional fringe benefits should be calculated based on the direct salary support

requested.

Base institutional salary (full-time calendar appointment)	Effort on project	Maximum direct salary support that would be requested by the applicant
Less than \$225,000	1%-100%	Up to base salary
More than \$225,000 (eg, \$300,000)	100%	\$225,000
More than \$225,000 (eg, \$300,000)	50%	\$112,500

## 17. TAB 6: FINAL REVIEW & SUBMIT

When Tabs 1 through 5 have been completed and finalized by the applicant, the status of the application is set to “PENDING ASO APPROVAL.” The ASO will then receive email notification to review, approve, and submit the application to CPRIT. Only the ASO is authorized to officially submit the application. The ASO must log in to the system and click the appropriate application ID number listed under his/her *My Applications* page. To submit the application, the ASO must enter his or her password and click the *Approve and Submit Application* button. The ASO will then be asked to click the *Continue* button to submit the application. After the application has been submitted, the status of the application on the *My Applications* page (and on all tabs of that application) will be “ASO APPROVED AND SUBMITTED.” The ASO at the Contact PI’s institution must submit the application by the submission deadline: **December 2, 2025, 4 PM central time.**

## 18. PROVIDED TEMPLATES

Applicants must use the provided template to prepare and submit the following documents:

- [Current and Pending Support](#) (.doc, .PDF)

A template is provided for biographical sketches. An NIH biographical sketch may also be used if desired. Additional templates and samples are also provided for the Timeline and Specific Aims Page.

Templates are posted under [Current Funding Opportunities](#) for Academic Research in CARS and are available in .doc and .PDF format.



## 19. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS/HUMAN SUBJECTS

Whenever vertebrate animals or human subjects are part of a CPRIT-funded project, a copy of the recipient organization's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval must be provided to CPRIT before funding can be released. For multiyear projects, annual confirmation of IRB or IACUC approval is required. This information is not required at the time of submission of the application.

## 20. FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

All sections of the application must be written in clear and legible text and must follow the guidelines described below. Applicants are advised to use font sizes, font faces, line spacing, page sizes, and page margins that permit easy readability of the application text. Every attempt should be made to keep files sizes to a minimum (see *Scanning Resolution* below). Applications that do not meet these guidelines are subject to administrative withdrawal.

Formatting guidelines for all submitted CPRIT applications are as follows:

- **Language:** English
- **Document Format:** PDF only
- **Font Type/Size:** Arial (11 point), Calibri (11 point), or Times New Roman (12 point)
- **Line Spacing:** Single
- **Page Size:** 8.5 x 11 inches
- **Margins:** 0.75 inch, all directions
- **Color and High-Resolution Images:** Images, graphs, figures, and other illustrations must be submitted as part of the appropriate submitted document. Applicants should include text to explain illustrations that may be difficult to interpret when printed in black and white.
- **Scanning Resolution:** Images and figures must be of lowest reasonable resolution that permits clarity and readability. Unnecessarily large files will NOT be accepted, especially those that include only text.
- **References:** Applicants should use a citation style that includes the full name of the article and that lists at least the first 3 authors. Official journal abbreviations may be used. An example is included below; however, other citation styles meeting these parameters

are also acceptable if the journal information is stated. URLs of publications referenced in the application may be included.

Smith, PT, Doe, J, White, JM, et al (2006). Elaborating on a novel mechanism for cancer progression. *Journal of Cancer Research*, 135:45-67.

- **Internet URLs:** Applicants are encouraged to provide the URLs of publications referenced in the application; however, applicants should not include URLs directing reviewers to websites containing additional information about the proposed research.
- **Headers and Footers:** Headers and footers should not be used (unless they are part of a provided template).
- **Page Numbering:** DO NOT add page numbers in any of the submitted documents. These will be added automatically by the system when the application is concatenated.
- **All attachments that require signatures must be filled out, printed, signed, scanned, and then uploaded in PDF format.**

## **21. CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **21.1. Helpdesk**

The Helpdesk will answer queries submitted via email within 1 business day. Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration, online submission of applications as well as page limitations, formatting, and how to upload application components/subsections in the appropriate tabs of the CARS. Helpdesk staff cannot answer scientific questions and/or Academic Research Program aspects of an application.

**Hours of operation:** Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM central time

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**Email:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### **21.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions**

Scientific and programmatic questions should be directed to the CPRIT Director of Academic Research. Before contacting CPRIT, please refer to this document and the corresponding RFA document carefully and contact the Helpdesk for any items related to the Application Receipt System (CARS), page limitations, formatting, etc.

**Email:** [research@cprit.texas.gov](mailto:research@cprit.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.cprit.texas.gov](http://www.cprit.texas.gov)

## Appendix 1: DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH AREAS

In [Tab 2](#) (*Application Information/Application Classification*) the applicant is **required** to select a research area that best describes the proposed work. A list of research areas can be found below:

- Imaging
- Radiation Oncology/Radiotherapy
- Informatics, Computational Biology and Analytic Methods
- Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
- Early Detection, Diagnosis, and Prognosis
- Oncogenes, Tumor Suppressor Genes, Signal Transduction
- Genetics, Genomics
- Gene Regulation and Expression, Epigenomics
- Protein Biology/Proteomics
- Targeted Therapies
- Immunotherapies
- Drug Discovery/Drug Development
- Drug Delivery
- Nanotechnology, Nanomedicine
- Immunology/Inflammation
- Tumor Microenvironment
- Tumor Metabolism/Metabolomics
- Microbiome
- Neuro-oncology/Neuroscience
- Population Science
- Epidemiology

## Appendix 2: PROGRAM FOCUS-Definitions of Cancer Research Types

In [Tab 2](#) (*Application Information/Application Classification*), the applicant is required to select a program focus that best describes the proposed cancer research type. Descriptions of cancer research types are as follows\*:

- **Basic Research** - results in the acquisition of new knowledge and elucidates fundamental mechanisms in biology.
- **Translational Research** - involves the application of discoveries from basic research to practical problems associated with cancer as well as research on how to improve best practices in the community.
- **Clinical Research** - involves studies with human subjects and includes patient-oriented research on mechanisms of disease, therapy, and development of new technologies as well as epidemiological and behavioral studies and outcomes and health services research.
- **Cancer Prevention, Control, Survivorship, Outcomes, and Population Science**

\*Taken from, Rubio et al, “Defining Translational Research: Implications for Training,” *Academic Medicine*, 85:470-475, 2010.

## Appendix 3: TREC ELIGIBILITY

In [Tab 2](#) (*Application Information/Application Classification*), the applicant is able to select whether their institution is designated as a TREC-eligible institution.

### **TREC-Eligible Institutions are the following:**

- Baylor University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley