



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR
APPLICANTS**

**Multi-Investigator Research Awards
RFA R-26.2-MIRA**

Only applications that emphasize improving cancer care delivery and survivorship services through research in the childhood and AYA cancer population will be accepted under this RFA.

FY 2026

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026

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VERSION HISTORY

8/5/25	IFA posted
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1. ELIGIBILITY AND KEY INFORMATION

- This Multi-Investigator Research Award (MIRA) Request for Applications (RFA) is focused specifically on 2 of the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Academic Research Program's priorities: (1) childhood and adolescent cancer and (2) cancer survivorship, specifically of children and/or adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer.
- This RFA is intended to support highly integrated, collaborative and cross-disciplinary research involving multiple Texas investigators focusing specifically on cancer in children and the AYA population. Applications responding to this RFA must emphasize improving cancer care delivery and survivorship services through research in the childhood and AYA cancer population.
- **An institution may submit only 1 new application under this RFA during this funding cycle.**
- The MIRA RFA requires a Principal Investigator (PI) who serves as the contact PI and Multi-Principal Investigators (MIs) who lead research project and/or core resources within the overall research program. Note that CPRIT does not allow the use of the term Co-PI.
- A Contact PI or MI may submit only 1 application under this RFA and will not be eligible to participate as a Contact PI or MI on another MIRA application (including subcontracts) in response to this RFA.
- Each MIRA must have a minimum of 3 projects (maximum of 5; inclusion of fewer, highly focused projects is strongly recommended) and an Administrative Core. Up to 3 additional technical cores (eg, tissue/biospecimen core, patient registry and data core, sequencing/bioinformatics core, clinical trials core, etc.) are permitted. Projects and cores are subject to different review criteria (see section 11.3 of RFA R-26.2 MIRA). Research projects must not be submitted as cores.
- **A minimum time commitment of 20% effort is required for the PI and at least 10% effort for each project and core that an MI directs.**
- Investigators are encouraged to consider the suitability of utilizing Core resources at other institutions within Texas, particularly those supported by CPRIT awards, to avoid

establishing new services at new or existing core facilities that may not serve a larger group of investigators.

- Applicants may request \$5,000,000 in total costs for a maximum period of 5 years.
- This is a new RFA; resubmissions of MIRA proposals previously reviewed under this RFA are not applicable. Renewal applications for currently funded MIRAs are not eligible under this RFA.

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 Multi-Investigator Research Awards (RFA R-26.2-MIRA). Applications may be submitted from September 9, 2025, through December 2, 2025.

3. SUMMARY INSTRUCTIONS

- **Technical Support:** Applicants are strongly advised to carefully read this document in its entirety before starting an application. The CPRIT Helpdesk ([section 20.1](#)) 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 *Revision 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 in CARS under [Current Funding Opportunities](#). For a list of required templates please see [section 17](#).
- **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 applicant and the ASO will each need to create user accounts in CARS. These are 2 different roles, and an account for each is required in order for an application to be submitted. If your organization is not listed in the dropdown menu, please email the Helpdesk (contact information in [section 20.1](#)) and provide the name of your organization. In most cases, this information will update in the system within 24 hours; however, it is advisable that this be performed as early as possible in the application process. An application cannot be submitted without ASO approval.
- **The application must be submitted by the ASO on or before 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 at a later time.
 - 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 PI.
- 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

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 PI.

As the organization’s representative, the ASO is required to review the tabs finalized by the PI and subsequently submit the application. Only the ASO is authorized to officially submit the application to CPRIT. The ASO can reset PI-finalized tabs to draft at the request of the 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 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 (I am an Applicant or Work for One), Salutation (Mr.), First Name (System), Middle Initial, Last Name (Admin), Suffix (III), Login/Username (SysAdmin), and Password. A message on the right explains the ORCID integration process. A 'Save Changes' button is 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 a new application* → FY 2026 Academic Research Programs → Multi-Investigator Research Awards → click *New Application*, or
2. Current Funding Opportunities → click *FY 2026 Academic Research Programs* → Multi-Investigator Research Awards → click *Start New Application*.

When starting a new application, applicants are required to enter the title of the application (160-character limit; can be edited later) and select the submitter role. Symbols or special characters should NOT be used; these will not be transmitted correctly. 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. **NOTE:** A PI may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle.

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

- Tab 1 (*Contacts*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 3 (*Project Personnel and Collaborators*).
- Tab 2 (*Application Information*) **must** be completed/finalized prior to Tab 4 (*Required Documents*) and Tab 5 (*Budget*).

NOTE: This is a new RFA; resubmissions of MIRA proposals previously reviewed under this RFA are not applicable. Renewal applications for currently funded MIRAs are not eligible under this RFA.

9. STATUS DISPLAY

9.1. 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.

My Applications: Contacts

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

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

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 PI is notified via email.

9.2. 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).

10. 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	Contacts	draft
2	Application Information	draft
3	Project Personnel and Collaborators	draft
4	Required Documents	draft
5	Budget	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.

11. TAB 1: CONTACTS

- **Contact Principal Investigator (Required):** Verify information for the Contact PI; update as necessary. The Contact PI is responsible for the submission of the application, all reporting requirements, and all budgeting decisions.
- **Multi-Principal Investigator (MI):** Follow these steps to add additional MIs to the application:
 - Click the *Search for Principal Investigator* 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. Once clicked you will be prompted to designate the Project or Core Number the MI will oversee.
 - If the individual is not listed, different search criteria may be used (for example, using the last name only or 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. When this individual joins the application as a PI, his/her information will be listed in the appropriate section of the tab.
 - Change or remove an individual by clicking the appropriate button.
- **Alternate Submitter (Optional):** An alternate submitter may be designated on the application by the PI. Follow the search guidelines above.
- **Application Signing Official (Required):** An ASO must be listed in order 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 in order to complete/finalize this tab. This individual can be assigned by the 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. PI information is entered automatically; an ASO must be identified and added by the PI. The Grants Contract/Office of Sponsored Projects Official may be identified and added by the PI or the ASO.

12. 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).
 - **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, provide a brief description of the childhood and adolescent focus.
 - **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 (m/d/yyyy):** The contract start date of 6/1/2026 is prepopulated.
 - **Proposed End Date (m/d/yyyy):** Enter the proposed end date of the project. The maximum duration is 5 years (60 months).
 - **Product Development:** Select “Yes” if the proposed research will lead to the development of a product that requires regulatory filing.
- **Application Classification:**
 - **Research Area:** Select the research area[s] that best describes the proposed work. Please refer to the [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 the definitions 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 focus, 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, ethnicity, and race 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 House 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 PI is currently eligible to receive federal grant funds. If "No" is selected, provide a reason.
 - Select whether the 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 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 at a later time. 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 PI.

13. TAB 3: PROJECT PERSONNEL AND COLLABORATORS

Investigators and Submitters

- Please make sure that the Contact PI and all MIs are appropriately listed here. The Contact PI and all MIs should have been added under Tab 1 and will automatically appear at the top of this page.
- **Contact Principal Investigator:** The Contact PI will direct and oversee the research program. The Contact PI must direct the required Administrative Core. They will be responsible for the submission of the application, all reporting requirements, and all budgeting decisions. The PI may also direct a research project and/or core resource.
- **Multi-Principal Investigator(s):** Each research project and core resource within the overall research program will be directed by a single MI. Each MI will be responsible for the research activities of his or her research project(s) and/or core. Each MI and the research project/core that they will lead must be listed in this tab. Applications will be returned if this information is incorrect, incomplete or missing.

- All PIs, Contact PI and MIs, must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DDS, DMD, DrPH, DO, DVM, or equivalent and must reside in Texas during the time the research that is the subject of the grant is conducted.
- The contact PI and each MI can direct only 1 project within the MIRA application but may also lead a core resource.
- Please note that the biosketch for the Contact PI and MIs must be uploaded under the *Required Documents* tab (see [section 14](#)). 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. For all project personnel enter the number and title of project or core in which they will participate (up to 170 characters each).
- **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. Collaborators may or may not reside in Texas. **Please note** that collaborators at organizations outside of the State of Texas cannot be paid with CPRIT funds. Collaborators should have specific and well-defined roles.
- 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 and Collaborators* button. Note that this tab can be finalized only after Tab 1 (*Contacts*) has been finalized.

14. 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 (15,000 characters) and Layperson's Summary (10,000 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 else 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:** Please enter your specific aims and subaims as plain text for the overall MIRA and each project and core, including the Administrative Core (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. Aims and

subaims will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. 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 *Specific Aims and Subaims as Draft* button. Any unsaved aims and subaims will be lost.

- **At least 1 aim is required for each project and core. At least 1 subaim is required per aim.** Up to 3 aims and 3 subaims per aim may be entered for each project and core.
- Aims and subaims should be listed for the overall project as well as for each project and core separately.
- Projects and cores should be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified.
- Aims and subaims for cores should indicate the project(s) to be supported.
- Aims and subaims for the overall project should be listed under Administrative Core and prepared by the Contact PI.
- Click the *Add Subaim* link to add an additional subaim to a specific aim.
- Click the *Add Specific Aim* link to add additional specific aims.
- **Timeline:** Upload the Timeline PDF document (**Maximum of 1 page per project/core**). Timeline will be reviewed during the evaluation of annual progress reports. 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.
 - Timelines should be listed for the overall program as well as for each project and core separately.
 - Projects and cores should be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified.
 - Timeline for the overall project should be listed under Administrative Core and prepared by the Contact PI.
 - Individual timeline documents must be combined into a single file and submitted as a single PDF document.
- **Overview of Overall Program (10 pages):** Upload the Overview of Overall Program PDF document (see RFA for details).

- **Project and Core Abstracts:** Enter the Research Project Abstract (5,000 characters) or Core Resource Abstract (5,000 characters) for each of the projects and cores. 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 else the Abstract and Significance and/or Layperson's Summary will be lost when the upload refreshes the web page. An abstract should not be submitted for the Administrative Core.
- **Research Project Plan:** Upload Research Project Plan PDF document for each project (up to 25 pages). **A minimum of 3 projects are required** (maximum of 5 projects). Each project has its own upload slot. Provide a title and the name of the leading PI/MI (see RFA for details). The Research Project Plan PDF document must include the following:
 - Background, research strategy, and synergy
 - Specific Aims (1-page summary of the aims and subaims)
 - Appropriate protocols for vertebrate animals and/or human subjects (if human subjects or human biological samples will be used, provide a plan for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption and recruitment of subjects or acquisition of samples)
 - The biographical sketches for the PI or MI leading the Project (each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages). The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.
 - List of Publications/References
 - Budget and Justification (see RFA for details)
- **Core Resource Plan:** Upload the Core Resource Plan PDF document for each core (up to 25 pages). A Core Resource Plan is not required for the Administrative Core; this should be described in the Administrative Plan. Each core has its own upload slot. Provide a title and the name of the leading PI/MI (see RFA for details). The Core Resource Plan PDF document must include the following:
 - Background, support strategy, and synergy
 - The biographical sketches for the PI or MI leading the Core (each biographical sketch must not exceed 5 pages). The NIH biosketch format is appropriate.

- Appropriate protocols for vertebrate animals and/or human subjects (if human subjects or human biological samples will be used, provide a plan for IRB approval or exemption and recruitment of subjects or acquisition of samples)
- List of Publications/References
- Budget and Justification (see RFA for details)
- **Administrative Core Plan (7 pages):** Upload the Administrative Plan PDF document (see RFA for details). An abstract should not be submitted for the Administrative Core.
- **Synergy Illustration (3 pages):** Upload the Synergy Illustration PDF document (see RFA for details).
- **Sustainability Plan (2 pages):** Upload the Sustainability Plan PDF document (see RFA for details).
- **Publications/References:** Upload the Publications/References PDF document. Journal articles are not allowed under this section.
- **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 the entire program and 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 [section 15](#)). Invoices or sale quotes should not be included. While there will be 1 budget for the entire program, individual budget breakdowns must be included for each project and core resource as a part of the Research or Core Resources Plan. Projects and cores must be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified
- **Contact PI Biosketch (up to 5 pages):** Upload the PDF biosketch of the Contact PI. NIH biosketches may be used.
- **Biographical Sketches of EAB Members (up to 5 pages each):** Upload the biosketches of the individuals who will form part of the MIRA EAB. Up to 5 biosketches may be uploaded. Biosketches must not exceed 5 pages for each individual. If 5 biosketches are being provided, these must be combined into a single file and submitted as a single PDF document (ie, a 25-page document consisting of five 5-page biosketches).

- **Biographical Sketches of 10 additional Key Personnel:** If desired, up to 10 additional biographical sketches for key personnel may be provided (use the template posted under the *Summary* tab or a NIH biosketch). Biosketches must not exceed 5 pages for each individual. If 10 biosketches are being provided, these must be combined into a single file and submitted as a single PDF document (ie, a 50-page document consisting of ten 5-page biosketches).
- **Current and Pending Support:** 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). Multiple documents must be combined and submitted as a single PDF document. Note that support information is not needed for members of the EAB. At a minimum, current and pending support of the PI and MIs must be provided.
- **Institutional/Collaborator Support and/or Other Certification (15 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. Applicants are strongly advised not to submit “appendix material,” such as publications, figures, and/or data.

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

15. 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 MIRAs, applicants may request a maximum of \$5,000,000 in total costs for a maximum period of 5 years.

- **One budget must be submitted on behalf of the entire program** and must include costs for individual projects and cores. Individual budgets will not be submitted in the application system, but there should be a budget breakdown for each project and core resource. For programs that have outside institutions participating, a subcontract must be executed for that institution to receive CPRIT funds.
- Expenses for individual projects/cores must be listed. Projects and cores must be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified.

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.

15.1. Budget for All Project Personnel (use Web form provided)

Complete the requested information.

First Name and Last Name: The Contact PI and MI's name(s) are 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 and MI's role are prepopulated. Enter roles of other individuals as necessary. Make sure that the MIs and the research project/core that they will lead are correctly listed and match the information listed in Tab 3. Applications will be returned if this information is incorrect, incomplete or missing.

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

Annual Base Salary: For each individual listed, enter his/her institutional base salary. The salary cap for CPRIT awards for FY 2026 (September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026) is \$225,000.

Effort on Project: For each individual listed, enter his/her percent effort on the project. A minimum time commitment of 20% effort is required for the Contact PI. Research project and technical core MIs should commit at least 10% effort for **each** project and/or core that he or she directs.

Salary Requested: After entering the information in these categories, click "Calc" to autocalculate the requested salary. If an individual 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, his/her institutional fringe benefits must be calculated based on his/her direct *Salary Requested*. Fringe benefits may not exceed 35% of the salary requested (a warning will be displayed).

15.2. Detailed Budget for Year 1

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

Travel Costs: Include any project-related travel charges. CPRIT cannot support patient-related travel charges. CPRIT funds may be used to send up to 2 people to CPRIT's biennial conference. 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 (2,000-character limit): Itemize each piece of equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit that is anticipated to be purchased for use in the project. As of September 1, 2024, the minimum threshold for equipment purchases is \$10,000. Generally, any purchases up to \$9,999 should now be categorized as supplies. Each piece of equipment must be approved by CPRIT after the project is funded. If the project is funded, approval may be requested during the period a grant is active and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, any proposed equipment purchase in an application removed by a peer review panel will not be reconsidered if the project is funded.

Supplies (4,000-character limit): Itemize costs for research materials, consumable office supplies, and tangible equipment with a cost under \$10,000.

Contractual (Subaward/Services Contracts) (2,000-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 (4,000-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 costs that a cancer clinical trial participant may have associated with their participation in a clinical trial, including (1) transportation, including car mileage, parking, bus fare, taxi or ride hailing fare exclusive of tips, and commercial economy class airfare within the borders of the State of Texas and (2) lodging.

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: Total Indirect Charges = (Total Direct Charges/0.95) – 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.

Each project and core must itemize project charges for all charge categories unless otherwise indicated. Projects and cores must be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified (also see [section 14](#)).

15.3. 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). Cost adjustments of up to a 3% annual increase for salary up to the cap of \$225,000 are permitted for Years 2 through 5. 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).

15.4. Budget Justification

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, contractual charges, other expenses and indirect charges. **Each subaward must itemize charges for all budget categories.** If more than the maximum dollar amount is requested in any year(s) of the proposed budget of an application, include a special and clearly labeled section that explains the request.

Each project and core must itemize project charges for all charge categories. Individual project and core budget breakdowns must be included for each project and core resource as a part of the Research or Core Resources Plan. Projects and cores must be labeled numerically (AC for the Administrative Core, Project 1 to Project 5, and Core 1 to Core 3) and be clearly identified.

If you uploaded this document under Tab 4 (*Required Documents*) (see [section 14](#)), you can click on the link directing you to your uploaded file. If you have not uploaded this document, please click on the link that will direct you to Tab 4 (*Required Documents*) where you can upload this file.

15.5. 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/her institutional salary based on effort on a project.

The following table outlines the salary cap guidelines; note that the maximum salary for levels of effort below 100% are 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

16. 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/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 also on all tabs of that application) will be “ASO APPROVED AND SUBMITTED.” The ASO at the PI’s institution must submit the application by the submission deadline: **December 2, 2025, 4 PM central time.**

17. PROVIDED TEMPLATES

Applicants must use the provided template to prepare and submit the following document.

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

A template is provided for the biographical sketch. 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.

18. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS/HUMAN SUBJECTS

Whenever vertebrate animals or human subjects are part of a CPRIT-funded project, a copy of the recipient organization’s 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.

19. FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

All sections of the application should be written in clear and legible text and must follow the guidelines described below. Applicants must 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 file 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 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 as long as the journal information is stated. Include URLs of publications referenced in the application.

Smith, P.T., Doe, J., White, J.M., 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.

20. CONTACT INFORMATION

20.1. Helpdesk

The Helpdesk will answer queries submitted via email within 1 business day. Helpdesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and 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 and/ or programmatic questions related to an application.**

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

Tel: 866-941-7146

Email: Help@CPRITGrants.org

20.2. Scientific and Programmatic Questions

Scientific and Programmatic questions should be directed to the CPRIT Director of Academic Research.

Email: research@cprit.texas.gov

Website: 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 as follows:

- 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