BRAVE Technology Transfer Funding
FY27 Program Announcement

Part I - Overview Information Participating Organization(s): VA Technology Transfer Program (TTP) BRAVE Funding

Announcement Type: Supplemental funding to develop VA-owned technologies toward commercialization/partnering https://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech_transfer/brave.cfm

Key Dates*
RFA Release/Posted Date: March 30, 2026
Pre-application Q&A: *April 16, 2026 @ 2pm Eastern*
Join the meeting now

Pre-Application Submission Deadline: May 1, 2026 11:59pm Local Time
Invitation to Apply: June 8, 2026
Invitee Application Q&A: *June 22, 2026 @ 2pm Eastern*
Join the meeting now

Application Deadline: July 10, 2026 @11:59pm local time
Just in Time Letter Date: September 1, 2026
Start Dates: October 1, 2026, or contingent upon available funding.
End Date: September 30, 2027 (all funds must be used/encumbered by this date – this is a short-term commercialization award)

Reach out to your TTS with questions.

Submission Process: Applicants must submit a Pre-application to be considered for submission of a full application (you must contact your Technology Transfer Specialist for Pre-application submission information - Technology Transfer Program Contacts (va.gov)). After Pre-applications are reviewed, invitations to provide a full application will be e-mailed. Full applications will be submitted electronically through the VA's Sophia Knowledge Management System.

Part II – Funding Opportunity Description

BRAVE funding is intended for pre-commercial development. Early-stage projects (e.g., basic research without a clear commercialization pathway) will not be funded. Projects must demonstrate a direct link to commercialization readiness**.**

1. Award Objectives

The VA TTP funds continued innovation of VA-owned technologies that require gap funding, go/no-go decisions, proof of concept, and commercially driven research that will better position the technology for partnering with companies for the benefit of the veteran and broader use in the United States.

Specifically, a BRAVE project should fall into one of the following categories:

- Minimum Viable Prototype production
- Prototype testing
- Clinical grade prototype production
- Chemical synthesis and testing
- *in vitro* proof of concept testing

- *ex vivo* proof of concept testing
- *in vivo* animal model testing
- Pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic testing
- Clinical pilot study
- Equipment and/or reagents to develop a prototype or to support one of the above categories
- Other commercially relevant aims

2. **Mechanism of Support**

   This funding mechanism is a short-term intramural award to support the pre-commercial development of inventions made at and owned by the VA.

3. **Funds Available**
   A maximum of two BRAVE awards may be granted for the same invention disclosure.

   Total budget: Budgets should be capped at $100,000 and should be commensurate with the project goals. For clarity, investigators should only budget what is truly needed to complete the pre-commercial study. Budget appropriateness will be part of the review criteria. See Appendix A, Example Budget.

   Duration of Award: Awards must be completed in the fiscal year in which the award begins. **Projects should be able to be completed within 6 to 9 months to account for the time required to complete the just in time process.**

   Budget Limitations: No more than 50% of the budget should support salary. Travel will be allowed with a maximum of $2500 of the budget allocated to travel, conference fees, or other related travel costs.
   BRAVE funds may not be used for study participant travel reimbursement under any circumstances.

   Exceptions to the Budget Cap and/or Duration: Rare exceptions to the budget cap and/or maximum duration may be granted. The application submission must provide fully justified and compelling circumstances for a waiver and have approval of their local Technology Transfer Specialist.

   All VA funding regulations apply to use of funds per Handbook 5005, Part I, Chapter 3, Section 2 (l) “Indirect administrative costs associated with preparing and maintaining payroll records, developing reports, negotiating the IPA agreement, office space, furnishings, supplies, staff support, and computer time are prohibited.”

   *Requested funds should not duplicate any other VA, Federal, State, or Private funding.

Part III – Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible VA Institutions**

   Applications may be submitted from any VAMC with an active Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) of compliance with the U.S. Federal regulations for the protection of Human Subjects in research.

2. **Eligible Individuals**

The BRAVE Award Program is an intramural program to fund research conducted by VA-salaried investigators at VAMCs or VA-approved sites – including researchers or clinical staff that have or can obtain a research appointment prior to funding. The Technology Transfer Program may partner the investigator with another investigator if there is a need for additional skill sets to complete the project. This could include, but is not limited to, partnering with one of the VA's Technology Transfer Assistance Programs (TTAP) sites – discuss prototyping with your Technology Transfer Specialist.

Part IV – Application and Submission Information

1. Pre-application

A Pre-application is required for the BRAVE funding opportunity. **Reach out to your Technology Transfer Specialist to obtain the required Pre-application form** and to discuss the suitability of the proposed project.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

The following sections will be included in the on-line application if invited to apply following the Pre-application submission.

NOTE: when completing the application do not use Greek letters, spell them out (α = "alpha" or "a"). Also, use brackets [ ] instead of parentheses ( ). The online system, Sophia, will not recognize these characters and prohibit your application from being submitted correctly.

a. Project information

a. PI Name
b. PI Email
c. Project Title
d. Start Date
e. End Date
f. Total Funds Requested
g. VA Medical Center Name
h. VA Station Number
i. Technology Transfer Specialist you worked with (drop down menu)

b. Project Abstract: Provide a brief lay description of your project (need, solution, project cost). Indicate the date of consult with TTS. (250 words)

c. Supporting Figures:
Applicants may include up to **three** figures total. Each figure must occupy one page. Figures should be simple, focused, and clearly convey one concept per page. Figure legends must be in 10-point font using Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia, and all figures and legends must be combined into a single PDF file. Each legend must include a plain language description explaining any acronyms, labeled sections, and conclusions. No other images will be reviewed.

Recommended figure types include:

i. One image to describe the invention.
ii. One image to show the most advanced or key data demonstrating the invention's use.
iii. One image to describe the planned studies.

If figures cannot be clearly interpreted, the application will be deemed incomplete and will not be reviewed.

d. Intellectual Property

a. Title of the Invention Disclosure(s)
b. VA Technology Invention Disclosure Number. Ask your Tech Transfer Specialist if you do not have this. *Note, the invention disclosure number will not start with a P, OP, or be a patent application number. The Invention disclosure number should be a year followed by a three-digit number, for example 2024-001**
c. Is there any existing license, option to license, or any other agreement with the VA or the university affiliate (e.g. sponsored research agreement, CDA/NDA, MTA) related to this technology? Discuss with your University Affiliate (if applicable) and VA Tech Transfer Specialist to confirm.

e. Background, Significance, Unmet Veteran or Civilian Need and Solution

a. Provide a summary understanding of the problem to be solved and/or the quality-of-life issue to be addressed by your invention. ***(Limit to 100 words)***
b. Provide a summary of the standard of care and/or currently available solutions. (Limit to 100 words)
c. Provide a description of your technological solution. ***(Limit to 100 words)***
d. Describe the current state of your research thus far completed. What has been done, if anything, to test this technology. ***(Limit to 250 words)***
e. Describe the population that this technology would serve. Provide information about the number of potential patients that could be impacted and the type of patient (veteran, general population, etc.) ***(Limit to 100 words)***
f. Provide a lay description of the study or experiment set to be performed using BRAVE funds**. TTP recommends focusing on a single, short-term, aim/objective/outcome and a technical approach aligned with the intent of the BRAVE funding program.** ***(Limit to 100 words)***
g. Explain why this study or experiment set was selected and how it may advance the technology along the commercialization journey. Studies or experiments that lead to a "pursue, pivot, or pause" decision are encouraged. ***(Limit to 350 words)***

f. Risk

a. Describe the technical risk, decision points, and risk mitigation efforts in executing the technical plan and achieving the desired goals. This includes the likelihood that the proposed study will answer the commercial question, the risk to patients (if applicable), etc. ***(Limit to 200 words)***

g. Potential Commercial Partners

a. Include 2-3 potential licensees for this technology. Do not initiate contact with these companies, TTP will reach out to these companies when appropriate.

b. Has there been previous communication with a company related to the commercial development of this technology? Yes/No
c. Has this technology participated in the VA-TEAMS program, technology or market review process, or grant review process that would have provided feedback? Yes/No
d. Provide a summary of the feedback identified in b and c immediately above. Describe the feedback received and how it will be incorporated into this project if funded.

h. Proposed Budget Justification and Timeline:

a. Attach an itemized budget including an explanation/justification for each line item. (Use the attached Appendix A Budget Template – you will attach as a pdf file)
b. Attach a detailed project timeline, including milestones, planned reviews and estimated completion date. GANTT style charts are encouraged. You will upload this as a pdf file. **Projects should take 6 to 9 months to account for the time required to complete the just in time process.**
c. If the proposal requests more than $100K or with timelines exceeding 9 months, will be subject to additional scrutiny. Provide a compelling narrative. Budgets will be reviewed to ensure the costs are commensurate with the project aims and outcome. For example, if a prototype cost is $25,000, then that amount should be requested. Budget and Timeline feasibility will be part of the review process.

***Certify that the above information is accurate and correct, and that the funding proposal does not overlap with any current or previously funded research.**

NOTE: Applications must be completed according to all instructions. Any applications not adhering to the instructions will not be considered for funding.

Part V – Review Criteria

Research Project Evaluation Criteria Reviewers will consider the following questions when reviewing applications.

- Is VA Lead on the Technology or an affiliate?
- Budget commensurate with need
- Likelihood that proposed project will improve overall value of the technology patent or licensing concerns
- Technology relation to the VA mission and Veteran population
- Value of technology overall (market value)
- Other: prior commercial interest/feedback, feasibility

Other Considerations

If any approvals, including but not limited to, IACUC, IRB, ISSO, COI, contracts, etc. are required to complete the BRAVE project, these must be obtained prior to funds being sent to the site. Investigators should start the appropriate process at the time of BRAVE application with a completion/approval date no later than January 31, 2027.

NOTE: Applications must be completed according to all instructions. Any applications not adhering to the instructions will not be considered for funding.

Part VI – Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Just in time (JIT) notices will be sent out via e-mail to the investigator prior to or on September 2, 2025.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Research Integrity: VA is committed to the highest standards for the ethical conduct of research. Maintaining these high ethical standards requires that VAMCs and investigators applying for (and receiving) BRAVE have appropriate procedures to prevent unethical research practices.

As a condition of accepting the award, the investigator and others associated with the research must:

- Subscribe to accepted standards of rational experimental research design
- **Accurately record data and provide reports to VA TTP at the end of the award and at other times upon request of the VA TTP**
- Conduct unbiased data reporting
- Respect the intellectual property of other investigators
- Adhere to established ethical codes and legal standards for protecting Human and Animal Subjects
- Properly manage research funds

Deliberate falsification or misrepresentation of research data will result in withdrawal of an application, possible suspension or termination of an award and, potentially, suspension of the investigator's eligibility to submit applications to VA-ORD.

Acknowledging VA Research Support: By accepting a BRAVE Award, the investigator agrees to properly acknowledge VA affiliation and support in all public reports and presentations (see VHA Directive 1200.19). Failure to acknowledge VA affiliation and support may result in termination of the award. The following text should be used "This research was supported by BRAVE funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (TTP-XXX-XXX), Technology Transfer Program."

Intellectual Property Rights: By accepting a BRAVE award, the investigator agrees to comply with VA policies regarding intellectual property disclosure obligations and Federal Government ownership rights resulting from the proposed work (see VHA Directive 1200.18).

Part VII – TTP Contacts

All questions should be directed to the Technology Transfer Specialist that handles your state or region: Technology Transfer Program Contacts

FAQs

- **What can the funding be used for?-** BRAVE funding monies can be used for the same purpose as all other VA research funds.
- **Can the funding be used for salary**?- BRAVE funds can be used to support salaries as long as the investigator is eligible to receive salary from the VA or is eligible to receive funds under an IPA.

- **Can this be used to pay for non-US citizens?** Salary support is only available for individuals who are VA employees or eligible for IPA. Students are not eligible for IPA positions per VA policy.
- **Can the funding be used to purchase equipment or reagents**? – Yes. BRAVE funds can be used to purchase equipment and reagents as long as these are necessary for the proposed project.
- **Are progress reports required?**- Yes, progress reports are due 30 days from project end date.
- **Do teams participating in VA-TEAMS get special consideration?**- This is not currently, part of the review criteria; however, former VA-TEAMS participants may be better able to formulate pre-commercial proposals.
- **Is there an appeal process** – there is no appeals process. However, where appropriate, we will instruct promising projects to reapply, or participate in VA TEAMS or the Spark, Seed, Spread programs.
- **Spark Seed Spread – can I do both?-** Yes; however, the BRAVE funding proposal must be addressing a unique pre-commercial problem.
- **How long do I have to spend BRAVE funds?** – BRAVE funding is one-year funding and must be spent within FY26 but projects should be able to be completed within 6 to 9 months to account for the time required to complete the just in time process.
- **What happens if I can't spend it all in FY26?-** If there's any doubt, let TTP and your ACOS know ASAP to ensure alternate project aims can be developed or the funding can be re-allocated.
- **Do I need to comply with standard regulatory and compliance reviews?** Yes, if your project requires compliance (R&D review, IRB, ISSO, IACUC, etc) approval must be obtained by Dec 30, 2025.
- **Can I make any changes to the project aims?-** Aims may be altered until the application deadline. If project aims need to be altered after funding is awarded, consult with your TTS to determine if the new aims are still appropriate to the RFA.
- **Does the VA need to be the Lead Party? -**VA Led technologies will be given priority, but Affiliate Lead technologies will still be considered.
- **What can I do if I have submitted a proposal before and it was not funded?** You are welcome to resubmit a previous proposal. Work with your TTS to strengthen your application.

Appendix A Budget
to be submitted as a pdf

Add rows as needed.

A. Personnel (not to exceed 50% of total budget)

Name	**Project Role**	**Calendar Months**	**Requested Salary**	**Requested Fringe Benefits**	**Total Funds Requested**	**Justification**
					Total:	

B. Equipment

Equipment	**Funds Requested**	**Justification**
		Total:

C. Materials and Supplies

Materials and Supplies	**Funds Requested**	**Justification**
		Total:

D. Travel - not to exceed $2500

Travel Costs Requested	**Justification**
	Total:

E. Total Budget Requested

Total:	