REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD BASED MEETINGS TO DEVELOP PLANS (ROADMAPS) FOR COLLABORATIVE MULTI-SITE TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TREATMENTS FOR SERVICE-RELATED ILLNESS AND INJURY

BLRD is accepting requests for supplemental funding for field based meetings with the following requirements:

- The request must come from a VA investigator who is currently funded as PI by BLRD or has had BLRD funding that ended after April 1, 2018.
- The request must be submitted through the local research office.
- The proposed meeting should be limited to VA investigators although 1 or 2 non-VA investigators with needed expertise may be included.
- No more than 50% of the proposed attendees may come from one station.
- The planned meeting must propose to develop a plan (roadmap) for a collaborative multi-site program to accelerate the development of new treatments for service related illness and injury. The treatments may be drugs, cell based therapies, other biologicals or gene therapies. Service related illness and injury would include illness and injuries which can be a direct result of service such as Gulf War Illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide, acute and chronic pain, opioid addiction, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and spinal cord injury as well as other illnesses which are more common in Veterans than the general population.
- The planned meeting must be focused on identifying a treatment goal and developing a roadmap designed to accelerate the development of that treatment and should include milestones such as developing preliminary data, obtaining funding, validating model systems, identifying key pathological pathways, identifying targets for therapies and others as appropriate to the research question.
- The plan can include proposed requests for VA funding but must include proposed requests to other government agencies such as NIH and DOD, private foundations and industry.
- Meeting costs must be under $20,000.
- Funds must be expended in FY19
- Requestors are responsible for all planning and logistics including:
  - finding meeting space,
  - managing all attendee travel locally,
  - completing local facility/VISN approval processes as applicable, and
  - completing any required formal VA Sponsored Internal Conference Package Approvals and after reporting.
- A roadmap developed at the meeting must be submitted to BLRD within 45 days of the meeting through the mailbox vhabldr-csrd@va.gov with the subject line, “BLRD Roadmap”.
Each funded proposal will be assigned to a BLRD Program Manager who will attend the meeting with costs being borne by BLRD, not the meeting funding.

Interested parties must submit:

- a 1-2 page proposal including
  - Principal Investigator (must be a VA funded PI)
  - Point of contact (if other than the PI)
  - Designated meeting planner (who is specifically assigned to work on meeting planning and execution)
  - Meeting Title
  - Goals of meeting (must be focused on the development of a roadmap with milestones to address an important research question in a priority area)
  - Identify the important research question that will be addressed (based on a gap in current knowledge or in VA care).
  - Participant list
  - Location and estimated timing

- an itemized budget for the funds requested using the attached spreadsheet
  - No more than 10% of the award should be for support personnel
- a justification for each item requested

Proposals must be submitted to the mailbox vhablrd-csrd@va.gov with the subject line “BLRD Meeting proposal” by November 1, 2018.

When considering the request, keep in mind that all funds received:

- **must** be obligated in FY 2019 and
- **cannot** be carried over into FY 2020.

Field based meeting funds may be used for:

- Salaries, consultant services, and IPAs of personnel supporting meeting activities
- Meeting space and associated AV expenses
- Travel costs for meeting attendees

Do **not include**:

- Requests that require hiring of personnel not yet identified.
- Requests that require use of funds in FY20.
- Travel expenses for any Central Office Staff who will attend the meeting. CO staff will make their own travel arrangements and CO staff travel is paid for directly by ORD.
- Funds for refreshments or for meals.

Up to 10 meeting proposals will be funded.
Proposals will be reviewed administratively for responsiveness and feasibility.

Funding notifications will be sent out before December 1, 2018

Funds will not be transferred to the station until BLRD Central Office receives notification of the meeting’s Conference Package approval and a final budget.

Program Point of Contact: Christopher Bever, MD, MBA, Director, BLRD at Christopher.Bever@va.gov,

Thank you, BLRD