

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Funding for FY2024

Members of Congress are frequently lobbied to add funding to annual defense appropriation legislation for certain medical research programs on a wide variety of diseases and topics. In addressing annual appropriations bills, many Members frequently seek information on enacted levels for such funding under the *Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs* (CDMRP).

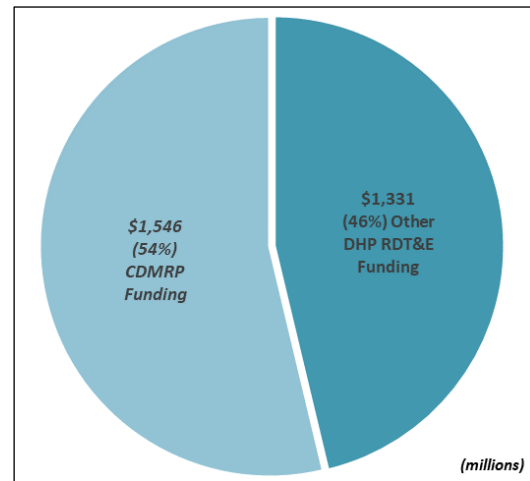
CDMRP Administration and Funding

The CDMRP is a Department of Defense (DOD) program that receives congressional appropriations explicitly for biomedical research in specific, congressionally identified health matters. As such, it is not part of the President's budget request for the DOD. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC), with oversight from the Defense Health Agency, administers the CDMRP and is responsible for awarding and managing competitive grants.

Congress usually inserts CDMRP funding as *Undistributed Medical Research* in the Defense Health Program's Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) account in the annual DOD appropriation. Congressional documents accompanying the annual defense appropriation act (i.e., conference reports or explanatory statements) identify the specific research areas for a given fiscal year.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47) inserted \$1.546 billion into the RDT&E account for CDMRP. This amount comprises 54% of the overall Defense Health Program's RDT&E appropriation, as reflected in **Figure 1**. Biomedical research conducted by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or other military research agencies is not included in this account.

Figure 1. Total Defense Health Program (DHP) RDT&E Appropriation, FY2024



Source: Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 118-47, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 2024, pp. H1717-H1718.

Figure 2 lists the FY2024 CDMRP funding amounts for specific medical research areas.

Figure 2. CDMRP Funding, FY2024

(in millions of dollars)

Program Title	FY2024
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders	\$ 4
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	\$ 40
Arthritis	\$ 10
Autism	\$ 15
Bone Marrow Failure	\$ 8
Breast Cancer	\$ 150
Combat Readiness-Medical	\$ 5
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$ 10
Epilepsy	\$ 12
Glioblastoma	\$ 10
Global HIV/AIDS Prevention	\$ 12
Hearing Restoration	\$ 5
HIV/AIDS Research Program Increase	\$ 20
Joint Warfighter Medical	\$ 20
Kidney Cancer	\$ 50
Lung Cancer	\$ 25
Lupus	\$ 10
Melanoma	\$ 40
Military Burn	\$ 10
Multiple Sclerosis	\$ 20
Neurofibromatosis	\$ 25
Ovarian Cancer	\$ 45
Pancreatic Cancer	\$ 15
Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's	\$ 15
Peer Reviewed Cancer	\$ 130
Peer Reviewed Medical	\$ 370
Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic	\$ 30
Peer Reviewed Parkinson's	\$ 16
Prostate Cancer	\$ 110
Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury	\$ 175
Rare Cancers	\$ 18
Reconstructive Transplant	\$ 12
Spinal Cord Injury	\$ 40
Tick-Borne Disease	\$ 7
Toxic Exposures	\$ 30
Trauma Clinical	\$ 5
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex	\$ 8
Vision	\$ 20
TOTAL	\$ 1,546

Source: Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 118-47, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 2024, pp. H1717-H1718.

CDMRP Funding Requests

Members may request funding for medical research during the annual defense appropriations process. The appropriations committees typically send Members a memorandum with instructions for submitting requests. Both House and Senate committee reports may specify funding associated with certain research. **An exchange of amendments between the houses (or a conference committee) typically resolves any differences between the committee reports.**

The medical research programs funded under the CDMRP are not static. Funding may be provided for conditions not funded in previous years. For example, funding for tick-borne disease research was provided in FY2016-FY2020, but no associated funds were provided in FY2015.

Program Announcements and Awards

USAMRDC issues periodic program announcements to alert researchers of CDMRP grant opportunities. The program announcements include detailed descriptions of funding mechanisms, evaluation criteria, submission requirements, and deadlines. Program announcements are listed on the Grants.gov website, or the CDMRP website (<https://cdmrp.health.mil>). The CDMRP website also includes information on awarded grants and other resources such as related publications, brochures about individual research programs, and annual reports.

Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program

The program with the highest annual funding level under the CDMRP is generally the *Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program* (PRMRP). For FY2024, \$370 million was appropriated for the PRMRP.

PRMRP funding supports grants for medical research on a number of conditions or treatment modalities that are of “clear scientific merit and direct relevance to military health.” Congress specifies an annual list of eligible conditions or treatments that typically includes a few changes from year to year as medical research priorities shift.

For example, research on *burn pit exposure* was eligible for funding in FY2017-FY2021, but was not eligible for funding in FY2016. Nevertheless, an investigator interested in burn pit exposure-related research could have submitted FY2016 grant applications for related eligible topics such as respiratory health, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis.

Table 1 lists all 42 conditions or treatments eligible for FY2024 PRMRP funding.

Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program

Similar to PRMRP, Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) funding supports grants for medical research on various cancers and related treatments. For FY2024, \$130 million was appropriated for the PRCRP, separate from other CDMRP funding for breast, kidney, lung, melanoma, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, and rare cancers.

Table 2 lists all 18 cancers and treatments eligible for FY2024 PRCRP funding.

Table 1. PRMRP-Eligible Conditions, FY2024

Celiac Disease	Malaria
Congenital Cytomegalovirus	Maternal Mental Health
Congenital Heart Disease	Mitochondrial Disease
Dystonia	Musculoskeletal Disorders
Eating Disorders	Myotonic Dystrophy
Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome	Nephrotic Syndrome
Epidermolysis Bullosa	Neuroactive Steroids

Far-UVC Germicidal Light	Pancreatitis
Food Allergies	Peripheral Neuropathy
Fragile X	Polycystic Kidney Disease
Frontotemporal Degeneration	Proteomics
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Pulmonary Fibrosis
Hepatitis B	Respiratory Health
Hereditary Ataxia	Rett Syndrome
Hydrocephalus	Scleroderma
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Sickle Cell Disease
Interstitial Cystitis	Suicide Prevention
Lymphedema	Vascular Malformation
Computational Biology for Precision Health	Von Hippel-Lindau Disease
Fibrous Dysplasia / McCune-Albright Syndrome	Focal Segment Glomerulosclerosis
Accelerated Aging Processes Associated with Military Service	Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Source: Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 118-47, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 2024, p. H1719.

Table 2. PRCRP-Eligible Cancer Topics, FY2024

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

Source: Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 118-47, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 2024, p. H1719.

Note: *Excludes glioblastoma.

For more information on CDMRP, see CRS Report R46599, *Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs: Background and Issues for Congress*, by Bryce H. P. Mendez.

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