



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)

## FUNDING FACT SHEET

### What does the DoD fund?

The DoD funds research grants across a wide spectrum of disciplines, including physical, life, and social sciences, as well as the humanities, to address complex national security challenges. This funding supports basic research, applied research, and research that is relevant to DoD applications. Universities typically receive about 60% of the DoD's basic research funds each year.

### Mission of the DoD

The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country.

<https://www.defense.gov/About/> - check RFAs for specific guidelines and topics of interest

The Basic Research Office (BRO) "sets scientific priorities aimed toward ensuring DoD is a leader in scientific discovery and identifying new paths for investigation".

<https://basicresearch.defense.gov/>

### More about the DoD

**View DoD Opportunities on Grants.gov:** <https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grant-making-agencies/u-s-department-of-defense-dod>

**eBRAP:** Allows Principal Investigators (PIs) conducting biomedical research for the DoD to submit their pre-applications through a secure connection, and view and edit the contents of their pre-applications and full applications, as submitted through Grants.gov.

(<https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/index.htm>)

**2025 Updates:** The DoD has not paused the awarding of research grants and has not been flagged for an agency review of DEIA work, nor has it been ordered to stop DEIA work.

### Organization of the DoD

The DoD organizes research grants through various funding programs and initiatives, including those within the Air Force, Army, and Navy, as well as the Defense Advanced Research Projects

Agency (DARPA). Relevant examples include:

- **Air Force Office of Scientific Research** (<https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/>)  
AFOSR Supports high-risk basic research to advance the Air and Space Force. Focus areas: engineering, complex systems, networks, physical sciences, chemistry, and biology.
- **Army Research Office** (<https://arl.devcom.army.mil/collaborate-with-us/>)  
ARO Funds high-risk, high-reward research to support future Army technologies. Focus areas: chemistry, life sciences, physics, electronics, materials, mechanics, computing, math, and networks.
- **Office of Naval Research** (<https://www.onr.navy.mil>)  
ONR Supports research for the Navy and Marine Corps, from basic science to advanced technology. Focus areas: cyber, information, naval platforms, ocean and expeditionary systems, aviation, defense systems, and human performance.
- **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** (<https://www.darpa.mil>)  
DARPA Invests in breakthrough technologies for national security. Funds basic and applied research in math, design, biotech, microsystems, AI, ground/maritime/air/space systems.
- **DTRA** (<https://www.dtra.mil/Business/Office-of-Small-Business/>)  
DTRA Funds research to counter weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Focus areas: chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and improvised threats. Offers funding through BAAs and SBIR programs.

For human social, cultural & behavioral modeling opportunities, the Minerva Research Initiative primarily funds social science basic research by university-led research teams. As of June 1, 2025 The website for the initiative has been suspended by the DoD.

## Common faculty opportunities

**DEPSCoR:** The Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was established to increase the number of university researchers and capabilities of institutions to perform basic research in science and engineering relevant to the DoD mission.

**Young Investigator Program (YIP):** The BRO, DAPRA, and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) all have announcements for faculty that are typically within 5 years of tenure-track appointment.

**Senior Investigator Program (SIP):** The Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship (VBFF) supports faculty conducting research in topics of interest to the DoD. Awardees are typically about 20 years post PhD and have an outstanding career background. Fellows receive up to \$3 million over a five-year period.

## Language Considerations

Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) are the DoD's equivalent of other agencies' calls for proposals. They are used to solicit proposals for research in specific areas. There are three types of BAAs.

- **Informational BAAs:** These can generally be identified by having long open periods. They provide information on the various program managers' focus areas and procedures for white paper and proposal submission.
- **Annual BAAs:** Annual BAAs describe long-running, generally annual, funding opportunities.
- **Topical BAAs:** These are generally hard to predict, but are useful because they tend to announce a new funding opportunity within a discipline, research area, or are problem-oriented.

## Where to find previously funded DoD grants.

To find previously funded Department of Defense grants, you can use the DoD Grant Awards Search on the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) website.

<https://discover.dtic.mil/grant/>