

BSA FY26 LDRD Process

The FY26 Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) process has begun. There will be Area-wide, Early Career, and Multi-Area Initiative tracks. Please see a description of these tracks in the [call for proposals](#) and the FY26 Bioscience Area priorities [here](#). Candidates at all levels of their careers are encouraged to apply for LDRD funding. The highest-ranking proposal submitted by an Early Career researcher (i.e., *Ph.D. received no earlier than January 1, 2016*) will be recommended for funding as the Area’s selection for the Early Career track.

This is a highly competitive process. Therefore, we are seeking high-quality and high-impact proposals. Important considerations for LDRD submissions are opportunities for synergy, building new capabilities/areas of research, the potential for future funding, and linkage to the [Biosciences Strategic Plan](#), National Academies reports, or other strategic and forward-looking documents.

The process for the development and review of LDRD proposals is described below. Please carefully review the [Biosciences Area LDRD Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements document](#). If you have questions, you can contact [Nikki Humphreys](#) or your [Division/Facility Director](#).

Activity	Due date
300-word pre-proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of LDRD idea, along with potential collaborators and budget information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your post-award Resource Analyst to develop your budget 	BSE: January 17, 2025 EGSB/JGI: January 17, 2025 MBIB: January 17, 2025
Leadership review of pre-proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback provided to PIs 	Late January / Early February
Feedback communicated to pre-proposal submitters	No later than February 7, 2025
Oral presentations to Division/Facility leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations should be a maximum of 7 minutes 	BSE: February 25-28, 2025 EGSB / JGI: February 12, 26, & 28, 2025 MBIB: February 11 & 25, 2025

Proposed Multi-Area Project presentations to Area Leadership	March 14, 2025
Principal Investigators (PIs) submit and lock FY26 LDRD proposals in the web-based submission system for Division processing. Associate Laboratory Directors (ALDs) initiate review processes.	March 21, 2025
<p>Oral presentations to Area leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations should be a maximum of 7 minutes 	<p>April 8, 2025 New FY26 LDRD Presentations</p> <p>April 9, 2025 FY26 Continuing Project Presentations</p> <p>TBD Ending FY25 LDRD Project Updates</p>
ALDs identify proposals selected for Early Career Development track review.	April 18, 2025
Presentation and review meetings for FY26 Early Career Development (ECD), Multi-Area Topic, and Area/Divisional priority proposals + Presentation and review meetings for FY26 Area/Divisional priority proposals.	May 5 & 6, 2025
Lab Director or Deputy Director notifies ALDs and Division/Facility Directors of preliminary FY26 awards.	July 3, 2025
LDRD Office notifies successfully awarded FY26 PIs. Project concurrence requests are provided to DOE Bay Area Site Office.	September 1, 2025
DOE project concurrence is provided, and LDRD projects begin work.	October 2, 2025
Awards are announced in Elements after final allocations are made.	December 15, 2025

Notes:

- For those wishing to submit under the ECD track, eligibility is open to those who received their PhD by January 1, 2016. Deputies and Division Directors will work with Early Career applicants to develop a mentoring plan.
- A careful review of the [Biosciences Area LDRD Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements document](#) is strongly recommended.
- For more details, please see the [Biosciences Area LDRD page](#), which includes links to the *BSA FY26 LDRD Town Hall* and the *Showing Off Your Science: Preparing a Compelling LDRD Presentation* video from February 2022.
- The [Berkeley Lab LDRD page](#) is also a resource.
- All current FY25 LDRD projects must present a project update to Area leadership. This includes projects for which renewal funding WILL NOT be requested.