



**BUDGET LIMIT:**

Starting with the June 15, 2009 submission, HSR&D has increased the budget limit for Merit Review applications. Investigators may request a maximum of \$350,000 per year with a total project limit of \$1.1 million. Projects are limited to a maximum of 4 years. In planning project budgets, applicants are reminded to adhere to HSR&D guidelines regarding allowable use of research funds for specific items and restrictions on the use of research funds for equipment and development of computer software (see [VHA Handbook 1204.01](#), Paragraph 8, HSR&D Funding for “Development”).

**WAIVER REQUEST:**

In rare instances, a waiver may be granted for projects that exceed \$350,000 in any one year or a total of \$1.1 million. A request for budget waiver must be received no later than 30 days prior to the proposal submission deadline. The request must include a [summary budget table](#) for the proposal and a one-page justification as to why the waiver is being requested. Following approval by the local HSR&D Center (if applicable) and ACOS for Research Development, the request and related documentation should be sent via e-mail to [vhaoscirev@va.gov](mailto:vhaoscirev@va.gov). An e-mail response will be given within 10 days. If a waiver is granted, a copy of the waiver must be included with the budget justification attachment in the e-application. A waiver does not guarantee a project will be funded at the level requested.