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Announcement of Availability of Grants

July, 2026

This information is also available on our website www.jmlewisfoundation.org

Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Mental Health Research Foundation is making grant monies of up to $35,000 available for creative or innovative research projects, service programs, or educational programs with a research component that promise meaningful advancement in the science of interpersonal relationships. The accompanying materials (pp 2-6) describe in more detail the kinds of projects and programs that will be supported, guidelines for application, and deadlines for submission of applications.

This grant cycle, in addition to the above desribed process, we are encouraging proposals of up to $45,000 that may provide important reliability and validity for the Lewis Foundation Couple and Family Scales (See pp 7 and 8).

John T. Gossett, Ph.D., first author of the Lewis Scales will be available to assist at any point in the planning of the study, the application process, and conduct of the project. He can clarify issues and offer suggestions for any problems encountered every step of the way.

The best way to establish initial contact with Dr. Gossett is through email (with "LS Project" in the heading). If your approach shows promise he will be available for emails and Zoom meetings. His email address is jgossett3@aol.com.

This Announcement is revised regularly. The information contained in this Announcement supersedes that included in previous Announcements. To obtain a copy containing the most current information, call 214-388-0451, email us at Jmlewisfoundation@att.net or go to our website www.jmlewisfoundation.org

For additional information contact:

Carlos W. Davis, Jr., Ph.D.
Director

Areas of Grant Support Available from Jerry M. Lewis Foundation

Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation is a nonprofit organization devoted to research and education. *The primary area of emphasis is on the role of interpersonal relationships in psychological development along the continuum from mental health to mental illness.*

Couple, parent-child, and family system relationships are of special interest. Other relationships such as doctor-patient, teacher-student, or child care provider-child are of interest to the degree that they illuminate basic relationship characteristics and psychological development.

A complementary research interest involves scientific evaluation of relationship-centered service and educational interventions and programs.

The Foundation's educational activities are directed at health care professionals, educators, service program professionals, and the public.

Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation will consider grant applications from educational institutions and social service agencies to support programs or projects in the following areas:

Research Projects That Focus On--

1) Crucial aspects of interpersonal relationships
2) Connections between interpersonal relationship characteristics and psychological and physical health or dysfunction
3) Evaluations of relevant service or educational programs

Educational Or Service Programs That Focus On--

1) Couple, parent-child, or family system psychological health or dysfunction
2) Psychoeducational transmission of interpersonal system concepts
3) Dissemination of interpersonal system information to health care professionals, educators, service program professionals, or the public

General Grant Guidelines

1. Preference will be given to:

   A. Research projects first, educational programs second, and service programs third.

   B. Projects involving close collaboration between members of two or more professional disciplines (e.g., psychology, psychiatry, social work) each making unique contributions.

   C. Requests in the range of $5,000 to $35,000 for projects that do not involve the Lewis Scales, or $5,000 to $45,000 for projects that do involve the Lewis Scales.

   D. Projects that can be completed with the funding requested and do not imply later requests for more funding. That is, projects that do not require up front commitment to two or more grants from Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation. For example, a request for funding to support a project anticipated to take several years to complete might be approved, but a request for funding to support one part or phase of a project with a stated or implied request for additional funding in the future that would be needed to complete the project would not be approved.

   E. Projects that do not require concurrent funding from other grantors unless those funds are already in hand.

   F. These preferences are not intended to rule out our support of pilot projects that may lead to much larger multi-year or multi-grantor projects to be funded by other grantors. We welcome applications for such pilot projects.

2. Extensions or new phases of projects we have previously funded will be considered, but only if the previously funded project has been completed and the Final Report (see below) has been submitted to the Foundation Director. Such applications would be strengthened if the investigators already have obtained additional funding support equivalent to our previous grant from their sponsoring institution or other sources before re-applying to Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation.

3. Grant applications should be written with two distinct audiences in mind -- professional reviewers (clinical and developmental psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers) and board trustees (business and community leaders). The application should reflect the investigator's familiarity with relevant professional concepts and findings, but should be written in a narrative style and vocabulary that is **clear to laypersons**. Complicated descriptions of statistical procedures can be placed in an appendix.

   Applications that are felt to be unclear or difficult to understand by either professional or lay readers will be returned for re-writing or simply rejected.

4. Grants will be restricted to nonprofit organizations that qualify as "public charities" for federal income tax purposes.

5. Applications should be double-spaced in a 12-point font, pages numbered, and ten to twelve pages in length (**not double-sided**), exclusive of **brief** CVs or resumes.

6. Grantees will be expected to provide a written progress report at the mid-point of the project, and a written final report to the Director for presentation to the Board of Trustees.

7. Site visits may be requested during the grant review process and while approved projects are ongoing.

8. Serious consideration will be restricted to creative or innovative projects that promise meaningful advancement in the science of interpersonal relationships.

9. Any publications or presentations from supported projects should acknowledge the grant support provided by Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation.

Research Project Grant Application Outline

1. Statement of purpose of the project.

2. Background and brief literature review.

3. Method: subjects, procedures, design, statistical approaches.

4. Human rights, ethical considerations, informed consent; notice of IRB approval*.

5. Time frame from beginning through major steps to completion.

6. Relationship to the areas of primary interest of Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation.

7. Scientific importance of the project.

8. Practical or applied importance of the project: who stands to benefit, and how.

9. Detailed project budget; indicate clearly what is being requested from Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation and all additional funding for this project that will be needed or applied for from other sources. Please identify those sources and the amounts to be applied for, or that have been pledged or received. A clear explanation for each budget item is required.

10. Basic salaries, rent, utilities, overhead costs, travel expenses, general administrative expenses, and other costs of doing business rather than requesting funds earmarked for the specific project will be rejected. Express salary figures in terms of hourly rate and number of hours over the course of the project. Include the detailed budget in the body of your project, not as an appendix item.

11. Copy of any proposed paper and pencil measures and a list of validity and reliability references for each instrument.

12. Plan for dissemination of results.

13. Description of applicant's institution or agency and verification of "public charity"status in the form of an IRS determination letter.

14. Identification of at least two individuals responsible for the project who may be contacted for further discussion; include brief CVs or resumes.

* Grant applicants from institutions that have an Institutional Review Board must provide notice of their IRB's approval of the grant application project and a copy of the consent form to be used. Applicants who do not have an IRB should request a copy of our "IRB Sample Guidelines."

Educational or Service Program Grant Application Outline

1. Statement of purpose of the program.

2. Background and brief literature review.

3. Program description: structure, objectives, methods, time frame from beginning through major steps to completion.

4. Staffing and administration.

5. Relationship to the areas of primary interest of Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation (see p. 2).

6. Scientific importance of the program.

7. Practical or applied importance of the program: who stands to benefit, and how.

8. Detailed project budget; indicate clearly what is being requested from Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Foundation and all additional funding for this project that will be needed or applied for from other sources. Please identify those sources and the amounts to be applied for, or that have been pledged or received. A clear explanation for each budget item is required.

9. Basic salaries, rent, utilities, overhead costs, travel expenses, general administrative expenses, and other costs of doing business rather than requesting funds earmarked for the specific project will be rejected. Express salary figures in terms of hourly rate and number of hours over the course of the project. Include the detailed budget in the body of your project, not as an appendix item.

10. Plan for program evaluation. *Education or service programs must include a scientific program evaluation in order to be considered for funding.* The program evaluation must satisfy all 13 guidelines listed under Research Project Grant Application Outline in this Announcement of Availability of Grants.

11. Plan for dissemination of results.

12. Description of applicant's institution or agency and verification of "public charity" status in the form of an IRS determination letter.

13. Identification of at least two individuals responsible for the program who may be contacted for further discussion; include brief CVs or resumes.

The Lewis Scale Proposal
$45,000 Award

I. This is a request for grant applications that simultaneously address two areas of interest to the Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Mental Health Research Foundation.

First, your proposed research project should address an issue or topic involving romantic couple interaction that is of scientific or practical importance. Second, the data you collect using the Lewis Scales in your project would provide us with important interrater and internal consistency reliability as well as construct validity data for the Lewis Scales.

The issues or topics you address are up to you. We will specify certain parameters in your research design and methodology as described below.

II. You will need to request our 2025 Lewis Scales Rater Training Guide, (RTG), Second Edition, and the 2020 Supplement to that RTG from our administrator. By reading these documents you can become grounded in our approach to measuring romantic couple competence.

On page 23 of the 2020 Supplement we list the design and methodological guidelines we ask you to follow. Your application should provide enough specific details to assure us that you understand their importance.

Please note that the quality of the video-recordings is crucial. If we cannot see the couple partners clearly and fully understand the audio, then that is a wasted interview. We have made some changs in our advice concerning the recording equipment, but that should not be interpreted to believe that it is easy to get usable video recordings. It isn't.

Dr. Gossett would like to see the first three video recordings that you consider acceptable. If he agrees, then it's full speed ahead. If he does not agree, then you will have to show him three more that have incorporated the changes he has requested.

III. Please follow the instructions included in this announcement which are also available on our website, www.jmlewisfoundation.org, for how to organize the information in your application.

IV. Guidelines

1. The Lewis Scales (LS) are integral to the rationale and goals of the project.
2. The (Principal Investigator) PI or the Project Manager, or both will LS self-train.
3. The PI will follow the guidelines for creating optimized videos.
4. The PI will send randomly selected 10 of their videos to Dr. Gossett to code for training and evaluation of the Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) in LS coding.
5. The PI or the Project Manager will take the LS Certification exam.
6. The PI and the Project Manager will have discussed the planned project with Dr. Gossett before submitting the grant request to the Board.

General Grant Guidelines

1. Grant applications should be written with two distinct audiences in mind--professional reviewers (clinical and developmental psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers) and board trustees (business and community leaders). The application should reflect the investigator's familiarity with relevant professional concepts and findings, but should be written in a narrative style and vocabulary that is clear to laypersons. Complicated descriptions of statistical procedures can be placed in an appendix.

   Applications that are felt to be unclear or difficult to understand by either professional or lay readers will be returned for re-writing or simply rejected.

2. Grants will be restricted to nonprofit organizations that qualify as "public charities" for federal income tax purposes.

3. Applications should be double-spaced in a 12-point font, pages numbered, and ten to twelve pages in length (not double-sided). Please limit CVs to 15 pages and include as an appendix.

4. Any publications or presentations from supported projects should acknowledge the grant support provided by Jerry M. Lewis, M.D. Mental Health Research Foundation.

Grant Application Deadlines

Grant Announcement Distribution Dates	Grant Application Must Be Received By	To Be Considered by Board of Trustees In
July 15, 2026	November 3, 2026	January 20, 2027
November 11, 2026	March 9, 2027	May 19, 2027
March 17, 2027	July 13, 2027	September 15, 2027

If submitting by email, please send by 3:00p.m. on the deadline date above.

If submitting by mail, please send four copies of your grant application to:

Carlos W. Davis, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
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