



Lewy Body Dementia Association

Request for Applications

Title: New Investigator Pilot Study Award

Date Issued: February 2025

LOI Deadline: April 7, 2025

Application Deadline: July 25, 2025

Scientific review: August 15 through October 15, 2025

Notice of Award: November 2025

1. Introduction

The Lewy Body Dementia Association, now in its 21st year, is the sole national nonprofit in the United States dedicated exclusively to improving the lives of those affected by LBD. LBDA's mission is to optimize the quality of life for those affected by Lewy body dementia, by accelerating awareness, advancing research for early diagnosis and improved care, and providing comprehensive education and compassionate support.

As part of our mission, LBDA is committed to supporting early stage researchers and researchers new to LBD research. LBDA recognizes that larger grant proposals to agencies such as NIH are generally more likely to be funded if the proposal contains preliminary data. The New Investigator Pilot Study Award was developed to provide grant support to develop such data, thereby increasing the likelihood of larger LBD research projects being funded by NIH and other grant-making organizations.

Lewy body dementia is an umbrella term for two progressive disorders: dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) and Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD). LBD symptoms include changes in cognition, movement, behavior, sleep and autonomic function. National research priorities for LBD were first developed in 2013 at the Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias (ADRD) Summit organized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Updated in 2022, one of the top 4 research priorities for Clinical Characterization and Intervention identified for Lewy

body dementias was to *prepare for and initiate clinical trials that aim to alleviate or slow the course of LBD symptoms, and delay or prevent the onset of disease.*

2. Aims and Objectives

The **Aim** of the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) New Investigator Pilot Study Award is to support pilot translational or clinical studies for the purpose of developing preliminary data to be used in future grant applications. The program is open both to early-stage investigators, and to more established researchers from other fields, who have not yet received an NIH R01 in Lewy body dementia (LBD) research.

In 2025, the **Objective** of the grant program is to fund translational or clinical research studies using human subjects, biofluid/tissue samples, or existing clinical data sets to drive progress in clinical trials of disease-modifying therapies for people with LBD.

Applications focused on basic science or caregiver studies will not be accepted in response to this RFA.

Examples of topics that are in scope for this project include but are not limited to:

- Utilization of biomarkers for sample enrichment/stratification or to monitor disease progression of treatment response
- Digital tools to monitor disease progression
- Characterization of early disease states that may offer opportunities for intervention
- Outcome measures

Examples of topics that are out of scope

- Proposals focused on symptomatic treatments
- Non-pharmacological interventions
- Proposals focused on care partner health or quality of life

3. Project Funding and Period

LBDA intends to commit up to \$150,000 for this program in 2025 to fund up to three awards. Total budget per proposal may not exceed \$50,000, including up to \$5,000 in indirect costs.

The project period is one year.

4. Eligibility Criteria

This program is open to [Early Stage Investigators](#) and to more established researchers from other fields who have not yet received an NIH R01 in LBD research (new to LBD). In either case, the applicant's career stage should be no higher than assistant professor or equivalent, and the institution must be located within the United States.

5. Application Process

Applicants must submit an LOI and application by the dates listed at the top of the RFA. LOIs should include the name and institution of the lead PI, a title for the project, a basic statement of the planned Specific Aims, and an indication of any planned partners. A full application form will be released closer to the LOI deadline.

LOIs and applications should be submitted through ProposalCentral.

6. Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the LBDA Scientific Affairs Committee (SAfC).

Applications will be scored and evaluated utilizing the [standard NIH criteria and impact scores](#), which involves a 9- point scale (1-9). Key areas to be scored are:

- Overall impact of the study
- Significance, Impact, and Innovation
- Research Plan and Approach (include feasibility to complete within 1 year)
- Environment and suitability to the aims of the New Investigator Pilot Study Award
- Investigator track record

8. Contact Information

For inquiries, please contact:

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