



The Maia James Sarcoma Innovation Grant

\$40,000 Research Award for Relapsed or Refractory Ewing Sarcoma

Funded by *Strides for Sarcoma, Inc.*

Submission Requirements

Submit all materials using the Strides for Sarcoma [online application portal](#).

Deadline: *April 1, 2026*

Award Notification: *May 1, 2026*

Funding Start Date: *June 1, 2026*

Overview

Strides for Sarcoma, Inc. is committed to accelerating high-impact research that improves outcomes for children and young adults facing relapsed Ewing Sarcoma. *The Maia James Sarcoma Innovation Grant* provides \$40,000 in direct research support to innovative laboratories, clinician-scientists, or multidisciplinary teams working to advance understanding, treatment, or management of relapsed or refractory Ewing Sarcoma.

This grant honors Maia James Amador, whose extraordinary courage continues to inspire our mission to drive meaningful advancements in sarcoma research.

Restricted Use of Funds

Grant funds must be used exclusively to support research directly related to relapsed or refractory Ewing Sarcoma. Funds may not be reallocated to other cancer types, exploratory sarcoma projects not directly tied to relapsed or refractory disease, or general laboratory support unrelated to the approved project without prior written approval from Strides for Sarcoma, Inc.

Any material changes to the approved scope of work or budget must receive prior written approval from Strides for Sarcoma, Inc.

Application Instructions

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Must hold a faculty appointment (MD, PhD, DO, or equivalent) at an accredited academic, medical, or nonprofit research institution. Each Principal Investigator

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may submit only one application per funding cycle. The 2026 application cycle is open from January 15 through April 1, 2026.

- **Research Focus:** Proposed project must directly address relapsed and/or refractory Ewing Sarcoma in pediatric, adolescent, or young adult populations.
- **Institutional Approval:** All work with human tissues, patient samples, animals, or clinical data must have appropriate IRB/IACUC approval by the project start date.
- **Geographic Eligibility:** Open to institutions in the United States of America.
- Early-career and established investigators are encouraged to apply.

1. Cover Page (1 page)

Include:

- Project Title
- PI Name, Degrees, Title, and Institution
- Contact Information
- Co-Investigators
- Total Budget Requested (\$40,000 max)

2. Abstract (300 words maximum)

A clear summary of the project's aims, significance, innovation, and expected impact on relapsed or refractory Ewing Sarcoma.

3. Research Proposal (Maximum 5 pages, not including references, page limits assume single-spaced text, 11-point font minimum, and 0.5-inch margins.)

Must include the following sections:

A. Background & Significance

- Current challenges in relapsed or refractory Ewing Sarcoma
- Scientific rationale for the project

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- How the proposed work addresses critical unmet needs

B. Specific Aims

- 1–3 focused, testable aims
- Clear description of hypotheses and expected outcomes

C. Research Strategy

- Study design and methodology
- Type of samples or models used (patient-derived cells, mouse models, organoids, omics, clinical data, etc.)
- Data analysis plan
- Potential pitfalls and alternative strategies
- Timeline of major milestones (12–18 months recommended)

D. Impact Statement

Describe how this work could ultimately improve survival, treatment response, or quality of life for children and young adults with relapsed or refractory Ewing Sarcoma.

4. Investigator Biography (2 pages max per investigator)

NIH-style biosketch preferred.

5. Environment & Institutional Support (1 page)

Describe available resources, mentorship, facilities, and core services.

6. Budget & Justification (2 pages total)

Allowable costs include:

- Personnel (research assistants, technicians, postdocs)
- Supplies and reagents
- Animal model costs

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- Core facility fees
- Data analysis/software
- Publication costs

Non-allowable costs:

- PI salary
- Indirect/overhead expenses
- Equipment over \$5,000
- Travel

Budget reallocations greater than 10% between categories require prior approval.

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Significance (30%)
- Innovation (20%)
- Approach (30%)
- Investigator Qualifications (10%)
- Potential for Future Impact (10%)

Award Terms & Expectations

Awards will be issued to the applicant's institution. Funding will be distributed in one installment upon execution of an institutional grant agreement. The project period is 12–18 months. Awardees must submit a mid-term progress report at 6–9 months and a final report within 60 days of project completion. Strides for Sarcoma, Inc. reserves the right to suspend or terminate funding for non-compliance. Unused funds must be returned.

Contact

For questions regarding eligibility or application requirements:

grants@stridesforsarcoma.org
www.stridesforsarcoma.com

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