



January 30, 2023

Dear Prospective C.A.R.E.S. Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in UOAA's Conference Attendee Reimbursement of Expenses Sponsorship (C.A.R.E.S.) Program. As you know, our 8th National Conference is being held August 10-12, 2023 in Houston, Texas. UOAA offers C.A.R.E.S. sponsorships to current UOAA national members and members of UOAA's Affiliated Support Groups (ASGs) who wish to attend a UOAA biennial National Conference but who need financial assistance.

This year's awards will be \$600.00 per person, paid to help reimburse lodging and transportation expenses for the individual who applies. A C.A.R.E.S. Selection Committee, overseen by UOAA's Board of Directors, will review all applications. Please review the current Program Information and Applicant Criteria document for complete details before applying.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday, April 17, 2023. If you are a UOAA National Member please complete your application and submit it to UOAA at info@ostomy.org. UOAA's Membership & ASG Coordinator will verify and sign the application affirming your membership. If you are an Affiliated Support Group member please sign and turn it in to your ASG President, who will sign the application, and submit it to UOAA at info@ostomy.org. All successful applicants will be notified of their sponsorship no later than Monday, May 8, 2023.

Application Instructions:

- 1) Fill out the application form completely and sign it.
- 2) In 500 words or less, explain how attending conference will assist you in adjusting to your ostomy surgery, and why a sponsorship is necessary for you to be able to attend. Essays must be typed or printed neatly and submitted with the completed application.
- 3) Application submitted by a UOAA National Member will be verified by UOAA's Membership & ASG Coordinator. Application submitted by a member of an ASG must have the completed application signed by their ASG President.
- 4) Application and applicant's statement can be mailed to UOAA's Office at PO Box 525 Kennebunk, ME 04043 or emailed to info@ostomy.org. Applications mailed must be postmarked no later than April 17, 2023, applications emailed must be received no later than April 17, 2023.

Again, thank you for your interest!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl M. Ory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl M. Ory
President



8th National Conference C.A.R.E.S. Program Application
Please print clearly

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Surgery type and date (Month/Year): _____

Is cost the only factor that would keep you from attending the Conference? Yes No

If no, please give details:

If selected, what educational or special programs would you like to attend? Provide specific areas that are of greatest interest to you.

Please attach a statement (500 words or less) of the benefits anticipated from attending UOAA's 8th National Conference.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am a UOAA National Member

UOAA Membership & ASG Coordinator Signature _____

AND/OR

I am a member of a UOAA Affiliated Support Group

Affiliated Support Group (ASG) Name: _____

ASG Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(required if a member of a UOAA ASG)



8th National Conference C.A.R.E.S Program Criteria

- The maximum reimbursement for UOAA's 8th National Conference will be \$600.00/recipient. This money can be used by the recipient only to defray the cost of their lodging at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria and/or the cost of their travel to and from the hotel. Expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts after the Conference. The recipient will receive a complimentary Individual Conference Registration.
- In the event of a medical emergency and the C.A.R.E.S recipient is not able to attend, the recipient is to notify UOAA as soon as possible. There can be no deferment of the scholarship funds.
- The scholarship is for the OSTOMY/CONTINENT DIVERSION PATIENT only. UOAA will not fund the attendance of family members. If the C.A.R.E.S recipient chooses to have family or children attend with them, they do so at their own expense.
- Lodging expenses at the conference hotel that are eligible for reimbursement extend from the night of Wednesday, August 9 through the night of Saturday, August 12, 2023. Additional nights are **not** reimbursable.
- Meals will be the responsibility of the C.A.R.E.S recipient, and are not reimbursable.
- Following the Conference, recipients must submit their expense reports and receipts so they are received by UOAA no later than Tuesday, August 22, 2023 (10 days from last day of Conference). The report and receipts can be mailed to UOAA at PO Box 525, Kennebunk, ME 04043 or scanned and emailed to info@ostomy.org. Recipients should allow 3 to 4 weeks from the time their expense reports are received for processing.

Applicant & Selection Criteria

- All applicants must be UOAA National Members or members of an Affiliated Support Group or a Virtual ASG.
- All applicants must be a **first time** UOAA National Conference attendee, never having attended a UOAA National Conference.
- All applicants must write a letter explaining why he or she would like to attend Conference and attach their letter to the application form.
- All applicants must be able to prove financial need, but will not be required to show income and expenses. He or she must give a clear explanation as to why they need assistance. Applicants will be making "good faith" statements.
- All applicants who are members of an ASG must provide a letter from his or her support group stating the group endorses his or her application and that all information on the application is true to the best of the group leader's knowledge. All applicants who are UOAA National Members will be required to include a statement from a selection committee member or someone closely associated with UOAA.
- Those who have had their ostomy surgery within the last two years will be given first consideration; if more than two years since surgery the applicant can still be considered.
- Age is not an issue; the program is open to all who meet the requirements.
- The applicant is expected to attend the educational workshops and other Conference Program events. If it is determined that the applicant left the hotel while programming was going on, sponsorship reimbursement funds may be withheld at the discretion of UOAA's leadership.
- The applicant must also make themselves available to the Conference Volunteer Coordinator for potential volunteer service during the Conference.
- Within three weeks after returning from the Conference, the recipients are required to submit to UOAA (nfo@ostomy.org) and to the Editor of *The Phoenix* Magazine (publisher@phoenixuoa.org), a write-up about what attending the conference meant to them. (*The Phoenix* editor reserves the right to select the best article or portions of any article for publishing.)