



9th National Conference C.A.R.E.S. Program Criteria

We are delighted to announce the 2025 **Conference Attendee Reimbursement of Expenses Scholarship (C.A.R.E.S.)** Program. This award is for new ostomates and/or first-time attendees of UOAA's Biennial Conference. This year, the 9th National Conference will be in Orlando, Florida on August 14-16, 2025. This scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who have an ostomy and continent diversion to participate in an enriching experience at the conference but need financial assistance to attend.

Scholarship Details

- **Reimbursement Amount:** Up to \$600.00 per recipient. There will be up to five (5) scholarships awarded in 2025. Each recipient will also receive one complimentary individual registration (\$195.00).
- **Eligible Expenses:** Lodging at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, FL, and/or travel to and from the Resort (airfare or mileage at the IRS Rate of .70¢ per mile).
- **Lodging Dates:** Eligible reimbursement for lodging is from the night of Wednesday, August 13th through the night of Saturday, August 16th. Additional nights are not reimbursable and will be the responsibility of the recipient.
- **Meals:** Meal expenses are the responsibility of the scholarship recipient and are not reimbursable.
- **Eligibility:** The scholarship is exclusively for people living with an ostomy or continent diversion who are attending the conference for the first time. Family members' expenses are not covered.
- **Medical Emergency:** In case of a medical emergency preventing attendance, notify UOAA as soon as possible. The scholarship cannot be deferred.
- **Expense Submission Deadline:** Recipients must submit expense reports and receipts to UOAA by Monday, September 1, 2025 (16 days after the last day of the conference). Reports and receipts can be mailed to UOAA at PO Box 2293, Biddeford, ME 04005 or emailed to conference@ostomy.org. Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing.



Applicant & Selection Criteria:

- **Membership:** Applicants must be members of a UOAA Affiliated Support Group (ASG) and/or be a current UOAA National Member.
- **First-Time Attendees:** Applicants must be first-time UOAA National Conference attendees, never having attended a UOAA National Conference.
- **Application Letter:** Applicants must write a letter explaining why they would like to attend the conference and attach it to the application form.
- **Financial Need:** Applicants must demonstrate financial need without providing income and expenses. A clear explanation is required.
- **Support Group Endorsement:** Applicants must provide a letter from their support group endorsing their application and verifying the information provided, if applicable.
- **Surgery Date:** Preference is given to applicants who have had ostomy surgery within the past year. Those with surgery dates over a year ago can still be considered.
- **Age:** There are no age restrictions. The program is open to all who meet the requirements.
- **Conference Attendance:** Recipients are expected to attend educational workshops and other conference events. If it is determined that the recipient left the hotel during programming, scholarship reimbursement funds may be withheld.
- **Volunteering at the Conference:** You will be required to volunteer a total of four (4) hours of your time during the conference. Sharon Darnov, this year's Volunteer Coordinator, will be in touch to schedule your volunteer time.
- **Post-Conference Write-Up:** Within two weeks of returning from the conference, recipients must submit a write-up about what attending the conference meant to them to UOAA and their ASG leader. Selected articles may be published in ASG newsletters and by UOAA. We encourage all eligible individuals to apply for this amazing opportunity.

Completed applications can be emailed to conference@ostomy.org or mailed to UOAA, PO Box 2293, Biddeford, ME 04005. **All applications must be received and/or postmarked by Friday, April 18, 2025.**