CAHR Conference
Community Scholarship Applicant Guide

What is the background on these Awards?

The CAHR Conference Community Scholarship program was implemented in 2018 as part of an overall effort by the CAHR Board of Directors to make the CAHR Conference more inclusive and to promote diversity. This plan also included the development of the "key populations" oral abstract sessions and increasing the breadth of diverse abstract reviewers, session chairs, etc.

Who designed the Awards?

Community was at the core of the design of these changes: all concepts were designed by a CAHR Board Working Group comprised solely of community members and diverse champions. This Working Group worked to ensure that the application form was hassle free, with minimal burden placed on those applying. The application has clear and transparent eligibility criteria and the CAHR office is always available to help anyone with their questions.

What Awards are offered?

The Community Registration Scholarships allow community members to attend the Conference for free, removing any barriers to attendance. The Community Travel Awards provides support registration, travel and accommodation over the course of the event. Together, this investment by CAHR ensures an ongoing strong community presence at the annual CAHR Conference.

How many Awards are offered each year?

Each year, CAHR offers a minimum of:
- 80 Community Registration Scholarships
- 5 Community Travel Awards

Who Receives the Community Travel Scholarships?

The top ranked applicant in each region (BC, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic) will receive one of the Community Travel Awards.

What are the success rates?

Since the creation of the program, CAHR has never denied an eligible Community Registration Scholarship application. About 7-8% of applicants receive a Community Travel Scholarships each year.

Who reviews the applications?
All applications are merit reviewed by a panel comprised solely of HIV community members.

Is my personal information kept confidential?
Applications are treated as confidential and protected. All personal information is removed before being sent to peer reviewers. All ineligible applications are deleted while approved applications are retained on file in the CAHR Office for a short duration in accordance with existing laws and regulations for this purpose.

What makes a successful application?
Clearly state your eligibility
First, your application should clearly indicate that you are eligible for a Scholarship. To be eligible, you must be a person living with HIV/AIDS and/or someone working or volunteering in any field related to HIV/AIDS. Additionally, you must NOT be one of several ineligible groups listed in the call for applications including healthcare professionals, students, academics, etc. Simply review the eligibility criteria and spell out to the reviewers how you are eligible.

Show Clarity of Thought
While it sounds simple, the key to any successful application is answering each question thoroughly and clearly. One sentence responses won't convince a reviewer nearly as well as a few clearly articulated paragraphs that answer the question at hand.

Remember to Address the Priority Evaluation Areas
As outlined in the call for application, reviewers will score your application based on the following criteria:
- Demonstration that the applicant has a strong connection to the HIV community in Canada: those living with HIV/AIDS and/or those working or volunteering in any field related to HIV/AIDS (priority will be given to those living with HIV/AIDS)
- Demonstration that the applicant will actively participate in the conference
- Demonstration that the applicant can show tangible benefits from attending the conference and will share the knowledge gained with the larger, at risk community or organization after the meeting

For each of these key areas, your application will receive a mark out of ten. As such, you should take effort to tailor each of your answers to align with these areas that reviewers will be using to score your application.

Who do I contact if I need more Information?
Simply contact conference@cahr-acrv.ca for more information.