



The Shellie Owens First-Time Attendee (SOFTA) Travel Award Guidelines

Purpose

The Shellie Owens First-Time Attendee (SOFTA) Travel Award provides financial assistance to patients and one support person accompanying them who are attending the International LAM Research Conference & LAMposium for the first time.

Who is eligible?

Individuals with LAM who are interested in attending LAMposium for the first time and need financial assistance to attend are eligible for the grant. In addition, funds are available for one support person accompanying the patient to LAMposium.

Expenses Covered by the Award

In most cases, the SOFTA Travel Award will assist with the airfare or fuel/mileage costs in cases where driving is an option, the cost of the hotel room for the conference, and other expenses (such as luggage fees, ground transportation fees, etc.) incurred during travel. Applicants are asked to apply for only the assistance needed to ensure that as many first time-attendees with LAM can attend the conference. Patients and the support person will each be responsible for paying the conference registration fee.

Air Travel

For patients living outside a 200-mile radius of the conference hotel, the SOFTA Travel Award will cover expenses for flights up to the lowest economy fare available at the time of booking.

For patients living within a 200-mile radius of the conference hotel and choose to fly will be reimbursed for airfare up to the equivalent current federally approved mileage reimbursement rate multiplied by the actual miles driven from home to the conference hotel.

Driving/Mileage Reimbursement

Patients who live within a 200-mile radius of the conference hotel or who are not medically able to fly are encouraged to drive. If you are planning to drive your own vehicle, you will be reimbursed using the current federally approved mileage reimbursement rate multiplied by the actual miles driven from your home to the conference hotel. The cost of a rental car (including gas) may also be covered up to the equivalent of the current federally approved mileage reimbursement rate for equivalent mileage. The LAM Foundation may extend special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Application & Funds Disbursement

Qualified individuals who would like to apply for funds must fill out the Shellie Owens First-Time Attendee Travel Award application. The application will be reviewed and approved by the LAM SOFTA committee, and once approved, the applicant will sign an agreement stating they will return all funds if they cannot attend the conference. When the signed agreement is received, The LAM Foundation will disperse funds so they may be used to make travel arrangements.

The LAM Foundation's goal is to enable as many individuals with LAM to attend LAMposium as possible. The distribution of funds will be at the sole discretion of The LAM Foundation in pursuit of this goal. Applicants are not guaranteed funding with an application.

Questions

Questions regarding the Shellie Owens First-Time Attendee Travel Award should be directed to Jenny Jostworth, Finance Director at The LAM Foundation at finance@thelamfoundation.org or (513) 777-6889.