

### **Empowered Traveler Scholarships (2019)**

We are excited to announce that SBRN has funding for a limited number of **Empowered Traveler Scholarships** to assist individuals with attending conferences, workshops, seminars or trainings. The scholarships are intended to defray meeting expenses for people to attend educational events related to their disability who, due to financial need, otherwise would not be able to attend the conference.

If you are planning to attend a conference or other type of educational meeting, you may request an application from the SBRN. Keep in mind that these scholarships offer partial funding only and you will need other resources to cover remaining expenditures. There is limited funding and all applicants may not be funded. Decisions will be made on an ongoing basis until funding runs out for the year.

**Who can apply?** Individuals with spina bifida who are residents of New Jersey are invited to apply. Note: Parents/caregivers with children under the age of 18 may apply. Individuals with other physical disabilities will be considered on a case by case basis. Individuals can receive only one scholarship per 12 month period.

**How much funding can be requested?** Due to limited funds, and in order to allow more people to attend events, the scholarships will cover only certain types of expenditures and will not cover full expenses of attending a conference. Scholarships can cover:

- Up to \$250 for in-state meetings
- Up to \$500 for out-of-state meetings

### **What types of meetings can the scholarships be used for?**

The scholarships can partially cover costs for conferences, seminars, trainings, or workshops related to your disability that will empower, educate, and/or benefit you. We encourage disability-related conferences (e.g., medical, advocacy); however, other types will be considered if you show how it is related to your disability and how it will help advance your personal and/or professional goals.

(Note: Funds cannot be used for travel for individual treatment planning for a specific individual or for ongoing courses such as college courses.)



**What types of expenses can be covered?** Scholarships can be used for: *meeting registration costs, airfare, other travel modes, and/or hotel rooms.*

(Meals will not be covered.)

**How will scholarship awards be determined?**

Scholarship recipients and amount of funding will be determined by SBRN and will be based on:

- Financial Need
- Responses to essay questions
- Availability of funds
- Willingness to share the knowledge you have gained after the event



**When are applications accepted?** There is a rolling application process until funds run out for the year. (You may check with SBRN at any time to see if funds are still available.) Applications must be submitted 45 days prior to the meeting that you plan to attend. SBRN will review the applications as quickly as possible and notify the applicants through email or mail.

**When are funds paid to the recipient?** After review, recipients will be notified by mail or email prior to the conference whether they will receive a scholarship and the upper limit of what they can be reimbursed for. Funds are paid after the conference, when receipts/proof of payment and attendance have been submitted. Note: Funds will not be reimbursed for meetings committed to but not attended.

**What is required after the conference?** Scholarship recipients will need to submit receipts, or other proof of payment, from the event in order to be reimbursed. Scholarship recipients will also be asked to complete a short Recipient Survey, which will include information on how they will share their knowledge. In addition, SBRN is requesting (if possible) that recipients provide a photograph of the individual at the event that we may use in our publications.

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**For more information or to request an application,** contact SBRN at (908) 782-7475 or [info@thesbrn.org](mailto:info@thesbrn.org). Applications can also be printed from our website: [www.thesbrn.org/programs-services/financial-assistance](http://www.thesbrn.org/programs-services/financial-assistance).

**Completed applications should be mailed to SBRN at:**

84 Park Avenue, Suite G-106  
Flemington, NJ 08822