

Educational Conference Scholarship

Scholarship Parameters:

- The scholarship program is available to DMOs statewide, provided they have participated in and successfully completed a project in the Division of Tourism's Cooperative Marketing Program in at least one of the last five fiscal years (FY21-26).
- Each DMO is limited to one application per fiscal year.
 - You may apply for two scholarships in the same calendar year and/or for two different conferences in the same calendar year, as long as the conferences fall into two separate fiscal years.
- Qualifying expenses for the scholarship are:
 - **Registration fees** for the conference can be reimbursed with proof of registration and proof of payment. MDT will only reimburse the 'Early Bird' cost (if one is available) and the DMO will be responsible for the remainder of the cost if the 'Early Bird' discount is not utilized.
 - **Hotel room cost** (and applicable taxes) can be reimbursed with proof of reservation and proof of payment. The hotel must be the conference hotel or a hotel with an equal or lower nightly rate. The room nights cannot start more than one night before the conference begins or one night after the conference ends when needed. Hotel incidentals (e.g., food, drink, parking, shopping) will not be reimbursed.
- Conference options include:
 - Destination's International Annual Conference
 - ESTO Annual Conference
 - PRSA Travel and Tourism Conference
 - STS Connections
 - STS Marketing College
 - TTRA Marketing Outlook Forum

If you would like to suggest any additional educational opportunities, please contact a co-op team member.

- Eligible conferences must be held within the United States.
- If the applicant is unable to attend for any reason and registration fees and lodging charges cannot be refunded, the DMO applicant is responsible for finding a replacement attendee. If no replacement can be found to attend in place of the original applicant, the DMO shall be responsible for all fees and MDT will not reimburse the charges.

Application Process:

- Scholarship applications and reimbursement requests must be submitted online through the Division of Tourism's Cooperative Marketing Program [application website](#).
- Application review will consider applicant eligibility, eligibility of costs, and availability of funds.
- Applicant receives approval from MDT once review process is complete.
- Applicants must submit to MDT copies of original receipts of eligible expenses and payment documentation in order to receive 100 percent of the eligible reimbursement. Reimbursements will be requested via MDT's grant management system and must be submitted with 60 days of the conclusion of the event.
- Applicant awards will be determined at the discretion of MDT based on the applicant's eligibility, eligible costs, and overall availability of program funds.