

NOSORH Educational Exchange Scholarship Program Overview

NOSORH promotes educational exchange and mentoring among SORH recognizing that SORH often learn best from other SORH. To accomplish this, NOSORH offers a travel scholarship to support the face-to-face exchange of information between SORH members and offices.

Jim Bernstein and the early leaders of the State Office of Rural Health movement were masters of change; they knew how to work within existing policy frameworks and built sustainable programs that addressed longstanding problems. It is in this philosophy of dedication that serves as the foundation of NOSORH's efforts to cultivate the next generation of rural health leaders.

Click here to read the full [Jim Bernstein Mentoring Philosophy](#).

Who is eligible to apply?

All NOSORH members are eligible to request travel scholarships to meet with another SORH and learn about a topic of importance to that member's SORH. Scholarships support travel that enable a NOSORH member to link with a mentor or peer at another SORH who will help that member:

- develop or enhance his or her expertise and leadership skills,
- adopt a promising practice, and/or
- improve their program management or strategic planning/implementation effectiveness.

NOSORH's Web-based directory of SORH staff will be used to verify whether applicants are eligible for funding. Eligible applicants must also have the verifiable endorsement of their respective SORH director to apply for funds.

How May Scholarships be Used?

Educational Exchange travel scholarships may be used by NOSORH members to visit another SORH with the intent to:

- Develop or enhance their rural health expertise or knowledge;
- Cultivate their leadership skills;
- Adopt a promising practice; or
- Improve their program management and/or strategic planning and implementation effectiveness.

The Educational Exchange travel scholarships program is funded in part by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Cooperative Agreement. As such, travel scholarships **may not** be used to support the following activities:

- Travel required by any federal grant;
- Consulting fees for state-specific projects;
- Activities already budgeted for by other funding streams; or
- Conference travel

How to Apply

To apply for the Educational Exchange Scholarship program, please complete and submit your [application](#) for approval to NOSORH's Education and Services Director at chris.salyers@nosorh.org.

Applications can also be downloaded at: https://nosorh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Educational-Exchange-Scholarship-Application-4_2017.pdf

How Are Applications Approved?

Requests are approved by the Educational Exchange Committee Co-chairs. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need for support, compatibility of the project with Educational Exchange purpose, compliance with the Cooperative Agreement, reasonability of the requested budget and availability of funding. Applications may be approved for full or partial funding.

How Do I Receive My Scholarship Funds?

Scholarship funds are reimbursed according to NOSORH travel procedures outlined on the [Travel Reimbursement Packet](#). Requests for reimbursement must be submitted within **30 days** of completion of the educational exchange; payment is made upon submittal of travel reimbursement request AND upon completion of the [Educational Exchange Experience Evaluation](#).