

WORMS Family Care Award

Purpose:

The [WORMS Family Care Award](#) aims to support INFORMS Annual Meeting attendees who are primary caregivers for a family member. The award will partially reimburse recipients for up to \$500 in costs associated with care and/or travel for family members whose caregiver is participating in the INFORMS Annual Meeting at Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, CA, between October 24-27, 2021 (virtually or in-person). Approximately four grants will be awarded, with the exact number depending on available budget.

The INFORMS Minority Issues Forum (MIF) has also committed to supporting one deserving applicant who may qualify as an underrepresented minority. Refer to eligibility guidelines listed below to ensure you are being considered.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be officially participating in the INFORMS Annual Meeting, including giving an oral or poster presentation, acting as session chair, or participating in the Combined Colloquia.

Eligibility is limited to current students, post-doctoral associates, or early career professionals (e.g., junior faculty or professionals in their first five years of post-graduate employment) who meet one of the following criteria:

- Parent or guardian of a child aged 12 years or younger who is either also traveling to the conference and/or requires additional care while the parent attends the conference.
- Primary caregiver for an elderly parent who is either also traveling to the conference and/or requires additional care while the caregiver attends the conference.
- Primary caregiver for a family member who requires additional assistance who is either also traveling to the conference and/or requires additional care while the caregiver attends the conference.

Please notify in your application if you qualify to be considered as an underrepresented minority (refer to [U.S. Code Government Publishing Office definitions here](#)). This would make you eligible for the MIF award. If you have more questions about eligibility, please contact Ruben A. Proano (at pmeie@rit.edu).

Award details:

- Up to \$500 in expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts to INFORMS staff, to cover extra expenses related to the care of family members which are due to the caregiver attending the conference. This may include travel expenses for the family member and extra caregiving expenses at home or at the conference location.
- At most one grant will be awarded per family, and priority will be given to those who have never received the award in prior years.
- Award winners will also receive free membership of WORMS (and MIF if selected for that award) for a period of one year.

Application Procedures:

Applicants should email India Williams (at iwilliams@informs.org) with the following information and subject line “WORMS Family Care Award 2021” by **September 17, 2021**:

1. Statement of need (not to exceed 200 words):
 - a) Why is attendance at this conference important to you?
 - b) How are you participating in the conference (e.g., are you giving an oral or poster presentation, acting as session chair or participating in the Combined Colloquia? Please provide the title of the presentation, session or Colloquium in which you are participating and your role.)
 - c) Why do you need family care?
 - d) What family care do you plan to arrange?
 - e) Why are you requesting financial support?
2. Estimated family care budget, including travel costs and/or caregiving expenses.
3. Statement verifying applicant’s eligibility from applicant’s department chair or supervisor.
4. Indication if you qualify to be considered as an underrepresented minority to be eligible for the INFORMS Minority Issues Forum (MIF) support

Award Selection Process:

- The President, President-Elect and Past-President of WORMS will appoint the selection committee from amongst the officers of WORMS.
- The selection committee will assess the applications based on their stated need for travel support.
- Recipients will be notified by the selection committee no later than **October 1, 2021**.

Recipients should submit all receipts for reimbursement to India Williams no later than **30 days** following the conclusion of the conference.

Notes:

Family care must be arranged by the awardee. INFORMS and WORMS are not responsible for identifying caregivers and are not liable for any damages.