



2027 NCHEP 16

Expanding Access to NCHEP 16: Sponsoring Financial Aid

Each year, the Alliance provides a limited number of financial aid packages to help members of the HEP community attend NCHEP who aren't able to cover the costs of participation. Because demand for financial aid consistently exceeds available funding, awards are distributed through a lottery, with priority given to formerly incarcerated attendees who have not previously received support from the Alliance to attend NCHEP. For NCHEP 16, we are offering funders opportunities to expand that support and help more people participate.

Ways to Make NCHEP Accessible

Fund the Financial Aid Award Pool

Support the Alliance's overall financial aid program and help us provide more awards through the lottery.

Support Your Grantees

Help bring organizations, practitioners, students, or other people you already support to NCHEP. The Alliance can coordinate with you to identify potential attendees and facilitate the financial aid process.

Support Your Funding Priorities

Work with the Alliance to create an award package that reflects your funding priorities and brings people from a particular state, region, community, or area of work to NCHEP 16. The Alliance has successfully worked with funders to increase participation through targeted scholarship support for attendees from Texas, California, Oregon, and the Midwest, and we want to expand these opportunities in 2027.

What Financial Aid Awards Can Include

A full financial aid award package is valued at approximately \$2,400–\$2,500 per attendee and can include registration (~ \$700), round-trip travel to Long Beach (approximately \$600–\$700), a 3-night hotel stay (~ \$800), and a \$300 Visa gift card in additional support to help offset food, local transportation, and other incidental costs associated with attending the conference. The exact costs will vary by attendee and travel needs.

Why Financial Aid Awards Matter

NCHEP continues to grow, and demand for financial aid continues to exceed available funding. At NCHEP 15 in Cleveland, 1,254 people registered, representing 47 states and Puerto Rico. The Alliance received its largest ever applicant pool, with 315 people applying, and provided some level of financial support to 130 attendees. Of those recipients, 44% identified as formerly incarcerated, and among the 84 recipients who received a full financial aid award package, 68% identified as formerly incarcerated. These figures demonstrate both the demand for ongoing financial support and its role in ensuring that people with lived experience can participate in NCHEP and help anchor the conversations and decisions that inform the direction of HEP work.

With NCHEP 16 in Long Beach, financial aid helps make participation possible for people who might otherwise face barriers to attending and gives attendees from around the country the opportunity to experience the programs, partnerships, and approaches taking shape in CA. Also, NCHEP's impact lasts long past the conference, as a past financial aid recipient shared:

“This was very inspiring for me. I was able to meet peers, network, and learn about new programs and fellowships that I can apply to. I was also inspired to volunteer locally at HEP programs and consider going back to school.”

Want to help more people be part of NCHEP 16? Contact allisonlopez@higheredinprison.org to explore these opportunities.