

Encoding Health Equity Summit 2026 Travel Scholarship Program For Patients and Emerging Leaders

Purpose

The [Encoding Equity Alliance](#) is committed to engaging patients and emerging leaders, such as trainees and young investigators, in Alliance activities. With support from the [Doris Duke Foundation](#), the [Council of Medical Specialty Societies](#) (CMSS) will provide travel scholarships for individuals to attend the [Encoding Health Equity Summit](#), June 23, 2026, in Washington, DC.

This scholarship program supports individuals who are committed to advancing their knowledge and impact in reconsidering race in clinical algorithms, but who would otherwise not be able to attend the event due to financial or budgetary constraints.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be patients or emerging leaders without institutional travel support to attend the Summit.

Example roles include:

- **Patient or Patient Group member** (such as a caregiver or patient advocate)
- **Trainee** (Medical Student, Resident, Fellow in training)
- **Young Investigator** (Graduate or post-graduate student, early-career researcher)
- **Early Career Professional** (in domains such as public health, health equity, policy, professional societies, tech). “Early Career” is defined as those individuals under the age of 35 or in their first 4 years in their role.

Award Information

CMSS plans to award up to **20 scholarships of \$750** to cover travel and hotel arrangements to attend the Summit. Funds will be distributed after the Summit.

Application Instructions

Submission Instructions

All applications must be submitted through the [online application](#) by **March 16, 2026**.

Application Content

The application collects the following information. You must apply through the online form.

- **Applicant Details**
 - o Name
 - o Credentials or candidate details (i.e., PhD Candidate 2027)
 - o Role/Title

- Organization Affiliation
- Email
- Phone
- **Eligibility Criteria (select one/multiple)**
 - Patient / Patient Group Member
 - Trainee
 - Young Investigator
 - Early Career Professional
 - Other
- **Statement of Interest**
 - Applicants must provide a personal statement describing their experience and/or interest in reconsidering race in clinical algorithms and why they should be selected to participate in this program. The statement should explain how attending the Summit would support the applicant’s ongoing efforts to address the misuse of race in research and advance health equity, and how they envision remaining engaged in Alliance activities beyond the Summit. You may also share how you learned about this opportunity. Please limit the statement of interest to 500 words or less.
- **Letter of Support Upload (limit 1)**
 - Each applicant must submit one Letter of Support attesting to the applicant’s involvement in the activities supported by the Encoding Equity Alliance, such as: driving change in clinical research and practice, identifying inappropriate use of race in algorithms and guidelines, redesigning more accurate and equitable decision tools, and collecting and communicating evidence to ensure that all patients receive the best care possible.
 - Letters may be provided by either an organizational/institutional sponsor/mentor, or by an external collaborator within the community. Limit one letter of support.
- **Resume/CV Upload**
- **Financial Need**
 - Attest that you do not have any institutional support to attend the Summit.

Timeline

Timeline	Date
Applications Open	February 13, 2026
Application Deadline	March 16, 2026
Selection & Notification	April 24, 2026
Encoding Health Equity Summit	June 23, 2026

Application Review and Selection Process

A selection committee will select recipients based on:

- Interest and relevance exhibited in a statement of interest

- Strength of recommendation
- Demonstrated commitment and anticipated contributions to the mission of the Encoding Equity Alliance

Participation Requirements

Recipients must attend the [Encoding Health Equity Summit 2026](#) in Washington, DC, on June 23, 2026.

Recipients are responsible for making their own travel and hotel arrangements. Discounted rooms will be available for booking via a CMSS room block. The travel scholarship will be dispersed after the Summit.

Awardees of the Travel Scholarship may also be asked to:

- Provide a short bio and headshot to be used in Encoding Equity communications.
- Contribute to the Summit by preparing questions for a designated session or sharing key takeaways at the end of the Summit.
- Submit a brief, post-event narrative regarding the value and application of the learning experiences.

Additional Information

For additional information about the Summit or Scholarship Program, please email us at encodingequity@cmss.org.

