COMMUNITY LIVER ALLIANCE ™
GLOBAL AWARENESS. LOCAL IMPACT.

2026 NATIONAL LIVER GATHERING

Individual Patient & Caregiver Travel Stipend Application Packet

The Intersection Between Humanity and Academic Medicine

CONFERENCE DETAILS
October 8–10, 2026 • Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

THE NATIONAL LIVER GATHERING

Travel assistance of up to $500 is available to approved patients and caregivers applying independently of a patient advocacy organization.

Application deadline: August 30, 2026

COMMUNITY LIVER ALLIANCE ™
GLOBAL AWARENESS. LOCAL IMPACT.
100 W. Station Square Drive, Suite 212
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.501.3CLA
www.communityliveralliance.org

RE: An Invitation to Patients and Caregivers

Dear Patient or Caregiver,

On behalf of the Community Liver Alliance, I am pleased to invite patients and caregivers from across the liver disease community to apply for individual travel support to attend the 2026 National Liver Gathering, taking place October 8–10, 2026, at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This year's theme, The Intersection Between Humanity and Academic Medicine, reflects our belief that meaningful progress happens when lived experience and scientific expertise come together. The National Liver Gathering brings patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, advocacy organizations, public health leaders, policymakers, and industry partners into one collaborative space to learn from one another and advance liver health.

Patients and caregivers who are not attending through a participating patient advocacy organization may apply directly to CLA for a travel stipend of up to $500. The stipend is intended to reduce transportation-related barriers and make it possible for more individuals with lived experience to participate in the conversations shaping education, care, research, advocacy, and policy.

WHAT APPROVED APPLICANTS RECEIVE

Up to $500 in reimbursement for approved travel expenses, complimentary conference registration, three hotel nights covered separately by CLA, and scheduled conference meals and networking opportunities.

Participants will also have opportunities to join educational sessions, advocacy training, disease-specific discussions, and Patient Consensus Roundtables. The recommendations developed through these conversations will inform the National Liver Gathering Consensus Report and help carry patient and caregiver priorities beyond the conference.

We recognize that sharing your time, experience, and perspective is a meaningful contribution. We hope you will apply and join us in Pittsburgh for this important national gathering.

Warmly,

Suzanna Masartis, CEO
Community Liver Alliance
suzanna@communityliveralliance.org | 412-501-3CLA
www.communityliveralliance.org

Travel Stipend Program Overview

The Individual Patient & Caregiver Travel Stipend Program is designed for people who wish to attend the National Liver Gathering but are not receiving travel support through a patient advocacy organization or another sponsor.

Available Support

Support	Details
Travel stipend	Up to $500 per approved applicant for actual, reasonable, conference-related travel expenses.
Registration	Complimentary conference registration for approved patient and caregiver participants. A registration bypass code will be provided after acceptance.
Hotel	Three hotel nights—October 7, 8, and 9—covered separately by CLA for approved participants who meet the booking deadline and requirements.
Meals	Breakfast, lunch, refreshment breaks, and dinner during scheduled evening networking events are provided.
Participation	Access to educational sessions, advocacy programming, networking events, and Patient Consensus Roundtables.

Who May Apply

- A person living with a liver disease or a person with lived experience related to liver transplantation.
- A caregiver, family member, or primary support person for someone affected by liver disease.
- An applicant who is not receiving travel support through an Empowering Patients Partner organization, employer, sponsor, or another funding source.
- An applicant who can attend and meaningfully participate in the National Liver Gathering.

Selection Considerations

Applications will be reviewed based on available funding, demonstrated financial or travel need, the applicant's connection to the liver disease community, geographic and disease-community representation, and willingness to participate in conference activities. Submission of an application does not guarantee an award.

Travel Guidelines & Reimbursement

Allowable Travel Expenses

- Coach/economy airfare
- Train or bus fare
- Personal vehicle mileage at the applicable CLA-approved reimbursement rate
- Car rental when reasonable and approved in advance
- Parking, tolls, baggage fees, rideshare, taxi, shuttle, or other reasonable ground transportation

Expenses Not Covered by the Stipend

- Hotel room and tax, which are handled separately by CLA for approved participants
- Upgrades, premium seating, first-class or business-class travel
- Meals already provided by the conference
- Room service, minibar purchases, movies, alcohol, entertainment, or other personal expenses
- Travel expenses for individuals who have not been approved by CLA

IMPORTANT

The award is reimbursement-based and may not exceed $500. Only documented, approved expenses will be reimbursed. Applicants should not make nonrefundable travel arrangements until they receive written approval from CLA.

Reimbursement Process

1	Receive written award confirmation and registration instructions from CLA.
2	Book reasonable travel and retain itemized receipts and proof of payment.
3	Attend and participate in the National Liver Gathering.
4	Submit the CLA reimbursement form and required documentation by the deadline provided in the award notice.
5	CLA reviews the request and reimburses eligible expenses up to the approved award amount.

Hotel Requirements

For approved participants, CLA will cover eligible room and tax charges for October 7–9, 2026. Participants must book through the official conference link by the deadline of September 9, 2026, and provide a personal credit card for incidentals (*Because this is a requirement established by the hotel, we're unable to make exceptions. Thank you for your understanding*) as personal charges remain the attendee's responsibility.

Individual Patient & Caregiver Travel Stipend Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Please submit the completed application by **August 30, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and are subject to available funding.

1. Applicant Information

Full legal name _____

Preferred name _____

Mailing address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Email address _____

Primary phone number _____

2. Applicant Role

Please check one:

☐ Patient/person living with liver disease
☐ Transplant recipient or transplant candidate
☐ Caregiver/family member/support person
☐ Other: _____

3. Liver Disease Community

Liver disease or community represented _____

If applying as a caregiver, name/relationship to the person you support

_____

4. Participation & Support

Are you currently affiliated with a patient advocacy organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Are you receiving travel support from another organization, sponsor, or employer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you attended a National Liver Gathering before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes to either support question, please explain:

_____

_____

_____

Application Narrative & Travel Request

5. Why You Would Like to Attend

Please briefly describe why attending the National Liver Gathering would be meaningful to you and what you hope to learn, share, or bring back to your community.

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Anticipated Participation

Please check all that interest you:

☐ Educational sessions	☐ Patient Consensus Roundtables
☐ Advocacy training	☐ Networking with other patients and caregivers
☐ Sharing my lived experience	☐ Other: _____

7. Estimated Travel Expenses

Estimated expense	Amount
Airfare / train / bus	$
Mileage / car rental	$
Parking / tolls	$
Ground transportation	$
Baggage or other approved travel cost	$
Total requested (maximum $500)	$

8. Accessibility or Participation Needs

Please identify any accessibility, dietary, mobility, communication, or other needs that would help you participate fully. CLA will make reasonable efforts to support approved participants.

_____

_____

_____

Applicant Certification & Submission

By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate. I understand that submission does not guarantee an award; awards are subject to available funding and written approval by CLA. I agree to use any awarded funds only for eligible conference-related travel expenses, retain required receipts, follow conference and hotel requirements, and notify CLA promptly if my plans or funding circumstances change.

I also understand that the National Liver Gathering is a collaborative educational event. I agree to treat other participants respectfully and to protect the privacy of personal stories shared by patients and caregivers during conference discussions.

Applicant signature _____

Printed name _____

Date _____

Submit Your Application

EMAIL
Send the completed application to Meredith Gaeta, RN, National Director of Programs, at meredith@communityliveralliance.org. Please use the subject line: "2026 NLG Individual Travel Stipend Application."

Questions? Contact Meredith Gaeta, RN, at meredith@communityliveralliance.org. Please do not include detailed medical records, insurance information, Social Security numbers, or other unnecessary sensitive health information with your application.

For CLA Use Only

Application received	
Decision	
Approved amount	
CLA reviewer / date	

DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Prevention and Early Disease: Protecting Liver Health and Identifying Disease Early

Time	Topic	Audience
8:00 AM	Registration & Welcome Breakfast	All Attendees
9:00 AM	Welcome and Conference Overview	All Attendees
9:10 AM	Opening Plenary: State of Liver Health in the United States	All Attendees
9:30 AM	Panel: Prevention and Risk Factors among liver diseases	All Attendees
10:15 AM	Q&A	All Attendees
10:30 AM	Break	All Attendees
10:45 AM	Advocacy Training	Patients & Caregivers
11:45 AM	LUNCH	All Attendees
1:00 PM	Plenary: The Role of AI in Transforming Liver Care	All Attendees
1:20 PM	Panel: Living With Early Liver Disease	All Attendees
2:20 PM	Break	All Attendees
2:35 PM	Breakout Sessions	All Attendees
3:30 PM	Roundtables/Speed Dating/Rare Liver Disease/Pediatric (Scribes at each table)	All Attendees
5:00 PM	Adjourn	All Attendees
6:00 PM	Choperation Reception	All Attendees

Agenda is subject to change. The most current schedule, speaker information, and conference logistics will be posted on the National Liver Gathering registration website.

DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, October 9, 2026

Living With and Managing Liver Disease

Time	Topic	Audience
8:00 AM	Breakfast	All Attendees
8:30 AM	Welcome	All Attendees
8:40 AM	Plenary: Where Medicine Meets Humanities	All Attendees
9:00 AM	Panel: Daily Life with Liver Disease	All Attendees
9:45 AM	Q & A	All Attendees
10:00 AM	Break	All Attendees
10:15 AM	Breakouts (I)	All Attendees
11:00 AM	Plenary: MASH and Insulin Resistance	All Attendees
11:45 AM	Lunch : MASH Challenge and Cooking Demo/Exercise/Stretching (Dollar Stores/Food Assistance/Addressing Food Desert)	All Attendees
12:00 PM	Provider Product Theater on Wilson Disease – hosted by Orphalan Pharmaceuticals	Providers ONLY
12:45 PM	Plenary: Progression to Cirrhosis and Complications; Importance of Clinical Trials	All Attendees
1:05 PM	Panel: Managing Advanced Liver Disease	All Attendees
1:50 PM	Break	All Attendees
2:05 PM	Breakouts	All Attendees
3:00-4:45 PM	Advocacy Training Special Sessions: Policy, Access, and Equity in Liver Care	All Attendees
3:00-4:00 PM	Hot topics: New therapies, etc . (30 mins)	Healthcare Professionals
4:00 PM	Adjourn	All Attendees
5:30 PM	Gateway Clipper River Tour and Dinner	All Attendees

Agenda is subject to change. The most current schedule, speaker information, and conference logistics will be posted on the National Liver Gathering registration website.

DRAFT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Transplant and Life After Transplant: Hope, Innovation, and Survivorship

Time	Topic	Audience
8:00 AM	Breakfast (Advocacy Training)	All Attendees
9:10 AM	Plenary: The Future of Transplantation	All Attendees
9:30 AM	Panel: The Transplant Journey (Incorporate AI)	All Attendees
10:15 AM	Q & A	All Attendees
10:30 AM	Break	All Attendees
10:45 AM	Breakout Sessions	All Attendees
11:15 AM	Breakout Sessions (II)	All Attendees
11:45 AM	Lunch	All Attendees
12:15 PM	Closing Session and Remarks	All Attendees

Agenda is subject to change. The most current schedule, speaker information, and conference logistics will be posted on the National Liver Gathering registration website.