

**DRAFT CONCEPT** – utilize \$10K from the Past Presidents Fund to provide hardship travel awards to Botany 2025.

## **Hardship Travel Awards**

Recent changes enacted by the US government have had an adverse effect on scientific funding and infrastructure. Some have lost jobs or their funding to travel to meetings is suddenly uncertain or unavailable. In addition, others may have caregiver duties that make it difficult to travel and attend conferences.

BSA will provide between 5-10 hardship awards for Botany 2025 of varying amounts (typically between \$500-\$1500) depending on the pool of applicants and the amounts requested.

## **Qualifications**

*Who is eligible to apply?*

BSA membership at the time of award application is required.

Professional, Community College, PostDoc or Affiliate members

**Graduate students who have achieved dissertator status.???**

*What qualifies as a hardship?*

Recent loss of layoff from a job due to government cutbacks, current lack of funding for conference registration or travel to the meeting, caregiving for a dependent.

*Who qualifies as a dependent?*

A dependent is defined as 1) a minor 12 years of age or younger who resides with the applicant and for whom the applicant provides primary support, or 2) a person regardless of age who spends at least eight hours per day in the applicant's home and for whom the applicant has responsibility.

## **Eligible Expenses**

*Which expenses will be eligible for reimbursement?*

Dependent care grants are intended to reimburse the following categories of expenses:

- Airfare for the conference attendee
- Conference registration for the conference attendee
- Airfare for a caregiver (e.g., family member, au pair, nanny, sitter) to fly to the meeting location to assist with dependent care for child(ren) age 12 or younger, elderly, ill, or disabled family members able to travel
- Airfare for child(ren) age 12 or younger, elderly, ill, or disabled family members traveling to the meeting
- Costs for dependent care at the meeting (e.g., onsite babysitting, daycare or elder care service local to the meeting venue; local custodial childcare, elder care, and/or expenses for care of elderly or other family members that the applicant usually provides; or paying for a nanny or other caregiver's labor)

- Costs for additional dependent care at home incurred due to member's absence during the meeting (e.g., caregiver's labor, before and after school or extended day programs, late pick-up fees, day camps that are custodial in nature and not educational, daycare centers, custodial childcare / elder care, or expenses for care of elderly or other family members that the applicant usually provides)

Hardship travel awards are NOT intended to reimburse the following categories of expenses:

- Lodging during the conference
- Childcare, elder care, or dependent care expenses at home that would normally be incurred (e.g., aftercare at school, dependent care that is provided on an on-going basis)
- Meals or groceries for the attendee, dependent(s), or the caregiver while at the meeting location

**Application**

Requires a statement of need, a CV, a budget request.