



NATIONAL RURAL GROCERY SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR N.D. RURAL GROCERS

Thank you for your interest in attending the 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit to be held May 5-7 in Fargo. Registration is free for up to 2 individuals per rural grocery store for those who sign up for the Summit by March 1.

With support from a generous funder interested in strengthening rural food access and sustaining small town grocery stores, travel assistance is also available for owners, staff and board members of grocery stores in communities with populations of 2,500 or less. Funding is limited. To be considered for a travel scholarship, please read the following details and apply using the form below. Completed applications can be submitted by email to NDAREC Rural Development Program Coordinator Keiara Lesmeister at kesmeister@ndarec.com.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Allowable travel scholarship expenses (maximum \$500 total per individual and \$1,000 per store)

- Registration (free before March 1)
- Hotel lodging (\$124/night for up to 2 nights, use this [link](#) or group code "GRO" to access room block rate online or reference National Rural Grocery Summit May 2026 Room Block if making reservations by phone)
- Travel (reimbursement @ \$0.725/mile)

Notes:

- 1) *It is your responsibility to register for the Summit and reserve your own lodging. Please visit www.ruralgrocery.org/summit for more details.*
- 2) *Expenses not covered by this scholarship: meals, transportation around Fargo (e.g. taxi rides, ride-sharing services), parking.*

Award decisions and notification:

Travel scholarship amounts will be awarded based on estimates provided in this application. Initial award decisions will be made March 20. Applications received after March 20 will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. Award notifications will be made by email.

Travel scholarship recipient expectations:

Selected travel scholarship recipients must submit a completed W9 to receive payment. All travel scholarship recipients must attend the 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit in person. **Anyone that accepts a travel scholarship and does not attend the summit will be required to return the scholarship amount in full.**

National Rural Grocery Summit

N.D. Scholarship Application

Grocery Store Information

Store Name: _____

Store Address (Street, Zip Code): _____

Store Phone: _____

Store Email: _____

Information on Registrants

Participant 1

Full Name: _____

Position Title: _____

Participant 2

Full Name: _____

Position Title: _____

What expenses do you want this scholarship of up to \$500 per individual and \$1,000 total per store to cover? Select all that apply.

Registration (Up to 2 per rural store, free before March 1)

Lodging (\$124/night at the Holiday Inn. Note: The deadline to book a room in this block is **April 20, 2026**, use this [link](#) or group code "GRO" to access room block rate online or reference National Rural Grocery Summit May 2026 Room Block if making reservations by phone)

Mileage: _____ miles

Total amount requested: _____

By typing my name below, I acknowledge that the information in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand and accept the expectations of scholarship recipients as detailed above and agree to return the scholarship award if I am unable to attend the 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit in person.

Name

Date