

BONNIE SCHELL

scholarship

The Bonnie Schell Scholarship was created to honor Bonnie Schell, who was the founding Director of Consumer Affairs (now called Community Operations) at Cardinal Innovations Healthcare (“Cardinal Innovations”). This scholarship specifically supports registration fees for conferences and trainings in the areas of mental health, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual developmental disabilities.

Note: Scholarships of up to \$500 per individual are awarded for the reimbursement of conference registration fees. Reimbursement may take up to 45 days. Submitting prior to an event is required to allow time for the application to be reviewed by Cardinal Innovations’ Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFAC), and if approved, to initiate the process through Cardinal Innovations to ensure timely payment processing.

Bonnie Schell retired from Cardinal Innovations in 2011. She had a lifelong passion and dedication to advocacy and empowerment for those with mental illness. While in California, she became a well-known advocate in the Client Rights Movement, established a Mental Health Drop-in Center and served two terms on the California Mental Health Planning Council.

Schell was a systems changer while working with Cardinal Innovations. She advocated for member rights, member choice, and self-determination. She initiated the practice of having members and their families on committees and work groups.

Schell was instrumental in the development and implementation of Person Centered Planning conferences. The Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) became an empowered group with the confidence to become advocates due to Schell’s commitment. She pioneered Peer Support in North Carolina and developed the original training manual used across the state to certify many Peer Support Specialists.



To find more information about this scholarship contact Cardinal Innovations at scholarship@cardinalinnovations.org. You may also visit the Cardinal Innovations website at cardinalinnovations.org to learn more.

Who we serve?

Cardinal Innovations helps members and their families in 20 counties throughout North Carolina get connected with short-term and long-term professional services for intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health, and substance use disorder (IDD/MH/SUD). Every day, we coordinate services and coverage for you and your family using Medicaid and state funds.

What is CFAC?

Consumer and Family Advisory Committees (CFAC) are platforms for members and families to make their voices heard in the local behavioral health system. Members of CFAC recognize service gaps, make suggestions for services, note underserved groups, and discuss community service issues.

Policies and Procedures for Awarding Funds

1. CFAC will provide scholarship funds only to Cardinal Innovations members or a member's family to attend trainings or conferences in the areas of mental health, substance use disorders, or intellectual/developmental disabilities. The award of scholarship funds may only be applied to the registration fee to attend the training or conference.
2. All pending applications for scholarship funds will be reviewed by the Regional CFAC (Consumer and Family Advisory Committee) Chairs, excluding the Regional CFAC Chair from the corresponding region where the scholarship application originated.
3. All decisions regarding applications will be made at the discretion of CFAC.
4. Through March 31, funding for the Bonnie Schell Scholarship is divided evenly between the four respective regions that Cardinal Innovations serves. On April 1 of each year, remaining scholarship funds are open to all qualified applicants in each of the four regions for the remainder of the fiscal year.
5. CFAC will review all information presented in each application and decide on whether to fund the application. CFAC may choose not to provide funds to the applicant. If CFAC decides to award scholarship funds to the applicant, they will decide the amount of scholarship funds that will be awarded. CFAC may decide to award scholarship funds in an amount less than the applicant is requesting based on the specific request and annual budget.
6. CFAC may not award any individual more than \$500 annually for registration fees to attend trainings or conferences.
7. The applicant must include the following:
 - Bonnie Schell Scholarship application (all fields completed)
 - Official brochure or flyer with the event description
 - Agenda/schedule of eventMost required items can be found on the official event website. CFAC will not review any application that does not provide all required information and documentation.
8. If the application is approved, CFAC will ensure that the scholarship funds are awarded directly to the training or conference.
9. All awards of scholarship funds made by CFAC are final and not subject to additional review by another individual or department of Cardinal Innovations.
10. An applicant may not submit more than one application during any six-month period. After the expiration of a six-month period, CFAC may fund, the applicant's subsequent application request, at its discretion.

Guidelines

The Bonnie Schell Scholarship follows the definitions for mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse as set forth in North Carolina General Statute ("N.C.G.S." §122C-3.)

Mental Illness - N.C.G.S. §122C-3(21)

"Mental illness" means:

- a. when applied to an adult, an illness which so lessens the capacity of the individual to use self-control, judgment, and discretion in the conduct of his affairs and social relations as to make it necessary or advisable for him to be under treatment, care, supervision, guidance, or control; and
- b. when applied to a minor, a mental condition, other than mental retardation alone, that so impairs the youth's capacity to exercise age adequate self-control or judgment in the conduct of his activities and social relationships so that he is in need of treatment.

Developmental Disability- N.C.G.S. §122C-3(12a)

"Developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

- a. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- b. Is manifested before the person attains age 22, unless the disability is caused by a traumatic head injury and is manifested after age 22;
- c. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- d. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, capacity for independent living, learning, mobility, self-direction and economic self-sufficiency; and
- e. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of a lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated; or
- f. When applied to children from birth through four years of age, may be evidenced as a developmental delay.

Substance Abuse- N.C.G.S. §122C-3(36)

"Substance abuse" means the pathological use or abuse of alcohol or other drugs in a way or to a degree that produces an impairment in person's social, or occupational functioning. "Substance abuse" may include a pattern of tolerance and withdrawal.