

# BONNIE SCHELL scholarship

The Bonnie Schell Scholarship was created to honor Bonnie Schell, who was the founding Director of Consumer Affairs (now called Member Engagement) at Cardinal Innovations Healthcare. This scholarship supports members who want to attend behavioral health educational trainings and conferences by covering the registration fees.

**Note:** Only educational trainings and conferences in the areas of mental health, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities are covered. Scholarships of \$500 per individual are awarded for the reimbursement of conference registrations. Reimbursement may take 45 days. Submitting prior to an event is required to allow time for the application to be reviewed by the executive Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) and for them to initiate the process through Cardinal Innovations to ensure a more timely reimbursement.

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.



## There are three ways for you to find more information on this scholarship:

### Contact the Member Engagement Manager for your area

- Northern Manager – Deborah Hendren  
Email: [deborah.hendren@cardinalinnovations.org](mailto:deborah.hendren@cardinalinnovations.org)  
Covers: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Orange, Person, Vance and Warren counties
- Southern Manager – LaKeisha McCormick  
Email: [lakeisha.mccormick@cardinalinnovations.org](mailto:lakeisha.mccormick@cardinalinnovations.org)  
Covers: Cabarrus, Davidson, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties.
- Triad Manager – Stacey Inman  
Email: [stacey.inman@cardinalinnovations.org](mailto:stacey.inman@cardinalinnovations.org)  
Covers: Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham and Stokes counties.

Visit the Cardinal Innovations website: [cardinalinnovations.org](http://cardinalinnovations.org)

Contact Us By Phone: 1.800.939.5911 (For deaf or hard of hearing, dial 711 for NC Relay)

[cardinalinnovations.org](http://cardinalinnovations.org)

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## Policies and Procedures for Awarding the Funds

1. Cardinal Innovations Healthcare's ("Cardinal Innovations") Executive Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) will review all pending applications for scholarship funds at their bi-monthly meeting. All decisions made by the CFAC with regard to applications will be at the CFACs discretion.
2. The 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 or developmental disabilities. The award of scholarship funds may be applied to the registration fee to attend the training or conference. The CFAC will use its discretion in awarding scholarship funds to permit a broad base of individuals to receive funds.
3. The CFAC will review all information presented in each application and make a decision on whether to fund the application. The CFAC may choose not to provide funds to the applicant. If CFAC decides to award scholarship funds to the applicant, the CFAC will decide the amount of scholarship funds that will be awarded. The CFAC may decide to award scholarship funds in an amount less than the applicant is requesting because the scholarship fund is subject to an annual budget.
4. The CFAC may not award any applicant more than \$500 as reimbursement for the registration fee to attend the training or conference.
5. The CFAC will not review any application that does not provide all the required information, including, but not limited to, the applicant's failure to include in his/her application, an official brochure with the event description, agenda/schedule, and registration form or the same information copied from the official event website.
6. If the application is funded, the CFAC will ensure that the scholarship funds are awarded by check made payable directly to the training or conference. The CFAC will provide the check directly to the applicant.
7. The CFAC has discretion to fund any application or deny any or all funds to any applicant. All awards of scholarship funds made by the CFAC are final and not subject to additional review by the CFAC or another individual or department of Cardinal Innovations.
8. An applicant may not submit more than one application during any six month period. In the event that an applicant submits more than one application after the expiration of a six month period, the CFAC may fund, at its discretion, the applicant's subsequent application.

## 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 anti 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[a], social, or occupational functioning. "Substance abuse" may include a pattern of tolerance and withdrawal.