



## Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Overview

### ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

#### What is the purpose of the Foundation?

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation is the only public charity dedicated exclusively to our profession, supporting nutrition and dietetics students and professionals by empowering them to help consumers live healthier lifestyles. We do this through our scholarships, awards, research, fellowships, public nutrition education programs and disaster relief efforts that make an impact on thousands of Academy members each year. Our Foundation is a catalyst for the profession to come together and collaborate to address the greatest food and nutrition challenges now and in the future.

#### **The Foundation's Mission:**

Through philanthropy, empower current and future food and nutrition practitioners to optimize global health.

#### **The Foundation's Vision:**

A world where all people thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition.

<https://www.eatrightfoundation.org/who-we-are/>

#### How is the Foundation separate from the Academy?

Our Foundation is a separate organization from the Academy, and is incorporated as a 501 c 3, public charity. We are the philanthropic arm of the Academy and do not receive any portion of member dues. We are fully supported by donations.

Our Foundation works collaboratively with the Academy on issues that benefit the profession, including research, sustainability, hunger, and malnutrition. Our Foundation also shares office space and shared services with the Academy such as accounting, human resources, mailroom, web support, and high-level marketing.

## FUNDRAISING

### How does the Foundation raise money?

Our Foundation raises money from Academy members, affiliated organizations (CDR, ACEND, DPGs, MIGs, State Affiliates), industry and industry foundations through donations, grants, sponsorships, and events.

### Where can donors designate their gift when contributing to the Foundation?

An individual and organization can designate its gift to:

- Annual Sustaining Fund
- Make it a Million Campaign
- General Scholarship Fund
- General Research Fund
- Nutrition Education for the Public Fund
- Disaster Relief Fund
- Named Funds (typically an individual or organization establishes a fund with a minimum donation and will provide additional support when needed, however, there are times when other individuals will designate their donation to a particular named fund.)

### Where should I direct my donation to have the greatest impact?

While all donors can designate their gift to a program or fund that resonates the most with them, donations to our Annual Sustaining Fund are used to support the fundraising and grant making activities of the Foundation and are also directed to the area of greatest, immediate need.

### What is the easiest way to donate to the Foundation?

Academy members can contribute to our Foundation when renewing their Academy Member Dues online through a prompt asking if they would like to include an additional donation to our Foundation. All donations made through the member dues process go to support the Annual Sustaining Fund.

**Key stat: A four-year average shows 1,690 Academy members typically give through this process each year, raising \$53,329.07 per year with an average gift of \$31.45.**

### What are other ways Academy members can donate to the Foundation?

Donors can also donate online by clicking on the a static green [DONATE](#) button on every page of the Foundation [website](#) in the upper right-hand corner. This leads to an online contribution form in the eatrightpro.org member website. Academy members must login in before accessing the form. When donating online thorough this form, you may indicate whether this is a onetime gift or an automatic recurring gift. Setting up an automatic recurring gift is an easy way to ensure donors' annual gifts are ongoing.

The Foundation also conducts a Holiday/End-of-Year appeal each year. In 2020, a hard copy letter went to 3,000 Academy donors and additional 5,000 donors through email.

**Key stat: Last year's appeal yielded \$29,271.39 from 200 donors for an average gift of \$144.91.**

**Key stat: Typically, each year, 5% to 6% of the Academy membership donates to the Foundation.**

The Foundation's planned giving program exists as an option for donors to support the Foundation without detracting from their current income. The Foundation's planned giving program benefits the Foundation's annual fund, but gifts are also designated to specific named funds as part of the program. Donors who communicate their intent to include the Foundation in their estate plans are recognized as members of the I WILL Legacy Society.

**Key stat: Over the past three years, we have secured nearly \$1.3M through stock and estate gifts.**

### **Can Non-members Donate to the Foundation?**

Non-members and organizations can donate online to the Foundation on our [Charity Navigator webpage](#). Our Foundation maintains a four-star rating with Charity Navigator which provides clear, objective, and reliable assessments of both the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of charities.

### **How do I take advantage of my employer's corporate matching donation program?**

Utilizing your employer's matching gift program is a great way to leverage your contributions to our Foundation. Ask your Human Resources Department whether they have a matching gift program. If so, you simply fill out their required form after making a gift to our Foundation, return it according to their instructions. Let the Foundation know about an anticipated matching gift by emailing [savelar@eatright.org](mailto:savelar@eatright.org) with the information.

### **What is the Make It a Million Scholarship Campaign?**

To keep pace with the growing demand of scholarships, increased costs of an education and challenges students must overcome while working towards the RND certification, our Foundation launched its [Make It a Million Scholarship Campaign](#), and asking all Academy leaders, members, students and affiliated organizations to come together and support this effort that will raise \$1 million over the next three years to build Foundation resources and enable us to award \$1 million in scholarships annually starting in 2025.

### **What virtual events does the Foundation conduct during the week of FNCE?**

Our Foundation relies on its events at FNCE to provide needed support of our Annual Fund each year. As FNCE went virtual, so did our events, which include:

- Saturday Educational Symposiums
- Virtual 5K Run/Walk
- Virtual Silent Auction

Our Foundation Silent Auction is a great way to acquire new donors and now as virtual event any Academy member can bid on any number items during the week of FNCE. Any Academy member or organization can donate an item and register to bid on items when the auction goes live.

## **FOUNDATION PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES**

[Our three-year impact can be found here.](#)

### **What is the Foundation Scholarship Program and what was its impact last year?**

Our Foundation invests in the current and future generation of food and nutrition practitioners as the world's largest provider of dietetic [scholarships](#), helping to grow a pool of student applicants, providing opportunities at all levels of experiential learning and helping to build a qualified and diverse workforce. We make an impact on students and professionals along their career path with scholarships that range from \$500 to \$10,000.

**Key stat: In 2022, Our Foundation awarded \$860,250 in scholarship support to 309 dietetic interns and students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Of the \$860,250 awarded in scholarships this year, \$555,200 was awarded to 180 students of diverse backgrounds and cultures, representing 64.5% of total funding.**

The amount awarded each year for scholarships, awards and grants are contingent of the previous year's fundraising efforts and current market conditions.

### **What is the process to apply and review scholarship applications?**

The Foundation opens its general scholarship application on an annual basis for the upcoming academic year within the Foundation's application portal. The Foundation has more than 100 named scholarship funds each with its own eligibility criteria. Rather than requiring students to complete individual applications for each scholarship, Foundation staff automatically consider individuals who complete the general scholarship application for hundreds of Foundation scholarship opportunities. The application is made available in mid-February each year with a deadline in mid-April. Additional information on our scholarship program, eligibility criteria, important dates, and more is available at [www.eatrightfoundation.org/scholarship](http://www.eatrightfoundation.org/scholarship).

All Foundation scholarship applications are randomly assigned to three scholarship reviewers. All individuals appointed to serve on the Foundation's scholarship selection committee are third-party volunteers. Selection committee members are required to be either a current or retired RDN or NDTR. Academy membership is preferred for service on the Foundation's scholarship selection committee. Committee members may serve for up to five consecutive years on the committee at a time. A chair is appointed each year from members of the committee with the most years of service.

The scholarship committee members evaluate and score applicants in the following categories: Scholarship/Academic Achievement, Professional Accomplishments to Date, Future Professional Potential, and Financial Need. Committee members are given detailed instructions for their scoring.

After the scoring has been completed, members of the scholarship committee participate in a live selection call where applicants are matched to their respective scholarships based on eligibility criteria, donor preferences, applicant total score, and reviewer impressions of individual applicants.

After recipients have been selected for each scholarship, Foundations staff rescreen all recipients and the Board Secretary audits a subset of randomly selected recipients to ensure adherence to each scholarship's respective eligibility criteria.

### What is a named scholarship, award or grant fund and how are they established?

Our Foundation has more than 150 named scholarship, award and grant funds that have been established by individuals, DPG's, MIG's, Affiliates and Corporations to honor a group or an individual and may be established in the form of a scholarship, award (recognition honor, education stipend, lecture), fellowship or research grant.

There are two types of Name Funds: Temporarily Restricted and Endowed, depending on the donor's initial investment.

- Temporarily restricted funds are those funds that are not perpetual in duration and are intended to be totally expended for a specific purpose over some period. **A temporarily restricted fund must be funded with at least \$25,000.**
- Endowment Funds (Permanently restricted) are those funds where up to 5% of the overall fund may be expended by the Academy Foundation. **The minimum to establish a named endowment or permanently restricted fund is \$100,000.**

Complete information on how to establish these funds can be found [here](#).

### What is the Foundation Awards Program and its impact last year?

Leadership [awards](#) given to students, practitioners and faculty recognize the outstanding achievements of Academy members, encouraging individuals to grow as professionals and achieve excellence in new and developing areas of food and nutrition, as well as continuing education opportunities, assistance to international students and program development.

**Key stat: In 2022, more than \$120,000 was awarded to members, non-member credentialed practitioners, and nutrition and dietetics students. Award amounts range from \$150 to \$30,000.**

### What is the Foundation Research Grants Program and its impact last year?

Our Foundation Research [Grants](#) Program offers eleven annual research grants to stimulate innovation and discovery within the profession. Each has its own focus related to food and nutrition.

**Key stat: In 2022, \$150,000 was awarded to Academy members to conduct essential research on behalf of our profession. Individual annual grants range from \$1,000 to \$20,000 each .**

### What is the process to apply and review award and grant applications?

Most Foundation awards and grants are made available on an annual basis in November of each year with a deadline in early February. However, other select Foundation grant and award applications may be made available throughout the year. The Foundation also offers a handful of nomination only awards without an application process, as well as providing funding for certain lectures at FNCE and state affiliate annual meetings. To be considered for an application-based Foundation award or grant, applicants must apply for the funding opportunity of interest within the Foundation's application portal. Additional information on Foundation awards and grants is provided at [www.eatrightfoundation.org/awards](http://www.eatrightfoundation.org/awards) and [www.eatrightfoundation.org/grants](http://www.eatrightfoundation.org/grants) respectively.

Individual review committees of three or more third-party, volunteer individuals are appointed to review applications for each application-based Foundation award and grant. The committees critically evaluate and score each application in adherence with scoring criteria developed for the funding opportunity.

To serve on a Foundation review committee, individuals must have experience related to the particular focus of the award or research and be either a current or retired practitioner, credentialed through CDR, or be an international or allied health professional whose experience would be valuable for the review process. Academy membership is preferred, but not required, to serve on Foundation award review committees and at least one representative of the Foundation is appointed to each Foundation award committee.

### **What is the Foundation Fellowship Program?**

Our Foundation collaborates with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Research, International, and Scientific Affairs (RISA) team and other stakeholders and partners to create and offer fellowship opportunities for current and future credentialed food and nutrition practitioners at all career levels that advance the fellow's skills, knowledge, and visibility, hone the fellow's expertise, and advance the Foundation and Academy strategic plans. Complete information on all past and current fellows and their fellowships can be found [here](#).

**Key stat:** Our Foundation has invested more than \$1.95 million directly in its fellows as well as over \$3 million in their related projects over the last 11 years.

### **What are the Foundation's Public Nutrition Education Efforts?**

Building upon its current initiatives, the Foundation continues to expand its programs, such as [Kids Eat Right](#) and [Future of Food](#), which provide valuable information to the general public with resources for members including webinars, slide decks and handouts to deliver information in their communities.

### **What are the Foundation's Disaster Relief efforts?**

Our Foundation's [Disaster Relief Fund](#) supports food and nutrition professionals living in communities devastated by sudden, localized natural events (e.g. hurricanes, fires, earthquake) that occur with little or no warning and are declared a FEMA natural disaster. Funds are available to Academy members and non-members through the generosity of donors, including the Commission on Dietetic Registration

(CDR). Learn how these funds impact your colleagues and provide help when needed most through this short [Foundation video](#).

## FOUNDATION FUNDED RESEARCH

In addition to the individual research grants our Foundation awards to Academy members, our Foundation collaborates with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Research, International, and Scientific Affairs (RISA) team to secure valuable funding that supports essential research projects being conducted by the RISA team on behalf of our profession. A complete list of these projects and its funders can be found [here](#).

## FOUNDATION COMMUNICATIONS

We encourage all Academy members to stay on top of current Foundation news, announcements, and messaging and help spread the word through your networks and social media platforms. You can expect to receive Foundation news and messaging through:

- The Academy's Eat Right Weekly E-newsletter (Every Wednesday)
- The Foundation's [Kids Eat Right Monday Message and Foundation News](#) (Every Monday)
- The Foundation's Monthly Chair Message posted [here](#)
- The quarterly Academy and Foundation [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- Visit the EatrightPRO Social Media Platforms:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/eatrightPRO/>
  - <https://twitter.com/eatrightpro>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/user/EatRightProTV>
  - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/eatrightpro/>
  - [https://www.instagram.com/eatright\\_pro/](https://www.instagram.com/eatright_pro/)
- The Foundation has an array of [videos](#) that show how our donors help make a difference in the lives of our fellow Academy members.

## Key Messages

- The Foundation is the only 501 (c) 3 public charity dedicated exclusively to our profession, supporting nutrition and dietetics students and professionals by empowering them to help consumers live healthier lifestyles.
- The Foundation does not receive any portion of member dues and is funded solely by donations. The success and impact of our programs and services are directly attributed to the generous support of our donors.
- The Foundation invests in the current and future generation of food and nutrition practitioners as the world's largest provider of dietetic scholarships at all levels of study. All scholarships are made possible through donations not member dues. This year our Foundation is launching its Make it a Million Scholarship Campaign to build up our resources that will allow us to award \$1 million in scholarships annually. Donate online today to this Campaign!