

## Attachment H

### **All Star I Proposed Financial Aid Guidelines**

As revised by Financial Aid Committee, Elizabeth Yermack, Chair  
August, 2011

The purpose of All Star I's Financial Assistance Program is to provide financial assistance to shoalers who would be unable to attend the conference otherwise.

All Star I (ASI) is highly valued because of the conference's strong sense of community that has been built over generations. For this reason many conferees return year after year and support the Island through the Star Island Annual Fund, through bequests, and through the donation of time and talent to the island. While it is important to attract new shoalers to bring new life and ideas into the ASI community, the main focus of the ASI Financial Assistance Fund is to assist current shoalers in maintaining their relationship with the community. This is in keeping with our registration policy, which states that if the conference is oversubscribed, acceptance should be based on:

- The importance to ASI of extended, multi-generation and economically diverse families
- The importance of continuity of participation in the children's program
- The applicant's service to ASI in the past
- The applicant's expected service to the upcoming conference

This program aims to help as many individuals or families as possible while avoiding setting up expectations that can not be fulfilled. It is to be used short term during periods of hardship and is not intended to be used for ongoing support. Financial Assistance requests can be made for consecutive years, but repeat requests may be given a lower priority.

The financial aid fund is supported solely through the donations of fellow ASI conferees. The goal of the fund is to provide aid to as many conferees as possible. Therefore, relying on the honor system, we ask applicants to request only the amount their family absolutely needs to attend, usually not to exceed 50% of the room and board expense.

Ideally, when those who have accepted aid are in the position to give back to the Island through the Annual Fund or the ASI Financial Assistance Fund, they will do so.

### **Procedures**

Applicants are asked to fill out the financial assistance application form and send it to the registrars along with the conference registration form. All financial assistance applications are held in strict confidentiality and will only be viewed by the Financial Assistance Committee.

The registrars will forward all financial assistance applications to the Financial Assistance Committee, which will evaluate the requests and determine the financial assistance awards.

- The Financial Assistance Committee is currently comprised of Elizabeth Yermack (convener), Joy Close, Holly Hunnicutt, Shelley Powsner, and the current All Star I Registrar(s) and Treasurer(s). Applications are held in strict confidentiality and are only viewed by the Financial Assistance Committee.
- The current conference Chairs will not have access to the information about who is applying for aid so that their decisions about conference composition will not be biased by financial assistance requests.

The Financial Assistance Committee will consider financial assistance requests in the following priority.

1. Old shoaler who has experienced a temporary financial setback due to medical problems; death of breadwinner, job loss, etc.
2. New shoaler who is known to be one who will actively participate, volunteer, and become part of the ASI community.
3. Immediate family of Children's Staff member (partner, child).
4. Other, such as an unknown new shoaler or a relative of an old shoaler.

Financial Assistance decisions are made by April 10th and are forwarded to the Registrars who notify the recipient and the Treasurer. All applicants, whether funded or not, will be notified of the decisions of the committee. The recipient of aid must then confirm his/her intention to accept the grant and attend the conference by email or letter to the Registrar no later than May 1st.

The financial assistance grant is paid directly on island by the Treasurer. The Treasurer will give the recipient a check for the requested amount, made out to the Star Island Corporation, which the applicant will submit to the front desk when paying his/her conference bill.