

The Access to Practice | Professional Development Awards

This program supports O&P Assistants, Pedorthists, and O&P Technicians in accessing national professional education, building their skills, expanding professional networks, and strengthening the quality of care they help deliver.

Each award provides up to \$2,000 toward eligible conference-related expenses, including travel, accommodations, and/or registration fees for participation in a national professional conference.

Recipients may select a conference of their choice. Through partnerships with the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP), American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA), and Pedorthic Footcare Association (PFA), recipients attending an eligible AAOP, AOPA, or PFA national meeting will also receive complimentary conference registration, generously provided by the respective partner organization. This allows the \$2,000 award to be directed toward other eligible costs, such as travel and lodging.

By reducing the financial barriers to national professional education, Live in Motion Foundation helps critical members of the OP&P care team access continuing education, hands-on learning, emerging practices and technologies, and meaningful professional connections that strengthen practice and ultimately benefit patients.

Award Categories

Award funds may be used toward eligible expenses associated with attendance at an approved national professional conference, including:

- Travel expenses
- Hotel or other eligible accommodations
- Conference registration when complimentary registration is not otherwise provided
- Eligible conference-based educational workshops or programming

O&P Assistants

The program provides \$2,000 professional development awards to eligible Orthotic and/or Prosthetic Assistants to support participation in national professional conferences.

Conference participation provides O&P Assistants with access to continuing education, practical learning, emerging clinical practices, and professional networking that can strengthen their knowledge, expand their contributions to the care team, and support high-quality patient care.

Pedorthists

The program provides \$2,000 professional development awards to eligible Pedorthists to support participation in national professional conferences.

These opportunities allow Pedorthists to expand their clinical knowledge, exchange best practices with peers, build professional relationships, and bring new ideas and approaches back to their patients, colleagues, and communities.

O&P Technicians

The program provides \$2,000 professional development awards to eligible O&P Technicians to support participation in national professional conferences.

National professional education provides Technicians with opportunities to strengthen technical expertise, learn emerging fabrication techniques and technologies, exchange best practices, and build connections across the profession. These experiences support greater quality, efficiency, innovation, and collaboration within the O&P care team.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Hold an eligible credential in good standing:
 - Pedorthists: ABC C.Ped. or BOCPD
 - O&P Assistants: ABC COA, CPA, or CPOA
 - O&P Technicians: ABC CTO, CTP, or CTPO
- Be employed in an orthotics, prosthetics, and/or pedorthics setting at the time of application.
- Demonstrate a commitment to professional growth, continuous learning, and high-quality, patient-centered care.

Application Materials

Applicants must identify the national professional conference for which they are requesting support as part of the application.

1. Personal Statement

Submit a personal statement describing your professional background, current role, and interest in receiving an Access to Practice Award. 500 words maximum. Your statement should explain how participation in the identified national conference will support your professional development and strengthen your ability to contribute to high-quality patient care.

Applicants are encouraged to address:

- Your current role and experience as an O&P Assistant, Pedorthist, or O&P Technician
- The specific educational, technical, clinical, or networking goals you hope to achieve through conference participation
- How you plan to apply the knowledge, skills, or professional connections gained through the experience
- The anticipated impact of your participation on your patients, colleagues, organization, or professional community

2. Resume

Submit a current resume outlining your education, credentials, employment history, professional experience, and relevant service or professional involvement.

3. One Professional Reference

Provide one professional reference from a supervisor, clinician, or professional colleague who can speak to your current role as an O&P Assistant, Pedorthist, or O&P Technician.

The reference should address your professionalism, contributions to your workplace or patient care team, commitment to professional growth, and the anticipated value of national conference participation to your continued development.

Program Goals

Through the Access to Practice | Professional Development Awards, Live in Motion Foundation seeks to:

- Expand access to national professional education for O&P Assistants, Pedorthists, and O&P Technicians
- Strengthen knowledge, skills, and professional development across the OP&P care team
- Reduce financial barriers to continuing education and professional engagement
- Promote continuous learning, collaboration, and quality improvement
- Strengthen professional networks and connection to the broader OP&P community
- Enhance the quality of patient care through a skilled, engaged, and connected workforce

Key Dates

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required application materials are submitted by the posted deadline at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

- Program Opens: October 1, 2026
- Program Closes: November 2, 2026
- Award Notifications: December 2026

Questions

For questions regarding the Access to Practice | Professional Development Awards, contact info@liveinmotion.org.