

Camp JOA 2024 - Financial Assistance Program

MDF is launching an away camp experience for adults ages 18+ living with juvenile onset (JOA) myotonic dystrophy (This camp is exclusive to juvenile-onset adults: those with symptom onset in childhood and diagnosed by age 21). Our JOA community is invited to Easterseals' [Timber Pointe Outdoor Center](#) in Hudson, Illinois, on beautiful Lake Bloomington for 5 days and 4 nights beginning August 4th. Join other MDF JOA community members as we canoe, kayak, and paddleboard, try out the zipline and giant swing, do archery, enjoy a pontoon boat ride, roast marshmallows, sing and dance, and enjoy a terrific summer camping experience.

Learn more about Camp JOA 2024 at <https://www.myotonic.org/camp-joa-2024>.

The MDF JOA Camp Travel Financial Assistance Program aims to provide financial support for a person living with DM to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience with fellow JOAs at camp. Caregivers – parents, spouses, etc. – are welcome to apply on behalf of their JOA loved one living with DM.

Financial Assistance is only available for accepted JOA campers. Campers must be able to travel to O'Hare Airport in Chicago, IL (ORD) their own and make their way from their gate to the designated pick-up location within the airport.

Qualifications

- **JOA living with DM.**
- **First-time camper.** Priority will be given to attendees who haven't been to MDF's JOA Camp before. This allows MDF to ensure as many people as possible can attend an MDF JOA Camp at least once. For those who have previously attended an MDF JOA Camp, MDF will review applications after all the first-time camper financial assistance has been awarded.
- **Financial need.** Household income and member information will not be saved, stored, or shared but will be used to determine financial need.

MDF JOA Camper Financial Assistance Awards

An MDF JOA Camp Financial Assistance Award includes up to \$750 travel reimbursement. Travel reimbursements may be used to support the JOA's airfare or other travel to and from O'Hare Airport in Chicago, IL (ORD). See Scholarship rules to learn more about allowable expenses.

- Easterseals Camp will provide meals once campers arrive on August 4th, beginning with Sunday dinner.
- Applications will be received until midnight on Friday, July 15, 2024 and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Applicants must both be registered and accepted to camp before applying for financial assistance. [Click here to complete your Camp JOA 2024 application! >>>](#)

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Additional Information and Requirement

- Applications will be reviewed on a daily basis, awarded each day on a first come, first served basis.
- Awardees must accept offered financial assistance within three-days from the date of award by return confirmation email.
- Awardees who do not accept the award within the stated three-day's time frame may risk loss of the award.
- Awardees who accept financial assistance, but who do not attend the MDF JOA Camp without an approved excusal will be ineligible to apply for future financial assistance of any type for a period of up to five years. This includes Annual and Regional Conference financial assistance.
- Awardees who miss their scheduled transportation unrelated to weather, or system delays, will be responsible for the resulting difference in transportation ticket prices, **as well as getting themselves to the camp location via ride share or taxi at their own expense.** (Camp is approximately 2 hours away from arrival airport)

Financial Assistance Program Rules

- **Booking Airfare/train/bus:** Awardees have two options for booking airfare/train/bus:
 - **Reimbursement:** Awardees may purchase transportation tickets on their own and submit for reimbursement **after** returning home from camp.
 - **MDF Travel Service:** Awardees may book their airfare/train/bus travel through MDF's travel service. Awardees must contact the travel service and provide all necessary information requested by travel service and confirm booking.
 - *Airfare must be booked no later than 7/25/2024. Airfare booked after this date, without an allowable excusal to do so by MDF may not be fully covered.*
- **Dismissed from Camp:** If a camper is dismissed from camp due to disciplinary actions, any and all additional expenses associated with returning the camper home will be at the expense of the camper and/or his/her/their legal guardian.
- **Travel assistance amounts** are based on allowable reimbursement costs associated with the travel to and from MDF's JOA Camp.
 - Recipients must submit the MDF Financial Assistance form with all applicable receipts and documentation within 60 days of attending the JOA Camp.
 - Submitted and approved receipts will be reimbursed within 30 days of successful completion of the MDF Financial Assistance form, and accurate submission of all applicable receipts and documentation.
 - Reimbursement will not exceed \$750, even if travel costs exceed this amount.
- Refer to the following table for Covered Expenses.

Questions?

Contact MDF's Program Director, Mindy Buchanan, at mindy.buchanan@myotonic.org.

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Covered Expenses	Allowable	Not Allowable
Economy airfare and/or bus and/or train tickets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticket cost for scholarship recipient and approved caregiver or affected loved one only • Checked baggage fees (up to one checked bag per traveler) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat upgrades (exceptions may be made when request is accompanied by a doctor's note and approved by MDF) • Pet fees: service and support animals are free on US airlines and should not require a fee. Any other pet fees without these designations cannot be reimbursed.
Mileage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles only (does not apply to rental cars) • Reimbursement to include fuel costs at the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67/per mile • Must include starting and ending point maps when submitting the MDF Financial Assistance form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel - Fuel is calculated into the IRS mileage reimbursement rate and cannot be reimbursed separately • Vehicle repairs • Moving violations or tickets of any kind
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking tickets
Taxi/Ride Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtrip rides to and from the airport/train/bus station from home • Up to 20% driver gratuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rides farther than 25 miles (unless approved for medical reasons if discharged from camp) • Driver gratuity over 20% of ride costs
Travel Day Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals on the days of travel (Sunday and/or Thursday) • Number of meals each day is based on duration of travel. • ≥5 hours = up to three meals • <5 hours = up to two meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic beverages • Drugs of any kind, whether legal or not • Meals on conference days, unless traveling this day