



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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2021 State Advocacy Grant Program FAQ

Q: When is the deadline for submitting a grant application?

A: There is no deadline for submitting applications for the State Advocacy Grant. Applications can be submitted on a rolling basis based upon the need for grant funds to support a Chapter's state advocacy goals for a legislative session year.

Q: How much money can the Chapter request in the State Advocacy Grant program application?

A: While, the Chapter Lobby Day Grant program limited an application request at a maximum of \$5,000, the State Advocacy Grant program will not establish a cap on the amount of funds that can be requested to provide flexibility on a Chapter's need to support their state advocacy goals. However, the overall budget for the State Advocacy Grant is limited in the available amount that can be awarded to qualifying Chapters. As such, Chapters applying for a grant should be realistic with their request and clearly demonstrate how the funds will support their goals. It should be noted that a Chapter may not receive the full amount requested.

Q: Will there be a \$15,000 Enhanced Advocacy Grant in 2021?

A: No. For 2021, the State Advocacy Grant program will be the only grant available for state advocacy.

Q: Are Chapters still required to match 50% of the grant funding?

A: Yes, Chapters are still required to match 50% of the grant funds approved. However, Chapters are encouraged to budget additional funds not including the grant and above the grant match requirement to support the Chapter's state advocacy goals.

- Q:** Our Chapter received a grant in 2020 but did not spend the funds. Are we eligible for a 2021 State Advocacy Grant?
- A:** Chapters that received funds from the Chapter Lobby Day grant program in 2020 and did not use those funds in 2020 have been notified that they can utilize those funds in 2021. However, we recognize that legislative issues can arise during a session that may require a Chapter to shift strategies that may necessitate additional financial assistance. In that case, Chapters should consult with ACS State Affairs staff to evaluate available options.
- Q:** Can a Chapter apply for two grants in the same legislative session year?
- A:** Chapters are highly encouraged to develop an engagement strategy and budget to support the Chapter's advocacy goals for the legislative session. However, we recognize that legislative issues can arise during a session that may require a Chapter to shift strategies that may necessitate additional financial assistance. In that case, Chapters should consult with ACS State Affairs staff to evaluate available options.
- Q:** What activities or resources can a Chapter spend the grant funds to support the state advocacy goals?
- A:** The Chapter Lobby Day Grant program was intended to be used to host traditional advocacy days at a state capitol. However, due to changes in access to state capitols in response to COVID-19, the State Advocacy Grant program is intended to be more flexible permitting use of grant funds for hiring a lobbyist, joining a physician coalition as well as hosting legislative events such as a state advocacy day. If a Chapter is uncertain an expense supports their state advocacy goals, then they should consult with ACS State Affairs staff.
- Q:** How will the ACS evaluate a Chapter's application?
- A:** Over the past two years ACS has utilized a select committee of Fellows representing members from the Health Policy and Advocacy Group, Legislative Committee, and Health Policy Advisory Council to review applications and provide a recommendation to the full Health Policy and Advocacy Group for approval of each application. The ACS will continue to use this process for the State Advocacy Grant applications.