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# 2026 REGIONAL EMERGING MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (REMLE) SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## REGIONAL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Professional development scholarships for **regional** experiences are available for a limited number of applicants to cover the conference registration fee.

### Eligibility

To apply, you must be an employee of a YMCA within the United States for at least six months at the time of this application. Part-time and full-time employees may apply. \*If someone has been employed for less than six months, email [mla@ymca.net](mailto:mla@ymca.net)

**Applications will only be considered for future Regional EMLE events; awards are not given as reimbursements for events that have already taken place.**

### Eligible Regional EMLE Tour Stops:

<u>Regional EMLE Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Tri-States in Indianapolis, IN	JUN 25-26
Mountain in Phoenix, AZ	SEP 30-OCT 1
Mid Atlantic in Dover, DE	Week of OCT 5
Midwest in Minneapolis, MN	OCT 23
Pacific Northwest in Tacoma, WA	OCT 28-29
Southeast state TBD	NOV 12-13
Pacific West in San Diego, CA	NOV 19-20
Carolinas in Raliegh, NC	DEC 10-12

### Evaluation Criteria

Professional development scholarships are awarded based on an individual's professional merit, development efforts, and career goals. Additional criteria include how applicants will apply specific skills and competencies gained from the experience to advance multicultural development in their community.

Applicants will be notified prior to the Regional EMLE for which they are applying for support regarding the status of their scholarship application.

### Award Disbursement

A scholarship is issued as a registration code waiving the Regional EMLE registration fee only. The code will be shared with award recipients by the individual Regional EMLE Tour Hosts — this code must be used to register for the Regional EMLE by the registration deadline. This award is **not** transferable to others. If a recipient is unable to attend the



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conference, the award is forfeited.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are only accepted **March 2, 2026 through December 10, 2026 at 11:59PM Eastern Time, or until available awards are expended, if sooner.**

Applications must be submitted in the Y-USA Grants Portal. You may apply for a scholarship to attend one (1) Regional EMLE. Only complete applications will be reviewed.

### First-time applicants

First-time applicants must register online at <https://yusa.smartsimple.com/>. It is important to complete the profile section. Have your Association or Branch number ready to enter.

### Returning applicants

Returning users can find their password by going to SmartSimple and clicking "Forgot Your Password?" Your password will be sent to the email as established in your profile section within 24 hours. Be sure to check spam or junk mailboxes. If you are having trouble, please email [grants@ymca.net](mailto:grants@ymca.net).

- 1) Navigate to Y-USA's Y-USA Grants **Portal** at <https://yusa.smartsimple.com/>
- 2) On your homepage, select the YMCA you are an employee of in the "Applying on behalf of" box
- 3) Select "Regional Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experience (REMLE) Scholarship"
- 4) Click "Apply"
  - a) Answer questions and click "Check Eligibility"
  - b) If eligible, click "Proceed to Application" then "Begin Application". If not eligible, you may email [grants@ymca.net](mailto:grants@ymca.net) for clarification
- 5) Complete the application; save and submit each section. Read all instructions in the application.
- 6) Submit (at the bottom of the page)
  - a) You will receive an email confirming that your application has been submitted. Your YMCA CEO will also be notified via email upon submission.
- 7) Award/decline notification
  - a) You will be notified via email prior to the Regional EMLE for which you are applying for support regarding the status of your award or reason for being declined
  - b) Please keep this email for your records and for instructions on how to receive the award, if applicable

YMCA of the USA is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of the information provided by applicants. We require that applicants for YMCA of the USA scholarships provide certain personal information which may include: Name, Mailing address, Email address, Phone number, Education, Work and Education History (collectively "Personal Information") when completing an application in SmartSimple ([yusa.smartsimple.com](https://yusa.smartsimple.com)).

The Personal Information of applicants will be shared among a review committee comprised of YMCA of the USA staff to determine applicant's eligibility and qualifications to become a potential candidate for an award. Y-USA will not share Personal Information obtained through this application with any third parties without obtaining your consent.



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## CONFERENCE FAQs

### WHEN AND WHERE IS THE 2026 REGIONAL EMERGING MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE?

The 2026 Regional Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experiences will start in January and end in December. Follow the Link Post for the most current dates and locations. <https://link.ymca.net/mlink/pd/MTU0MDU>

### WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION FEE?

The conference registration fee varies by Host location. Check the [2026 REMLE Link Post](#) for fees of a specific Regional EMLE.

### HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration links will be provided on the 2026 REMLE Link Post. If you apply for a scholarship, please **do not** register for REMLE until you receive notice to the outcome of your application status. Registration will open in March 2026. Visit Link (<https://link.ymca.net/mlink/pd/MTU0MDU>) for more information.

### WHAT IS REGIONAL EMLE?

The Regional Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experience, or REMLE, is a dynamic learning experience designed to motivate staff to deepen their connection with the Movement, discover their potential as cause-driven leaders and grow their careers in the Y.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The primary audience is staff and volunteers across all levels— with special consideration given to staff and others who do not have an opportunity to attend National YUSA conferences (i.e. part time employees, seasonal staff, etc...).

### WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

REMLE provides a space for all Y staff and volunteers to learn, grow, thrive and connect with YMCA peers in their region. Attendees also have access to personal and professional growth opportunities, from mentoring and career coaching sessions to networking events to breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics relevant to staff at any level in their careers. Attendees return to their Ys with an increased knowledge of professional development resources, an expanded network, and a stronger commitment to the Y.

### WHY DOES THE MOVEMENT NEED REGIONAL EMLE?

Attracting, developing, inspiring and retaining leaders is vital to the Y's ability to effectively **engage and serve our changing communities. REMLE plays a critical role in fulfilling the Y's mission**— and is a key component of the Y's journey towards becoming an organization for all.



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At REMLE, staff spend time in fellowship with peers from their region, discuss the unique challenges they share and connect with Y leaders who help them envision their own future with the Y—**all factors that contribute to greater employee engagement and retention.** REMLE attendees often report feeling a greater sense of support and increased commitment to the Y following the event.

### **MY QUESTION WASN'T ANSWERED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

If you have any further questions, please email [mld@ymca.net](mailto:mld@ymca.net).



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

### ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

- Are you applying for a scholarship to attend a Regional EMLE event? *Please Note: This application is only for Y staff seeking to attend a Regional EMLE event, NOT the National EMLE.*
- Are you a YMCA employee?
- My supervisor or CEO/Executive Director are aware that I am applying for funds to attend this conference.
- Have you been an employee of a YMCA in the United States for at least six months at the time of this application?
- If awarded this scholarship, I agree to register by the deadline and attend the conference in its entirety.

### PART ONE: APPLICATION INFORMATION

Please select which REMLE you plan to attend:

<u>Regional EMLE Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Tri-States in IN</b>	<b>JUN 25-26</b>
<b>Mountain in AZ</b>	<b>SEP 30-OCT 1</b>
<b>Mid Atlantic in DE</b>	<b>Week of OCT 5</b>
<b>Midwest in MN</b>	<b>OCT 19</b>
<b>Pacific Northwest in WA</b>	<b>OCT 28-29</b>
<b>Southeast state TBD</b>	<b>NOV 12-13</b>
<b>Pacific West in San Diego, CA</b>	<b>NOV 16</b>
<b>Carolinas in NC</b>	<b>DEC 8</b>

Please indicate your length of employment with the Y:

- Years:
- Months:

Please provide your current job title:

Please indicate your current YMCA Leadership Certification level: (Select One)

Race/Ethnicity

Gender

Age range

### PART TWO: CASE FOR EMLE SCHOLARSHIP

Have you received a Y-USA scholarship in the past 12 months? If so, what was it for?

Why are you interested in attending a Regional EMLE? Please respond in 200 words or less.

Have you ever attended a Regional or National EMLE before? If so, when?



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How will attending the Regional EMLE help you achieve your development or career goals?  
Please respond in 200 words or less.

As a result of attending Regional EMLE, what skill, competency or knowledge do you wish to attain that will help you strengthen the Y's ability to engage communities and your ability to lead, advocate, for, support and equip leaders from various backgrounds? Please respond in 200 words or less.

### **COMMITMENTS**

Please check the boxes below to confirm that you agree to the below terms and conditions.

- I certify that I have discussed and reviewed all sections of this application with my Supervisor and CEO/Branch Executive Director.
- If awarded this scholarship, I agree to register by the deadline, or my scholarship will be forfeited.
- If awarded this scholarship, I agree to attend the EMLE conference in its entirety. I understand that I will be ineligible for future Scholarships should I be awarded this scholarship and not attend this EMLE conference in its entirety.