Call to Congress 2020 Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

What is Call to Congress?

Every spring, the American Diabetes Association brings together hundreds of diabetes advocates to Capitol Hill. These advocates work to educate their members of Congress about the impact of diabetes, share their personal stories, and promote key federal priorities like federal funding to support diabetes research and programs, and access to adequate and affordable healthcare. Call to Congress serves as the premier advocacy campaign for the ADA in empowering those affected by diabetes to tell their stories and drive positive change.

While Call to Congress culminates with an in-person event in Washington, the initiative encompasses a larger engagement campaign throughout the year. So, if a trip to DC doesn’t work out for you, you still have a critical role to play by standing up for important diabetes priorities that can improve the lives of those impacted by this disease. Get ready to hit the ground running this Spring!

What happens during the in-person convening of Call to Congress?

Call to Congress in-person convening is a three-day event in Washington, D.C. Though the in-person event program changes slightly from year to year, the days usually flow as follows:

Day 1: Registration & Training—Attendees participate in the general session which includes hearing about our legislative priorities, and what to expect in meetings with senators and representatives, as well as breakout sessions with attendees from your state/region to plan Capitol Hill meetings and a kids’ breakout session. The state/region breakout session is usually followed by an evening reception and opportunity to get to know other Advocates.

Day 2: Capitol Hill Meeting Day—Attendees head to Capitol Hill to attend meetings with their lawmakers after a group photo on the Capitol Steps.

Day 3: Advocacy Back Home—Attendees share their experiences on the Hill and are trained on continuing their efforts back home.

When is Call to Congress 2020 happening?

April 1-3, 2020

How do I apply to attend Call to Congress?

Fill out the short application form at c2capplication.com
When will I know if I have been accepted to attend?

Applicants selected to attend Call to Congress 2020 will receive an email invitation informing them they’ve been selected to attend by November 15, 2019. This invitation will include a link to register or decline by the deadline.

Registration for Call to Congress 2020 will be through our online registration system, CVENT. Online registration is fast, easy and secure.

So, I’ve applied…what should I do now?

- Spend some time brushing up on ADA Advocacy! Learn more at [www.diabetes.org/advocacy](http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy)
- Join our fundraising effort to support Call to Congress and ADA’s important mission
- Help us grow the number of passionate Diabetes Advocates: recruit your friends and family to become Advocates by asking them to sign up at [www.diabetes.org/advocatesignup](http://www.diabetes.org/advocatesignup)

**Frequently Asked Questions for Selected Attendees**

What happens during Call to Congress?

Call to Congress is a week-long initiative that includes daily calls to action for advocates from around the nation, as well as a 3-day in-person event in Washington, D.C. Though the in-person event program changes slightly from year to year, the days usually flow as follows:

- **Day 1:** Registration & Training–Attendees participate in the general session which includes hearing about our legislative priorities, and what to expect in meetings with senators and representatives, as well as breakout sessions with attendees from your state/region to plan Capitol Hill meetings and a kids’ breakout session. The state/region breakout session is usually followed by an evening reception.

- **Day 2:** Capitol Hill Meeting Day–Attendees head to Capitol Hill to attend meetings with their legislators after a group photo on the Capitol Steps.

- **Day 3:** Advocacy Back Home–Attendees share their experiences on the hill and are trained on continuing their efforts back home.

For those advocating from home, plan to take action each day of Call to Congress Week of Action to help amplify our advocacy and ensure our message to make diabetes a priority is unmistakable.

Are Travel and Other Expenses Covered by the ADA?
Participants are responsible for their own air/rail travel, ground transportation and hotel accommodations unless approved for a stipend. Resources to support Advocate stipends are limited, please plan and apply accordingly.

**Expenses Covered by the American Diabetes Association:**

- Meals during the event, except Thursday dinner
- Training sessions and materials
- Briefing materials and print material for congressional meetings
- Transportation from the hotel to Capitol Hill

**How Do I Reserve my Hotel Room for Call to Congress?**

**MEETING & HOTEL LOCATION**
Washington Marriott Wardman Park
2600 Woodley Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Hotel reservations for Call to Congress are made during the registration process, after individuals have been notified of their acceptance. Selecting your check-in and check-out dates automatically add you to our room block at our special convention rate of $279.00 per night. You do not need to do anything else to reserve your room. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL INDEPENDENTLY.** If you have questions or concerns regarding your hotel, please forward them to our Grassroots staff at calltocongress@diabetes.org.

**Why was I required to submit credit card information?**

The hotel requires credit card information from each attendee for incidentals, late cancellations or no-shows, but your credit card will not be charged until you arrive at the hotel to check in.

**Hotel Stipend Recipients**

The hotel will place a **refundable** hold for incidentals only on your credit card upon arrival (*you will be responsible for room service, movie charges etc.*). Your room will be billed to the ADA room block.

**I received a stipend to attend, how do I book my travel?**

If you’ve received a stipend for air/rail travel you must book through the ADA’s travel agency, World Travel, Inc.: To ensure the best rates and availability we ask that you book your travel by the deadline. Agents at World Travel can be reached at 800-648-6685 from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM ET, Monday through Friday. **Please note, if you do not abide by the required dates to book travel this will negatively affect our ability to support advocates who have requested stipends. We are depending on you to respect travel deadlines in order to extend financial support to as many Diabetes Advocates as possible**

**Can I bring my child?**
Yes. Participants in Call to Congress can bring their child with diabetes--up to 18 years of age. **You must list your child on both the application and registration forms. If your child is 18 or older, they must complete their own application and registration forms, no exceptions.**

(We encourage participants to limit requests for children to **ONE child WITH DIABETES** in the interest of limited space and capacity.)

**Guests or Children over 18**

You will not be permitted to add your spouse/guests or children over 18 to your registration. Each participant of Call to Congress over the age of 18 must complete an individual application form to be considered for participation. **The registration form will have a place to designate if your adult child will be sharing a hotel room with you; both parent and adult child must complete their own registration form.**

**How far is the hotel from local airports?**

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORTS/TRAIN STATION TO THE HOTEL**

The hotel does not provide a complimentary shuttle service from/to local airports. Travel time can vary based on traffic conditions. Distance from the hotel to local airports and the Amtrak station, along with approximate travel costs are:

**Washington National Airport**
- **Distance from hotel:** 7 miles
- Drive time: About 20 minutes, traffic dependent
- Easy Metro access

**Washington Dulles International Airport**
- **Distance from hotel:** 28 miles
- Drive Time: About 45 minutes, traffic dependent

**Baltimore/Washington International**
- **Distance from hotel:** 39 miles
- Drive Time: About 1 hour, traffic dependent

**What should I wear?**

- Day 1 – Business casual
- Day 2 – Business attire: suit and tie, or pants/skirt + blouse or sweater, or a dress. Kids may wear khakis or other pants/skirt (no jeans, please) with a button-down or blouse
- Day 3 – Casual attire

**QUESTIONS?**

**Registration, hotel reservations, and travel** – ADA Meetings and Travel department ADAMtgsTravel@diabetes.org or 703-549-1500, or toll free at 800-676-4065, ext. 4842

**Call to Congress event program** – calltocongress@diabetes.org