



International Children's Advisory Network, Inc. (iCAN)
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iCAN Best-Practice Recommendation for Participant Compensation

iCAN's approach to participant compensation is designed to appropriately recognize the time, effort, and lived-experience expertise contributed by kids and their families, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for minors and ensuring that participation is not, or reasonably perceived to be, purchased or unduly influenced.

For minor participants, iCAN generally recommends that compensation or recognition be proportionate to the time, effort, and burden associated with the engagement. Where permitted, and subject to the Sponsor's prior agreement and applicable Compliance requirements, iCAN may provide one or both of the following forms of recognition:

- Stipend for the iCAN Summit, including reasonable participation-related expenses, where applicable; and/or
- Non-cash benefit, such as a gift card or comparable form of recognition based on Fair-Market-Value

The appropriate approach, including whether one or both forms of recognition are appropriate, should be determined and agreed upon in advance based on the nature, duration, scope, and level of participant involvement, as well as applicable Sponsor Compliance requirements and local laws or regulations.

Any compensation or recognition should be provided consistently and should not be contingent upon a participant providing a particular opinion, completing a particular response, endorsing a product or program, or providing favorable feedback.

iCAN views compensation as recognition of the participant's time, preparation, participation, and lived-experience contribution, and not as payment for medical information, diagnosis, or a particular viewpoint. Participation remains voluntary, and the form or amount of compensation should not compromise the participant's ability to provide independent and candid feedback.



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Summit Participation

Participants will receive a non-refundable for cash monetary stipend to be applied towards Summit travel expenses. This stipend can be transferred to another youth member/caregiver of their choosing, but does not roll over into the next year's Summit. This stipend may include access to the Summit program and, where applicable, reasonable expenses necessary to enable participation, such as registration, transportation, lodging, meals, and other reasonable participation-related costs.

For minor participants, reasonable expenses associated with a parent, legal guardian, or approved chaperone may also be covered where their presence is necessary to facilitate the child's safe participation.

Any Summit-related benefits or expenses should be reasonable and proportionate to the participant's involvement and should comply with applicable sponsor policies, local requirements, and Compliance review. They will receive a stipend towards the Summit.

Non-Cash Recognition

For any virtual advisory, feedback, usability, or similar engagement activities, iCAN may provide a modest non-cash benefit, such as a gift card, where legally and institutionally permissible.

The amount should be proportionate to the participant's time and burden and should be established consistently for similarly situated participants. The gift card is intended to recognize participation and time and should not be characterized as payment for a participant's medical information, diagnosis, opinion, or favorable assessment of a product or program.



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Travel and Expense Reimbursement

Where participation requires travel, Sponsors cover or reimburse reasonable and necessary participation-related expenses, including transportation, lodging, meals, and necessary accessibility-related expenses.

For minors, this may include reasonable expenses for a parent, legal guardian, or approved chaperone when required for the child's participation.

Reimbursement of legitimate participation expenses should be treated separately from any discretionary non-cash recognition and should be consistent with applicable sponsor policies.

Final Considerations

Overall, iCAN's principle for compensation is fair, proportionate, transparent, and age-appropriate recognition of participant contributions. The form of recognition, whether iCAN Summit participation, reasonable participation expenses, and/or a non-cash benefit such as a gift card, should be determined in advance based on the engagement and applicable Compliance requirements, while ensuring that participation remains voluntary and that compensation does not create inappropriate influence.

***Jurisdictional Considerations:** iCAN recognizes that certain countries or regions may have legal, regulatory, cultural, or practical requirements that make cash compensation the appropriate or necessary form of payment. In such circumstances, iCAN will address the compensation approach on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the Sponsor and, where appropriate, relevant local or institutional stakeholders. Any cash compensation will remain subject to applicable local requirements, Sponsor Compliance policies, and appropriate safeguards for minor participants.