

IRE Board AccessFest23 Rates

Vote by Email | March 2023

The dates for AccessFest23 are October 12-14, 2023, and will include 75 hours of estimated programming. On March 10, Executive Director Diana Fuentes sent an email to the IRE board, laying out two options prepared by IRE staff for registration rates:

Option 1

Early bird (professional, etc.)	\$149	75	\$11,175
Regular (professional, etc.)	\$199	25	\$4,975
<u>Student (flat rate)</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
TOTAL:		150	\$18,650

Option 2

Early bird (professional, etc.)	\$149	75	\$11,175
Regular (professional, etc.)	\$199	25	\$4,975
Discount (flat rate)	\$100	25	\$2,500
<u>Student (flat rate)</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
TOTAL:		175	\$21,150

Fuentes said, if Option 2 is chosen/approved by the board, the following (or similar) language would be included on the registration page online:

The goal of AccessFest23 is to increase accessibility to the top-level training and programming provided by IRE. We do that by offering an all-virtual platform at a less expensive cost with no need for travel or lodging, a particularly attractive advantage for those who can't easily leave home for health or caregiving reasons. We also are offering a special rate — for AccessFest only — for IRE members who don't have an employer covering their expenses and who need help to attend the virtual conference, including independent journalists, those whose employers have eliminated training budgets and those who have lost their jobs in the recent cutbacks, among others.

Fuentes indicated a phone number or email would also be included if there were questions or uncertainty about qualifying for the discounted rate (it would be an honor system when registering). This discount will not be offered at the NICAR or IRE conferences at this time.

Treasurer Brian Rosenthal emailed that he supported the addition of a discount rate for members who are freelancers, or are underemployed or unemployed. He added that the virtual conference is a good opportunity to experiment with this type of rate, and that the projection estimates the discount rate will lead to a higher overall revenue.

Several directors then said via email they would support Option #2. On March 13, Rosenthal emailed the board a motion to approve Option #2. On that same date, Director Aaron Kessler seconded that motion via email, which then received unanimous approval from the board 13-0 via email that same date.