



Constituency Group Funding FAQs

Why are changes being made to our constituency group's funding?

We want to make sure your contributions are managed responsibly and transparently while also making processes easier by reducing administrative burden. That's why the OMA asked MNP to review how Constituency Group funds are handled. We heard feedback from members, physician leaders, and MNP's recommendations, and these updates are a direct result of that feedback. We've updated our guidelines to clarify financial management and to help you see exactly how your money is working for you. The OMA will also be taking on more administrative and financial tasks on your behalf, so you can focus on what's important - supporting our members.

Please note that these updates strengthen financial management practices, enhance transparency, and align with our organizational best practices. The changes are reflected in new guidelines, which apply to all OMA Constituency Groups and all forms of funding available for constituency leaders.

What changes are being made to our funding?

Here's a quick summary of the main changes.

- **Clear financial reporting:** Constituency Group leaders must now present clear, detailed financial statements at Annual General Meetings. Members must be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. These new standards ensure accountability and demonstrate responsible use of funds to all members.
 - **Managing conflict of interest:** We've set out clear criteria to help leaders spot and handle any potential conflicts, making sure decisions are always in the group's best interest.
 - **Lobbying activities:** Honoraria and out-of-pocket expenses are not payable for lobbying-related activities.
 - **Service Level Agreements:** Groups participating in the raised funding program for their discretionary funds must sign a service level agreement outlining expectations and requirements, including what happens if a group becomes inactive or dissolves.
 - **Fair purchasing:** We've introduced clear rules for purchases, so you'll know when extra approvals or competitive quotes are needed (also known as procurement guidelines). This will help to ensure fairness and value.
 - **Reserve funds:** Reserve funds help support the long-term financial health of your Constituency Group and ensure you're well-positioned to continue serving members. As part of annual budget planning, groups will review their reserve funds to confirm that an appropriate and reasonable amount is set aside for the upcoming year. This review is an opportunity to reflect on how reserve funds can be used intentionally to support members, whether through programming, engagement, advocacy, or other priorities, rather than sitting unused. The goal is to balance financial sustainability with delivering meaningful value to members.
 - **Insurance Coverage:** All groups have access to Directors & Officers and Errors & Omissions insurance through the OMA.
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Where can I get help or ask questions?

We're here to support you! If you have questions or want to talk through the changes:

1. **Invite us to your executive meeting:** We're happy to join one of your upcoming meetings to explain the new guidelines and answer your questions.
2. **Reach out to constituency staff support:** Our staff are ready to help you with any questions or concerns you have about these updates.

For more information, visit our website to read more about the [Constituency Group Fund Guidelines](#). If you need immediate help, email us at info@oma.org.