

2026 ASME IDETC

Family Support Micro-Grants Program

Brought to you by the Committee for Broadening
Participation of Underrepresented Groups and
Sponsored by ASME IDETC/CIE

Overview

The mission of the Family Support Micro-Grant Program is to increase the diversity of researchers attending the conference by providing micro-grant support for childcare.

Motivation

It is difficult for parents, and in particular nursing mothers, to travel and attend conferences. Each micro-grant of up to \$500 per family can be used in the way that best suits the family to support their childcare needs during ASME IDETC/CIE.

For example:

- Purchase of an additional plane ticket for second caregiver to attend conference and provide childcare on site
- Purchase of an additional plane ticket for second caregiver to fly to the family's home and provide childcare in absence of one or both parents
- Babysitting support at the family's residence
- Compensation for days taken off from work for partner to stay at home with children
- Many more...

Eligibility

Any researcher who is a parent of at least one child of age 12 or younger is eligible to apply. Applications will be evaluated based on completeness of response to the application questions. Preference will be given to pre-tenure faculty to support their career success and those returning to the conference that took time off.

Application

Parents should apply by filling out the survey located here:

<https://forms.gle/LbmNPoxZAFWxW7RPA>

Deadline

Applicants should fill out the survey and attach their CV by Monday, May 11, 2026
Funding decisions will be made by Friday, May 15, 2026.

Contact

Send any questions to Elizabeth Starkey @ ems413@psu.edu.