



Membership Criteria and Expectations

The stated mission of the American Celiac Disease Alliance (ACDA) is to provide a uniform voice on behalf of persons with Celiac Disease, through programs of awareness, education, advocacy and research. Organizations and individuals which meet the stated membership criteria may be considered for membership. Applicants must meet the general requirements set out below, as well as, criteria based on the class of membership.

General Membership Requirements

1. The Member agrees to support the stated mission and goals of the ACDA.
2. Each voting member organization agrees to designate one person as a voting member to ensure that the organization is properly represented on issues requiring decision by majority vote. Additionally, each voting member organization will be entitled to only one vote on such issues.
3. The Member shall refrain from taking action on issues deemed in conflict with ACDA's mission and goals.
4. The Member agrees to make a good-faith effort to advance the goals and objectives of the ACDA through active participation in the ACDA, and activities undertaken on behalf of the ACDA.
5. The Member must provide contact information, including a valid e-mail address that will be used for communication from the ACDA. Any changes in contact information including but not limited to: a.) name of representative; b) mailing address; c.) e-mail address; d.) fax; and e) telephone number, shall be provided in a timely manner to the ACDA.
6. The Member agrees to pay the annual dues promptly.

The four categories of membership within the ACDA are Associate, Institutional, Industry and Affiliate.

Associate Members

To be an associate member, an organization must be tax exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and have members which include patients and/or individuals who are affected by Celiac Disease. *Associate members have voting rights.*

Institutional Member

To be an Institutional Member, an entity must be tax exempt under section 501(c) (3) or section 501(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, and be organized in the health-care or medical services industries. *Institutional members have voting rights.*

Industry Member

To be an Industry Member an individual or entity must be organized or conducting business for profit; and have a direct interest in Celiac Disease. *Industry Members have voting rights.*

Affiliate Member

Members in this category are selected by a special vote of the Board of Directors. The individual or organization has professional expertise which the Board has deemed important to the ACDA mission. *Affiliate members are non-voting members.*

In addition to the general criteria set out above, potential members will be required to meet the criteria of the one of the three classes of membership detailed below.

Specific Criteria

Associate Membership

1. The organization must provide proof of 501 (c) (3) non-profit status. IRS Determination or a current State Charity Registration letter is acceptable.
2. The organization must be a member-based organization.
3. An organization with affiliates, including but not limited to chapters, R.O.C.K groups, or resource units, must provide a listing of affiliation(s) with/to National, State, Regional or Local patient support groups. An organization and its affiliates will be treated as a single entity for membership purposes. The organization will have only one voting representative on behalf of the organization and its affiliates.

Industry Membership

1. The entity operates for profit and has been in business for a minimum of 3 years, from the date of the application.
2. The entity must have a proven track record of involvement or support with the celiac community (in addition to doing business with the community).
3. The entity must assist in underwriting projects of the Alliance which are mutually agreed upon between the entity and the Board of Directors.

Institutional Membership

1. The entity must be a non-profit organization, 501 (c) (3) or equivalent.
2. The entity must be affiliated with an established university.
3. The entity must demonstrate existence of a celiac program which:
 - i. Has a medical director identified by the university;
 - ii. Has a base of celiac patients;
 - iii. Is active in the following areas: clinical care; research; and education.