

# **The Hotline's Storytellers Collective FAQs for Individuals and Organizations Requesting a Storyteller**

## **Process and Selection**

### **Q: What's the process for requesting a storyteller?**

Individuals and organizations who wish to secure a member of The Hotline's Storytellers Collective must complete one of the following forms, depending on the specific request.

For events, whether in-person or virtual, please complete the [Event Speaker Request form](#).

For media requests, including podcasts and filming opportunities, please complete the [Media Request form](#).

### **Q: How is a storyteller selected for my event?**

Based on your individual needs, including topic(s) to address, timeline, and location for in-person opportunities.

## **Compensation**

**The Hotline's Storytellers Collective welcomes all speakers and storytellers who have a desire to share their story, regardless of whether they charge a speaking fee.**

**As of January 1, 2025, The Hotline's Storytellers Collective requires all events to compensate storyteller(s) with speaking fees, travel costs for in-person events, or otherwise suitable compensation.**

### **Q: Why does The Hotline's Speakers Bureau require compensation for speakers?**

A key component of many abusive patterns is financial abuse, which deprives the survivor of earning money through interference and sabotage of employment, education, and finances. Many survivors report impacts on their credit score, which is [a lifeline to obtaining a future free from violence](#) and abuse.

As survivors have been exploited by abusive partners and family members, and many times are tokenized by various systems, The Hotline wants to endure they are valued

and honored with recognition and appreciation for sharing their experience, expertise, and time.

The Hotline, therefore, compensates survivor speakers as a means of bolstering their economic independence and recovery from abuse.

### **Q: How much does it cost to secure a survivor speaker from The Hotline's Speakers Bureau?**

Recommended compensation for survivor speakers who do not otherwise charge their own speaking fees is outlined as follows:

- **Live Events:** \$75 / hour\* plus travel costs
- **Virtual Events** (including podcasts): \$75 / hour\*
- **Media Interviews:** Within one business day of publication, The Hotline and the survivor speaker will receive two complimentary copies of the print publication and a link to the online or digital publication without a paywall. Two complimentary copies of print publication and/or links to online publication without pay wall sent to The Hotline and the survivor speaker within 1 business day of publishing.

*\* One hour includes one to sixty minutes of speaking time.*

### **Q: What if a speaker charges more than \$75 for their services?**

Some speakers in the Storytellers Collective have advanced education and experience, which allows them to charge more than \$75 per hour. If the requesting organization agrees to these higher fees, the speakers can charge more than \$75 per hour plus travel costs if in person.

### **Q: Who pays for the speaker's travel and lodging?**

The individual or organization requesting a speaker for an in-person event must cover all travel and lodging costs for a survivor storyteller to present. This includes (but is not limited to) airfare / baggage fees, gas / mileage, hotel room, ground transportation (e.g. bus ticket, taxi, Lyft / Uber ride), and meal(s).

### **Q: What if my organization hosts a fundraiser to support domestic violence service providers? Do I still need to pay a fee?**

Great! As a service provider for survivors, you know better than most that re-telling a traumatic experience can have emotional and physical implications before, during, and after the story is shared. The survivors who bravely agreed to speak at your event deserve your support just as much as the survivors you serve daily. Yes, you will still be required to pay the survivor fee.

## **Q: Who pays who?**

All speaking fees and travel costs are paid directly between the speaker and the event organizer.

[Speaker sponsorship funds](#) are distributed to the survivor storyteller by The Hotline. This covers only the speaker's hourly rate and is not intended for travel costs or reimbursements.

## **Cancellations**

### **Q: What if I need to cancel the speaker? Will I get a refund?**

If an event has a reason to cancel their matched storyteller, the individual or organization who booked the storyteller is responsible for paying 50% of the estimated speaking fee to the matched storyteller.

## **Duration**

### **Q: What if we only need a speaker for five minutes?**

Our rates are not prorated based on the standard hourly fee of the survivor speaker.

The speaking fee reflects the time and effort the speaker puts into preparing for your event and the necessary arrangements for attendance, which may include adjusting work schedules and childcare. It is important to honor our storytellers by ensuring they are fairly compensated for their invaluable contributions. We thank you for understanding and supporting their important work.

## **Sponsorships**

### **Q: What if my organization is unable to pay the speaker fee?**

A limited number of sponsorships are available for organizations that wish to invite a survivor speaker or storyteller to present at their upcoming events. These sponsorships are reserved for small community events hosted by local domestic violence and victim services organizations, schools, colleges, universities, and faith-based communities. Sponsorships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sponsorships are only for speaking fees and are not to be used for travel expenses or reimbursements.

We are grateful to The Allstate Foundation for their generous support of our Storytellers Collective.

To apply for a sponsorship to cover the costs of a survivor speaker, please email [lbrewer@thehotline.org](mailto:lbrewer@thehotline.org). In your email, describe the barriers that prevent you from compensating the survivor storyteller, and explain how you plan to utilize the information shared by the survivor storyteller within your organization.

**Q: What if I do not qualify for a speaker sponsorship?**

If you don't qualify for a speaker sponsorship or have the funds for compensation, but still want to host a survivor speaker, we recommend contacting your [state coalition](#). They may be able to assist you by providing a speaker for your event.