

Financial Aid Policy

History and purpose: The YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County established its financial assistance program, then called the Sponsors Fund, in 1981, the same year the 909 Fairfield Road facility opened. The program provides financial aid to individuals and families who satisfy the requirements set forth in its financial aid policy. Our goal is to ensure that all Adams County residents have the opportunity to benefit from YWCA membership regardless of economic ability.

Eligibility: There are no residency requirements for application. Eligibility is based on the applicant's total household income. All applicants must provide the most current verification of all sources of income, including employment, food stamps, cash assistance, child/spousal support, housing/utility assistance, and any other source of assistance or funds, along with the most recent federal tax returns of all household members who file. All adults in the household **MUST** report income, regardless of relationship to the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide all required documentation at the time the application is submitted. ***Applications that do not include complete income verification will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.*** Any attempt to obtain aid by intentionally falsifying records or reporting falsely on the application shall prevent the applicant from receiving any aid at any time. If a recipient is to be found guilty of obtaining aid under false pretenses, the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County may resort to legal action to recoup all funds awarded, and any costs incurred in pursuing said action.

Family memberships: Those applying for financial aid for a family membership must meet the family definition as set forth by membership policy. Family memberships shall not include people not living in the applicant's household. Adults must have at least part-time custody or guardianship of children included in a family membership, and must provide documentation if requested.

Availability: Financial aid funds are awarded to approved applicants on a strictly first come, first served basis within each six-month cycle. Once the funds for a financial aid cycle are depleted, any approved individuals who missed receiving funds for the cycle will be placed on a waiting list for the following cycle, in order of approval.

Approval: Applicants who provide all required documentation and meet policy requirements shall be approved for aid for one (1) six-month period, and will be provided with the date of their first day of membership. Recipients may begin using their membership at any time from the first date of their award period. No exceptions or carry-over of time and funds will be allowed once the six-month award period is complete.

Re-approval: Financial aid recipients may reapply for one additional, consecutive six-month period. This application may be submitted no earlier than

30 days prior to the end of their current award date. Those reapplying for funds MUST submit new income verification paperwork, even if their income has not changed. Applicants shall not receive financial aid for more than two consecutive six-month periods. After receiving aid for two consecutive six-month periods, applicants must wait six months before applying again. The YWCA reserves the discretion to award financial aid for an extended period in the event of demonstrated severe disability and need, with the approval of the financial aid committee and executive director.

Payment: Approved applicants must pay for their six-month membership no later than 30 days from their award start date. No membership card or access to the facility or programs will be issued until the complete payment is made. If applicants do not make complete payment within the 30-day timeframe, their aid will be voided for the period and their application may be moved to the queue for the following cycle, if they wish.

Money for children's activities/summer camps: When a family is awarded financial assistance, each child age **12 or younger** is awarded a \$50 YWCA credit. This can be used for group swim lessons, summer camps, gymnastics, or other activities. The applicant is responsible for a co-pay based on their approved rec pass discount. **For example**, if a family is awarded a rec pass at a 90 percent discount, the family will receive this same discount on each child's programs/lessons. The family will be responsible for paying 10 percent of the cost of these programs/lessons, and the allotted YWCA credit will help make up the difference, up to \$50. Any remaining cost beyond this \$50 credit must also be paid by the applicant. **Children up to age 17 may receive this credit if they are participating in the Sharks swim team.** YWCA credits expire at the end of each six-month membership and cannot be carried over into future months.

Activities not covered by financial assistance: Financial aid may not be used for the following programs/services:

- Massage
- Nutrition counseling
- Personal training
- Tai Chi
- Karate
- Private swim lessons
- **Child care/Camp Champ**