



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Membership Assistance Program

The YMCA, with its goal of satisfying the needs of individuals, youths, seniors, and families, never denies membership to those within our community who truly cannot afford membership. As a cause-driven, non-profit organization, the YMCA receives needed subsidy through generous individual donations, the United Way Community Care Fund, fundraising events, and our Annual Scholarship Fund Drive.

How to Request Support Through the Membership Assistance Program

Please read the following information carefully before completing the application process.

The YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County requires that individuals provide the requested information stated below regarding income and family size so that it can provide financial assistance in a fair and consistent manner. Assistance will be awarded based on financial need.

To process your application, we will need the following information:

- Copy of your most recent tax return – If you do not have a copy of your recent tax return, you may obtain one by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.
- One month's worth of pay stubs for each working person in the household
- Copy of Social Security or Disability Benefits Statement (If Applicable)
- Copy of any assistance such as welfare benefits, SNAP/food stamps, and/or Section 8 housing letter (If Applicable)
- Copy of unemployment benefits statement (If Applicable)
- If you have no income, you must provide a letter from the person(s) providing your monthly living expenses.
- Documentation of any special circumstances you wish to have considered

If you did not file taxes this year or if you do not have the other required documents, please submit a letter explaining your personal situation. **If you do not provide this documentation, the processing of your application will be delayed until you can provide verification of all household income.**

Assistance requests will be considered monthly and processed on a rolling basis based on the order in which they are received. If you accept your assistance offer you will be committing to 6 months of membership to be paid monthly (at the reduced rate) by automatic draft on the 1st of each month. Failure to make payment will result in termination of membership and a new application will need to be submitted for future consideration.

You will receive notification via email (if provided) or a letter in the mail stating whether or not you have been approved. If after 7-10 business days you have not received an email or letter, you may call the YMCA to see if your application has been approved or to see if additional information is needed.

A new application will need to be submitted every 6 months. You will want to submit this at least one month prior to the expiration of your membership.

The maximum range of assistance the Y can offer at this time is between 5% and 50%.

YMCA OF ITHACA AND TOMPKINS COUNTY
50 Graham Road West - Ithaca, NY 14850
607-257-0101
ithacaymca.com



Membership Assistance Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Do I have to pay the Capital Improvement Fee when joining?

Yes. You will pay the same percentage of the Capital Improvement Fee as was approved for your membership.

Can I attend the YMCA while my application is being processed?

No, you will need to wait until you have received your determination email/letter and make your first payment or you can pay the daily activity fee as a non-member.

What is the payment process?

Assistance is approved for 6 months of membership. You will be enrolled in a monthly bank draft which will be billed monthly on the 1st of the month at your reduced rate. This requires a credit card or bank account to be on file with the Y. There is a \$15 fee for any returned payments.

Are the benefits of my membership different from those of members not receiving assistance?

No. Your membership will provide you with all of the same benefits and access to YMCA facilities, provided your membership is kept current. This includes access to the YMCA Nationwide Membership benefit.

Can I combine additional discounts with my assistance, ie 10% Community Employer Wellness Benefit?

No. You may either utilize your awarded assistance OR your discount group, but not both.

Is there a certain number of times I must use the facility in order to maintain my membership?

We ask you to keep in mind that we receive a number of applications for financial assistance. Therefore, it is important for you/your family to actively use your YMCA membership. Visits are tracked by scanning your member card at the Welcome Center every time you visit the facility. We reserve the right to consider your attendance during any future renewal reviews.

How often must I submit new paperwork?

Paperwork must be resubmitted after 6 months, unless requested earlier due to a change in living/financial situation and we will review your information to ensure it is accurate and up to date. During the review process we reserve the right to change the level of scholarship provided.

What if I am approved assistance but still can't afford the payment?

You are welcome to submit a letter of appeal to our Membership Director. Your letter must explain why we should reconsider our decision and must contain supporting documentation. Appealing does not guarantee a change in scholarship decisions.

What should I do if there is a change in my living/financial situation?

You must contact our Membership Director immediately. You will be asked to submit the updated information and your membership/program enrollments will be reviewed.

If I receive assistance for membership am I AUTOMATICALLY approved for program assistance?

No. at this time the YMCA is only providing financial assistance for membership.

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United Way
of Tompkins County
FUNDED PARTNER