

Open Doors Financial 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 and program costs. As a cause-driven, non-profit organization, the YMCA receives much needed subsidy through generous individual donations, fundraisers, and the annual campaign.

YMCA members can feel great knowing they are involved in an organization that cares greatly for the health and well-being of people and is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The YMCA of Ithaca 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. **We do require all summer camp and SACC (before & after school) applicants apply for DSS help before applying for YMCA assistance.** If you are denied by DSS, the YMCA will consider your request once application and paperwork are submitted. If you are approved we, unfortunately, cannot further subsidize the payment.

How to Request Financial Assistance

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

The YMCA of Ithaca 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.

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

Copy of most recent tax return, one months worth of pay stubs for each working person, copy of Social Security or disability checks (if applicable), copy of recent welfare benefits, food stamps, and/or section 8 housing letter (if applicable), copy of unemployment benefits statement (if applicable).

If you have no income, a letter from person(s) who provides your monthly living expenses.

Documentation of any special circumstances.

If you do not provide these forms, your application process will be delayed until you can provide us with verification of income.

Eligibility: 1. Assistance will be awarded on the basis of financial need.

2. Scholarship eligibility will be reviewed every 3 months or as deemed necessary and new income verification every 6 months.

Note: 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. If you did not file taxes this year, or if you do not have the other documents required, please submit a letter explaining your personal situation. Please allow least 7-10 business days to process your application.

You will receive notification via email (if you provide an email address) or a letter in the mail stating whether or not you have been approved. After this period, you may call the YMCA to see if your application has been approved or to see if additional information is needed.



Open Doors Scholarship Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Do scholarship recipients have to pay the Capital Improvement Fee when joining?

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

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

You will need to wait until you have received your determination letter and make your initial payment. If you wish, you are welcome to pay an activity fee to visit our facility.

What is the payment process?

Scholarships are approved for 3 month memberships. Scholarship awards will expire after 6 months from the original submission date.

If approved, can I receive a credit for membership or programs previously paid for?

No. Scholarship approvals will only apply to memberships and programs purchased after the approval has been issued. No credits or refunds will be issued for membership or programs purchased prior to the approval letter being sent.

Will my access to the facility be any different than that of members not receiving assistance?

No. Your membership will provide you with full facility access, provided your membership is kept current.

Can I receive a discount in addition to my scholarship, ie 10% corporate discount?

No. We can only apply one discount per membership. It is your choice which discount to apply.

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 to actively use the YMCA. We reserve the right to consider your attendance during your six-month status review.

How often must I submit new paperwork?

Paperwork must be resubmitted after 6 months, unless requested earlier due to change in living situation, at 3 months you will 'review' your information to ensure it is accurate and up-to-date. During the review process we reserve the right to increase the scholarship amount. If you do not reapply when requested, your enrollment may be terminated.

What happens if I am approved but can't afford the payment that has been determined?

You are welcome to contact Ann Haider-Collins, Administrative Coordinator, for an appeal. A 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 household information?

You must contact the YMCA immediately. You will be asked to submit the updated information and your membership will be reviewed.

Do I get AUTOMATIC assistance for programs?

No. The financial assistance that you are applying for with this application is for Y membership only. Only programs that are requested on the application will be considered in the scholarship process. Membership is required to receive assistance for programs.

Can I use my scholarship for the same program type twice in the same session?

No. If you are approved for a program scholarship you may not sign up for the same program type twice within the same session. You may get the scholarship rate for one and pay full rate for the 2nd. For example, you can receive a scholarship rate for 1 Octagon class in a session, however if you sign up for a 2nd Octagon class in the same session, that would be at the regular rate.

Can I use my scholarship for more than one swim lesson in the same session?

Yes. If you are approved for a program scholarship you may sign up for a maximum of 2 days per week of the same swim lessons. If you wish to sign up for 3 or more days, the first 2 will be at the scholarship rate and the additional classes will be at the regular rate.

Do all programs qualify for scholarship rates?

No. There are some 'specialty' programs that do not qualify to receive a scholarship rate. These programs are Pre-K Summer Blast, Private Lessons, Personal Fitness Coaching, and any fundraising events.

Is there a different process to apply for SACC and Camp assistance?

Yes. We require all applicants who request SACC and Camp assistance to apply at DSS first. If you are denied, we will consider you for Open Doors assistance. If you are approved for DSS we can not further subsidize your parent fee. You can contact DSS at 607-274-5237.