

Financial Aid Policy

Updated 8/14/2014

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.*** 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.