

What is YMCA Financial Assistance?

YCares is a 6 month scholarship program available to families and individuals of all ages who are interested in joining the YMCA, but may not be able to afford it. We award the approved applicant with a percentage off of their YMCA membership and YMCA programs like swim lessons, youth sports, personal training, and child care. Each scholarship is based on income eligibility and other established guidelines.

Who is eligible to receive financial assistance?

We welcome any self pay individual or family who want to focus on creating healthy habits.

How are YCares scholarships funded?

It is funded through donations from our Annual Giving Campaign and a community development block grant through the City of Vineland.

How will the financial assistance amount be determined?

After our staff verify all income and determine financial eligibility based on a sliding fee scale, our YMCA Leadership team carefully considers the individual application and personal need to assign a percentage for each requested area/program.

How quickly can I expect to receive financial assistance?

After submitting your completed application, processing can take 2-3 weeks. Incomplete applications could delay processing. Once you have been approved, you have 30 days to come in to make your payment and activate your membership. YCares scholarships that are not activated in the allowed time will be forfeited and those applicants will need to reapply.

When will my YCares Scholarship expire?

Each scholarship is valid for 6 months based on activation date and the membership will terminate unless a renewal application is submitted and approved PRIOR to the termination date.

If I was approved before do I need to reapply?

Even if financial/household circumstances remain the same, all applicants **must** reapply each term and will be reassessed based on their current need and available funding. Members must submit their completed renewal application a minimum of 3 weeks prior to their termination date to avoid a lapse in their membership.

What if I want to add someone to my membership, after I am approved?

Adding members to the account after it has been approved will require additional documentation and may require a completed new application.

What if I don't agree with my approval amount?

Any disputes must be submitted in writing to the Member Services Director.

If I did not file taxes the previous year, how do I verify my tax status?

If you receive Social Security or if for any other reason you did not file taxes the previous year, you are required to submit a request to the IRS.gov website to receive your transcript for that tax year to provide verification of non filing status.

Why do I have to provide income for my spouse, domestic partner, or adult child?

YCares Scholarships are awarded based on HOUSEHOLD income. The income of everyone living in the household, regardless of whether or not they are included in the membership, contributes to the overall financial status of the household and must be considered to fairly determine eligibility.

What forms or proof of documentation can I provide or is not acceptable?

- **For Proof of Residence:** It must be a recent official document (can not be a self written letter or generic marketing mailer) Examples are: Photo ID with address and date of birth, utility bill, tax form, medical form/bill, school records, lease/mortgage, bank statement, Motor vehicle document/Insurance record
- **For Proof of Guardianship:** Birth Certificate (must list you as the parent) or court ordered documentation that lists you as the guardian, School Records that list you as the child's guardian, insurance/medical record.

For Proof of Income: (see checklist). Anyone who claims they have no income or fails to provide verifiable proof of income may not be considered for this program. Personal letters are not acceptable forms of verifiable income.