



**WINNIPEG COMMUNITY
SPORT POLICY**

EVERYONE CAN PLAY

A GUIDE TO WINNIPEG RECREATION AND SPORT SUBSIDIES



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(updated: July 2022)**

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Introduction

This resource guide was prepared by the Recreation Subsidy Committee, a working group of the Winnipeg Community Sport Policy. The committee is comprised of organizations collaborating to improve access and engagement to recreation and sports through recreation subsidies. The committee has come together with the understanding that although there are many subsidy programs, if we are truly to uphold everyone's right to play, we need to develop a stronger, coordinated network of financial supports for families in need.

The *Everyone Can Play Guide: A Guide to Winnipeg Recreation and Sports Subsidies* was envisioned to be a resource for service providers and organizations working with families experiencing barriers to recreation and sport participation. The Guide will be a living document subject to annual updates. The latest version of the guide can be found at http://winnipeginmotion.ca/winnipeg_community_sport_policy.php

Special thank-you to the following members and agencies that contributed to the creation of the original *Everyone Can Play* guide:

- Glenn McLean, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities
- Karen Glugosh, City of Winnipeg, Community Development & Recreation Services
- Marlene Amell, General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres
- Kim Scherger, Manitoba Camping Association, Sunshine Fund
- Jaymi Derrett, Manitoba Municipal Relations
- Amanda Daurie, Sport Manitoba
- Kristine Hayward, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- Angela Hildebrand, YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg
- Karen Ferris, Youth Agencies Alliance

Recreation Subsidies

For the purposes of this document, a recreation and sport subsidy is a financial support program offered to families and individuals (youth and adults) who experience financial barriers to participate in recreation and sport opportunities. There are a number of organizations and community groups that offer recreational programming free of charge. However, a majority of organized sports, recreational classes and fitness facilities do charge fees to participate or gain access. A subsidy is typically used to reduce the cost of registration for recreation programming, sports participation, or memberships to recreation centers and help to promote active living for families who would not be able to participate.

There are numerous recreation and sport subsidies that are available in Winnipeg. The guide focuses on seven subsidies offered in Winnipeg. The list is not exhaustive.

1. Canadian Tire Jumpstart
2. City of Winnipeg – Recreation Services Fee Subsidy Program
3. General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres - Program Registration Fee Subsidy
4. KidSport Manitoba (Winnipeg Region)
5. Manitoba Camping Association and Sunshine Fund
6. Recreation Opportunities for Children
7. YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg - Member Access Program

These diverse subsidy programs have subtle differences that are important to be aware of. These differences include:

- Amount of funding provided to an individual or family;
- Activities or sports supported;
- Age restrictions;
- Criteria used to review each applicant's eligibility; and
- Personal information required from an applicant.

The guide includes summaries of each of these subsidies.

Five Steps to Get Started

The Guide is designed to help navigate what can be a complicated process of accessing a subsidy. Here are a few suggestions to get started and to get best use of the guide.

- 1. Decide on an activity or sport to participate in.** In order to apply for a subsidy a family or individual must first choose the activity, class or sport that they want to participate in. Here are a few links to resources to help decide on what the family/individual wants to sign up for. This list is not exhaustive.

The City of Winnipeg produces two seasonal guides highlighting recreational opportunities for citizens. The Leisure Guide and accompanying swim and/or skate brochures (Registered Programs), and Priceless Fun (Free Programs) can all be found online at: www.winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/leisure/leisureguide.stm

- General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres provides an extensive list of programs offered at various community centres throughout Winnipeg. To find your local community centre, visit: www.gcwcc.mb.ca
- Manitoba Camping Association provides a list of accredited, residential (overnight) and day summer camps. www.mbcamping.ca
- Sport Manitoba provides links to all recognized sports organizations in Manitoba. www.sportmanitoba.ca/partners/
- YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg offers numerous fitness classes and recreation programs included in membership. In addition, the Y also provides a variety of Day Camps during the Summer, Spring & Winter as well as overnight camping at Camp Stephens. www.ywinnipeg.ca
- Youth Agencies Alliance – is an umbrella organization representing 15 youth-serving community based organizations in Winnipeg. www.youthagenciesalliance.com

- 2. Determine the related costs associated with the program.** After selecting a program, determine what costs there are associated to participate. There are a number of free and low cost recreation programs available in Winnipeg that may not require a subsidy. If the chosen activity has costs that prohibit the family or individual from participating then proceed to step three.
- 3. Determine what organization is delivering the program.** Knowing the organization that delivers the program will help determine the appropriate subsidy to apply for. Each subsidy will support different types of recreation and sport programs.
- 4. Refer to the Recreation Subsidies Quick Reference Chart.** The Guide includes a quick reference chart to help narrow down which subsidy to apply for. The reference chart provides brief details on what activities are eligible, what the subsidy program will cover in terms of related costs, age range of eligibility, and who to contact for further information.
- 5. Select the Subsidy to Apply for and Get the Application.** The Guide offers a description of each subsidy and instructions on how to apply. We have not included the application forms in this guide as they are constantly changing. Contact the subsidy host organization directly or visit their website to receive the current application forms.

Proof of Need

Each of the subsidy providers included in this guide has their own application form and review process requiring proof of need. The following section provides examples of the information that is requested from individuals or families to verify financial need.

Low Income Eligibility Assessment

Most subsidy application forms will include some form of a low-income eligibility assessment. Typically the subsidy provider will request Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment or have the applicant fill out a form to review family income. Some organizations are moving towards Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off Rates (LICO) as a measure to assess financial need compared to an applicant's income.

Documentation from Income Support Programs

A person or family receiving income support may be eligible for a subsidy. Some of the subsidy providers may accept the following documentation:

- Employment Income Assistance social assistance case number or budget letter
- Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program documentation including recipient case number and landing date
- Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits

Agency Referral

In Winnipeg, there are a number of organizations that support youth and families in need. A person or family connected with a social service organization or community agency may have the opportunity to receive a referral for a subsidy. The organization would have to be willing to verify the financial need of the person or family applying for the subsidy. The potential applicant would need to ask the subsidy provider if this is an option.

Personal Interview and Story

Some of the subsidy providers utilize a confidential interview process to assess and verify financial need of an applicant. The interview can be used to review income and expenses. This process can help to identify recent changes in life circumstances such as job loss, separation, or death in the family. These are circumstances that may not be captured by the application form or Canada Revenue tax statements but could result in a family or person being in significant financial need.

RECREATION SUBSIDIES QUICK REFERENCE CHART

Subsidy Program	General Information	Page #
Canadian Tire Jumpstart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized Sport & Recreation Programs • Registration fees and Equipment costs • Ages: 4-18 • Visit: jumpstart.canadiantire.ca 	8
City of Winnipeg – Recreation Services Fee Subsidy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Winnipeg Leisure Guide programs and facility access passes • All ages • Call 311 or visit: winnipeg.ca/feesubsidy 	9
General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres – Program Registration Fee Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community centre program registration fees • Age: Youth under 17 • Call 204-475-5008 or visit: www.gcwcc.mb.ca/grants-and-subsidies/ 	10
KidSport Manitoba – Winnipeg Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized sport program registration fees • Age: Youth under 18 • Call 204-925-5911 or visit: kidsportcanada.ca/manitoba/winnipeg/ 	11
Manitoba Camping Association – Sunshine Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited summer camps • Age: Youth eligible for summer camps • Call 204-754-1130 or visit: mbcamping.ca/sunshine-fund 	12
Recreation Opportunities for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All recreation activities, registration fees, equipment, transportation, child care & supports to enable participation • Families receiving social assistance are referred through a targeted referral process 	13
YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg – Members Access Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership to all YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg facilities • All ages • Visit: ywinnipeg.ca/join-us/membership-assistance/ 	14

Subsidy Descriptions

Canadian Tire Jumpstart

Founded in 2005, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities (Jumpstart) is a registered charity that helps kids overcome financial and accessibility barriers to sport and recreation in an effort to provide inclusive play for kids of all abilities. Jumpstart is more than just about getting kids active. It's about giving kids from families in financial need the same chance to participate as their neighbours, their classmates and their friends. Whether it's the chance to try a new sport or to continue with a favourite one, no kid should be left out. Giving kids the opportunity to access sport and play is essential for their growth and development, which is why Jumpstart funds a variety of different sports and activities all with the goal of giving all kids the chance to discover their passion.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: To be eligible for funding for one or more children, families must first meet specific financial criteria as per Revenue Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) chart.

Proof of Need: A current copy of your annual Canada Child Benefit statement will be required. Under exceptional circumstances, alternative confirmation of eligibility may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Family Members: Children in the family between the ages of four to 18

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: Organized sports and recreation programs engaging children in physical activity

Program Length: Programs must be a minimum of 5 sessions in duration

Eligible Costs: Registration fees and equipment costs

Funding Details:

- Funding is up to \$300 per activity, subject to Chapter discretion and/or local demands
- Children can be funded for successive seasons in an activity, up to a maximum of \$300 per activity.
- Annual maximum amount a child is eligible to received is up to \$600, subject to Chapter discretion and/or local demands.

Application Periods:

Applications can be submitted throughout the year, beginning middle of January.

Application Process:

Please go online to the Jumpstart Individual Child Grant (ICG) section of our website at www.jumpstart.canadiantire.ca where you can register and complete the Jumpstart application.

Contact Information:

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities

Tel: 1-844-YES-PLAY (1-844-937-7529)

Website: www.jumpstart.canadiantire.ca

Email: jumpstart_admin@cantire.com

City of Winnipeg – Recreation Services Fee Subsidy Program

Winnipeg residents in financial need are encouraged to request a fee subsidy to participate in City of Winnipeg, Recreation Services programs and to gain access to recreation facilities. Fee subsidies are available for individuals of all ages.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: At or below Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) with consideration given to special circumstances

Proof of Need: The following documentation qualifies as verification:

- Social assistance budget letter
- Refugee program documentation showing landing date and UCI number
- Most recent Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment identifying annual family net income
- A monthly statement of income from CPP Disability (including income verification of all economic family members)

Family Members: Fee subsidies are available for individuals of all ages. You must be a resident of Winnipeg.

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: The following services are eligible for fee subsidies:

- **Program Subsidies** – Registered Leisure Guide programs, swimming and skating lessons, as well as drop-in active living programs.
- **Facility Passes** – Admission to the City of Winnipeg’s recreation facilities (swimming pools and fitness centres). Valid for one year from the date issued.

Application Periods:

There is no deadline. Applications can be submitted throughout the year. Submit your application early to ensure it is processed prior to the Leisure Guide registration start dates. Approved applications will be valid for 12 months.

Application Process:

Please provide a completed application form along with verification of your economic need. Staff may contact the applicant to confirm or clarify any information submitted. Applications must be made prior to registering and paying for a course. Call 311 or visit winnipeg.ca/feesubsidy for more information. A written response letter/email will be provided to the applicant.

If approved, applicants are responsible for completing their own registrations. A fee subsidy credit will be added to the account of each individual identified on the application. The fee subsidy credit is an annual credit intended to be applied towards all Leisure Guide sessions for a period of 12 months from the date of approval.

Contact Information:

Recreation Services Fee Subsidy Program, Community Services Department
7th Floor – 395 Main St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3N8
Email: cmsfeesub@winnipeg.ca

General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) – Community Centre Program Registration Fee Subsidy

The Community Centre Program Registration Fee Subsidy is designed to assist those children/youth who would not otherwise be able to participate in Community Centre activities. This grant is available for all Community Centre programs.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: At or below Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) with consideration given to special circumstances

Proof of Need: Applicants are required to provide documentation verifying their economic need. Accepted forms include the most recent: Revenue Canada “Notice of Assessments”, financial statements from EI & CPP Disability, or statements from Social/Refugee Assistance indicating your Case#.

Family Members: All children/youth ages 17 and under.

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: This grant is available for all Community Centre registered sport programs. Program Length: A minimum of 4 weeks.

Eligible Costs: Community Centre Program Registration Fees.

Funding Amounts: Based on family income, subsidy requests are available for up to \$300 per child, per season. Each child can receive up to \$600 per calendar year.

Application Periods:

Deadline for submissions by Community Centres to GCWCC: Spring/Summer May 31st, Fall/Winter November 30th.

Application Process:

All subsidy funding applications must be applied for at the Community Centre hosting the program. The Community Centre will require verification of family income (Notice of Tax Assessment, CPP/EI Disability, or Social/Refugee Assistance indicating your Case #). The Community Centre is responsible for submitting the application to the GCWCC office for processing. Payment is sent to the Community Centre requesting the funds.

Contact Information:

General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC)

Unit 2703-A 83 Garry Street, R3C 4J9

Tel: 204 475-5008

Fax: 204-475-5812

Email: taylor@gcwcc.mb.ca

Website: <https://www.gcwcc.mb.ca/grants-and-subsidies/>

KidSport Manitoba - Winnipeg Region

KidSport™ is national charity administered by Sport Manitoba. KidSport™ provides support to children in order to remove financial barriers that prevent them from playing organized sport. KidSport identifies needs in the community, raises funds, and supports programs that create new opportunities for young people to participate in sport.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: At or below Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) with consideration given to special circumstances

Proof of Need: Official proof of income must be provided for all adults living in the home. Income is based on total income, not taxable income. The proof provided must show total income. Acceptable proof of income includes;

- Canada Customs and Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment
- Proof of Foster Parent Status or Social Assistance Status.

Family Members: Financial assistance for children ages 18 and under who are lacking the financial resources to participate in sport. Preference is given to children being introduced to a sport.

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: Sport programs/activities must be affiliated or recognized by Sport Manitoba - Provincial Sport Organizations.

Program Length: Season of sport (sport camps not eligible)

Eligible Costs: Registration Fees

Funding Amounts: Assistance of up to \$300 per individual per calendar year. Funding is provided directly to the sport club.

Application Periods: Application deadlines are the 15th of each month, January to December of each calendar year.

Application Process: Notification of status of applications is provided by the end of each month to both the applicant and the sport club. Application forms are available from the Sport Manitoba - Winnipeg Region office or on website.

<http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/manitoba/winnipeg/apply-for-assistance/>

Contact Information:

KidSport Winnipeg

145 Pacific Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3B 2Z6

Tel: 204-925-5911

Email: kidsportmb@sportmanitoba.ca

Website: <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/winnipeg/>

Manitoba Camping Association (MCA) - Sunshine Fund

The Sunshine Fund program provides deserving Manitoba children from low income families the opportunity to access summer camp. Children have access to 35 MCA accredited summer camps throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: At or below Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) with consideration given to special circumstances

Proof of Need: Notice of Assessment, paystub, financial statements from CPP Disability, proof of social assistance, Social/Refugee Assistance case number, endorsement from qualified professionals, Manitoba Health card.

Family Members: Children under the age of 18.

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: Accredited summer camp.

Program Length: One session of camp and includes leadership/counsellor in training program.

Eligible Costs: Camp registration fees and transportation costs offered by the camp.

Funding Amounts: Maximum subsidy is \$700/child/year.

Application Periods: Applications are available on the website, registration opens February 1, however processing time varies based on camp availability and their registration schedule. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Please ensure all information as outlined on the application is provided at time of submission. Applications are accepted until funding is exhausted.

Application Process: Applications can be submitted in person, mail, fax, or email with all necessary attachments. Application and information is available online at <https://www.mbcamping.ca/sunshine-fund> Applications can be dropped off in the mailbox outside the door at 1215 Henderson Hwy – unit F. Applications can be submitted via email by taking pictures of all required documents. Staff will print and attached the documents for parents.

Contact Information:

Manitoba Camping Association – Sunshine Fund
Unit F – 1215 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg MB R2G 1L8
Tel: 204.784.1130
Fax: 204.784.4177
Email: sunshinefund@manitobacamping.ca
Website: www.mbcamping.ca

Recreational Opportunities for Children

The Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC) program provides resources and tools to support children, youth and their families in accessing recreation opportunities that are meaningful, sustainable and best suited to their interests and needs. Funding assistance for this program is provided by the Manitoba government.

In Winnipeg, the YMCA-YWCA is the community-based partner who works one on one with ROC families:

- to educate families on the benefits of recreation using a leisure education model
- to assist in identifying potential recreational opportunities that are best suited to the child's recreation interests and availability of opportunities that align with those interests and the family situation
- help orient ROC families to their child's selected recreation opportunities and develop a plan to support the child's ongoing participation
- monitor child's progress in the recreation opportunity and issues experienced by the family in maintaining the recreation plan
- link families to recreation related opportunities available throughout the community that could benefit all low-income families

Eligibility (Family):

Eligible families are those receiving employment income assistance from the Province of Manitoba, low-income families, and Newcomer families. Readiness of the family is a key component to the success of ROC.

Eligibility (Activity):

Eligible families participating in the ROC program have access to financial support for activities such as sports, dance or art lessons. Funds can be used for registration fees, equipment, and supports to enable participation such as transportation and child care.

Application Periods:

Referrals can take place throughout the year.

Application Process:

The YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg works with community partners to refer eligible families to the program.

Contact Information:

Grant Richter – Coordinator, Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC)

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg – Downtown Branch

301 Vaughan St.

Tel: 204-298-6843

Email: grant.richter@ymanitoba.ca

Website: www.ywinnipeg.ca

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg - Member Access Program

As a charity, we are committed to helping ensure that people are not turned away because they can't afford the full membership fee. The YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg's Member Access Program is available to people whose current financial situation limits their ability to participate in the Y's programs.

Eligibility (Family):

Income Level: At or below Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) with consideration given to special circumstances

Proof of Need: Provision of Budget Letter or most recent Income Tax Notice of Assessment and Canada Child Benefit information (for children under 18).

Family Members: Children, Teens, Young Adults, Adults, Seniors, Families. At the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg, a family is defined as an adult, his/her spouse and their dependent children. 'Dependent children' are aged 17 years or younger, or full time students (aged 18-25 years) living with parents, or 18+ years with a disability living with and under the care of their parent(s).

Eligibility (Activity):

Type of Activity: A wide range of fitness, aquatic, sports and recreation programs (including swimming lessons) for people of all ages and abilities.

Program Length: Subsidy is available with convenient 3-month or 12-month membership terms.

Eligible Costs: Membership Fees

Funding Amounts: Membership through the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg Member Access Program is a shared investment: everyone is asked to pay some portion of the membership fee. Fee is based on proof of income and family size.

Application Periods:

You can enroll for a membership at any time - no appointment necessary (exceptions may apply). Registered programs begin early September and beginning of July. You can register at any time providing space is available.

Application Process:

Simply drop-by your local branch to enroll. For more information visit our website at www.ywinnipeg.ca/join-us/membership-assistance/

Contact Information:

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg Membership Centres

Downtown, 301 Vaughan St, Tel. 204-947-3044

Elmwood-Kildonan, 454 Kimberly Ave, Tel. 204-668-8140

South, 5 Fermor Ave, Tel. 204-233-3476

West Portage, 3550 Portage Ave, Tel. 204-889-8052

Website: www.ywinnipeg.ca