



# EVERYONE CAN PLAY.

A Guide to Winnipeg Recreation and Sport Subsidies

**EVERYONE CAN PLAY:  
A GUIDE TO WINNIPEG RECREATION AND SPORT SUBSIDIES  
(updated: December 2024)**

**Table of Contents**

Recreation Subsidies.....3  
Quick Reference Chart .....4  
Subsidy Descriptions  
    City of Winnipeg – Recreation Fee Assistance Program .....5  
    General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) - Program  
    Registration Fee Subsidy .....6  
    KidSport Manitoba - Winnipeg Region .....7  
    Manitoba Camping Association - Sunshine Fund .....8  
    Recreational Opportunities for Children.....9  
    YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg - Member Access Program .....10

This guide has been prepared for the residents of Winnipeg by:



**Community Services  
Services communautaires**

## Recreation Subsidies

A subsidy reduces the cost of registration for recreation programming, sports participation, or memberships to recreation centres and promotes active living for families and individuals who experience financial barriers to participate in recreation and sport opportunities.

There are numerous recreation and sport subsidies that are available in Winnipeg. This guide provides information on the following subsidies offered in Winnipeg.

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

These programs have differences that are important to be aware of including:

- Amount of funding provided
- Activities or sports supported
- Age restrictions
- Program eligibility criteria
- Application process

# RECREATION SUBSIDIES QUICK REFERENCE CHART



Subsidy Program	General Information	Page #
<p>City of Winnipeg – Recreation Fee Assistance Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Winnipeg Leisure Guide programs and facility access passes</li> <li>• All ages</li> <li>• Call 311 or visit: <a href="http://winnipeg.ca/feeassistance">winnipeg.ca/feeassistance</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p>General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres – Program Registration Fee Subsidy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community centre program registration fees</li> <li>• Age: Youth under 17</li> <li>• Call 204-475-5008 or visit: <a href="http://www.gcwcc.mb.ca/grants-and-subsidies/">www.gcwcc.mb.ca/grants-and-subsidies/</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p>KidSport Manitoba – Winnipeg Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized sport program registration fees</li> <li>• Age: Youth under 18</li> <li>• Call 204-925-5911 or visit: <a href="http://kidsportcanada.ca/manitoba/winnipeg/">kidsportcanada.ca/manitoba/winnipeg/</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p>Manitoba Camping Association – Sunshine Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited summer camps</li> <li>• Age: Youth eligible for summer camps</li> <li>• Call 204-784-1130 or visit: <a href="http://mbcamping.ca/sunshine-fund">mbcamping.ca/sunshine-fund</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p>Recreation Opportunities for Children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All recreation activities, registration fees, equipment, transportation, child care &amp; supports to enable participation</li> <li>• Families receiving social assistance are referred through a targeted referral process</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p>YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg –Members Access Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership to all YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg facilities</li> <li>• All ages</li> <li>• Visit: <a href="http://ywinnipeg.ca/join-us/membership-assistance/">ywinnipeg.ca/join-us/membership-assistance/</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p>



## Subsidy Descriptions

### **City of Winnipeg – Recreation Fee Assistance Program**

Winnipeg residents in financial need are encouraged to request a fee assistance to participate in City of Winnipeg recreation programs and to gain access to recreation facilities. Fee assistance is 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 assistance is 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 assistance:

- **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). Access is provided via rechargeable 10 visit pass.

#### **Application Periods:**

There is no deadline. Applications can be submitted throughout the year. Submit your application early to ensure it is process 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/feeassistance](http://winnipeg.ca/feeassistance) 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 assistance credit will be added to the account of each individual identified on the application. The fee assistance 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 Fee Assistance Program, Community Services Department  
395 Main St. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3N8  
Email: [recfeeassist@winnipeg.ca](mailto:recfeeassist@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 indicate 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 families up to \$400 per season, or \$800 a 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: [office@gcwcc.mb.ca](mailto:office@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 SportManitoba - 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](mailto: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 our mail slot on the second floor at 1110 Henderson Hwy. – unit 6. 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 6 – 1110 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg MB R2G 1L1  
Tel: 204.784.1130  
Fax: 204.784.4177  
Email: [sunshinefund@manitobacamping.ca](mailto:sunshinefund@manitobacamping.ca)  
Website: [www.mbcamping.ca](http://www.mbcamping.ca)

If you need to speak to someone in person, please call in advance of coming to the office to ensure someone is there to assist you.



## **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:**

Fatemeh Mansouri – Coordinator, Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC)

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg – Downtown Branch

301 Vaughan St.

Tel: 204-298-6843

Email: [fatemeh.mansouri@ymanitoba.ca](mailto:fatemeh.mansouri@ymanitoba.ca)

Website: [www.ywinnipeg.ca](http://www.ywinnipeg.ca)

## **YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg - Member Access Program**

The YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg strives to serve all members of the community – we want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy our facilities and take part in the programs and services which are included in our membership. As a charity, we are committed to helping ensure that people are not turned away because they can't afford the full membership fee.

### **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/](http://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](http://www.ywinnipeg.ca)