

About the Strong Communities Program:

The YMCA believes in total inclusion, regardless of age, race, religion or socio-economic backgrounds. The Strong Communities Program is designed to assist those who may not be able to afford participation in YMCA programs, classes and membership benefits. During hard times, we want you to know that the YMCA is here for EVERYONE, thanks to generous donations from organizations and individuals in our community. We promise to always serve anyone in need to the best of our ability.

Assistance is granted based on financial need. Household income and number of dependants are two primary factors used for consideration. Each case is unique and amount of financial assistance may differ, case by case. Administration uses a set formula based on information provided and a percentage-based discount is offered to applicant/family.

Financial assistance is designed to help those who truly need it, and can be applied to membership or program fees. The YMCA believes that a sense of ownership and pride is developed by members who contribute to the cost of their membership. Therefore, all members will pay at least a percentage of the required fees for participation. These discounts will not be applied to personal training, childcare or private swim lessons.

How to Apply:

- 1) Complete the attached form, completely including all requested information as accurately as possible
- 2) Attach a copy of both
 - A) Two recent pay stubs (and two spouse's pay stubs if applicable)
 - B) Most recent 1040 federal tax form (Not W-2)
- 3) Turn all needed information listed above in to the YMCA member relations desk

In all cases, assistance is granted on a 1-year basis. At the expiration of the initial membership, the recipient must re-apply with current financial information in order to continue in the Strong Communities program.

Financial Assistance Process:

YMCA administration will review all completed Strong Families Applications. Using set criteria, the YMCA will determine eligibility (based on need and assistance available). When your information is complete and eligibility is determined, you will receive correspondence (via phone and/or email). At that time, you may pay the balance of your membership and pick-up your membership card at your convenience. After initial contact, if you do not wish to take advantage of the discount that you are eligible for, please notify YMCA staff so that we may offer assistance to others in need.

Note to applicants:

- Due to the in-depth review process, it may take 2-3 weeks to process your request.
- After 3 weeks if you have not heard from us, please feel free to contact the YMCA to inquire.
- Make sure that your form is accurately completed and that you have attached all necessary financial documents.
- If you cannot provide one of the two listed financial documents above, you may substitute one of the following,
 - Social Security Benefit Statement
 - Disability Benefit Statement
 - Unemployment Benefit Statement
 - Student Loan Statement
 - Child Support Statement

Applications that are not complete in-full will not be eligible for review. Please be sure that all necessary information is included.

