

Title: Financial Access and Support for Recreation Policy		Policy No: 4.35
Effective Date: TBA	Amended Date: n/a	Review Date: TBA
<p>Policy Statement:</p> <p>The City is dedicated to the vision of an accessible and inclusive community by reducing financial barriers for individuals at risk of exclusion from participation in community recreation opportunities.</p> <p>The City of Maple Ridge highlights the importance of a community that provides accessible, inclusive and diverse recreation opportunities, and builds and celebrates community pride, and connections that foster a sense of belonging among our residents.</p>		
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>The purpose of this Policy is to set out the guiding principles and procedures for the Financial Access Program and Supports to ensure that the City's approach is consistent, inclusive, and accessible for persons with financial constraints.</p>		
<p>Scope:</p> <p>This Policy applies to all Residents, and City Staff who facilitate the Financial Access Program.</p> <p>The City will deliver Financial Access and Support to Residents through Programs and services that promote year-round physical and mental health, active living, and community participation.</p> <p>This Policy is intended to supplement and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Human Rights Act; • Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; • BC Human Rights Code; and • Any related City policies or operating procedures 		
<p>Definitions:</p> <p>BC Human Rights Code means <i>Human Rights Code</i>, RSBC 1996 c 210.</p>		

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms means *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s 7, Part 1 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982 (UK)*, 1982, c 11.

Canadian Human Rights Act means *Canadian Human Rights Act*, RSC 1985 c H-6.

City means the City of Maple Ridge.

Disability means temporary or permanent mobility, sensory, learning, physical and/or mental health impairment, or condition in ability levels.

Family means one or two parents or caregivers and their dependents under the age of 19 years old, who are all living in the same household.

Financial Access means the City's method of providing eligible Maple Ridge residents who have low income with access to community recreation services and programs through a reduced rate.

Financial Support means the City's method of providing eligible Maple Ridge residents who are in care or who have a confirmed Disability with financial support to participate in community recreation services and programs through a reduced rate.

Low Income Cut off Table (Before Tax) (LICO) means an income indicator used by the City to determine eligibility for Financial Access.

Programs means preregistered programs offered by Parks, Recreation & Culture.

Residents means individuals who have primary residence in Maple Ridge.

Third Party Verification/ Adjudication means a community agency/organization or professional that has a vast understanding of the individual/family financial needs, disability, or Youth in care needs of the person seeking Financial Access or Financial Support from the City, and who can directly verify those needs to the City to streamline the process and avoid unnecessary steps that may act as a barrier for that person.

Visitors means individuals who are not Residents.

Youth means children and youth between the ages of 0 to 25 years old.

Procedure:

The following Financial Access services are available for eligible Residents:

1. Financial Access:

This type of Financial Access allows the City to strive to ensure that all Residents who meet the eligibility criteria set in section 1 a & b, have reasonable access to Maple Ridge community recreation services and Programs.

(a) Eligibility (income greater than \$18,001 and less than LICO scale as defined below)

Eligibility for Financial Access is based on individual or household need as defined under this Policy's definitions of "Residents" and "Family", and those who apply for Financial Access must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. be a Resident of Maple Ridge, (not applicable to persons with a study, or visitor visa);
- ii. the primary applicant must be 19yrs or older, and
- iii. have a household combined income at or below the Low Income Cut off (Before Tax) for a community size of 500,000 and over, as set by Statistics Canada; or
- iv. have completed Third-Party Verification/ adjudication, in a form satisfactory to the City (ex. medical, school, community service provider, etc.).

Program Components

Persons meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in (1a) of this section, will receive the following benefits (per 12-month calendar):

- 75% off Admissions (single admission, 10-pass, 20-pass, 1 & 3-month pass); and
- 50% off registered programs to a maximum spending of \$300.

Program restrictions:

Please note that there are some exclusions to registered programs and include but are not limited to:

- Private Swimming Lessons
- High Performance Training Camps
- Contracted/ partner programs greater than \$299.99
- Licenced Afterschool Care
- Employment certification

(b) Eligibility (income less than \$18,000)

Eligibility for Financial Access is based on individual or household need as defined under this Policy's definitions of "Residents" and "Family", and those who apply for Financial Access must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. be a Resident of Maple Ridge, (not applicable to persons with a study, or visitor visa);
- ii. must not be a post secondary student;
- iii. the primary applicant must be 19yrs or older, and
- iv. have a household combined income at or below \$18,000.

Program Components:

Persons meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in (1b) of this section, will receive the following benefits (per 12-month calendar):

- 90% off Admissions (single admissions, 10- pass, and 20-pass); and
- 50% off registered programs to a maximum spending of \$300.

Program restrictions:

Please note that there are some exclusions to registered programs and include but are not limited to:

- Private Swimming Lessons
- High Performance Training Camps
- Contracted/ partner programs greater than \$299.99
- Licenced Afterschool Care
- Employment certification

2 Persons with Disability - Financial Support:

This type of Financial Support embraces the uniqueness and potential in every Resident with a diagnosed temporary or permanent Disability who is interested in participating in the City's recreation services and Programs.

Eligibility:

Eligibility for Financial Support for persons with Disability(ies) is based on individual need and the individual must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. be a Resident of Maple Ridge; (not applicable to persons with a study, and visitor visa); and
- ii. be diagnosed with a temporary and/or permanent Disability(ies) with required documentation; or
- iii. provide Third-Party Verification/ adjudication demonstrating that they meet the above criteria, in a form satisfactory to the City (ex. medical or para-medical referral, etc.).

Program Components:

Persons meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in (2) of this section, will receive the following benefits (per 12-month calendar):

- 50% off Admissions (single admission, 10-pass, 20-pass, 1 & 3-month pass), and,
- 25% off program fees to a maximum spending of \$150 annually.

Program restrictions:

Please note that there are some exclusions to registered programs and include but are not limited to:

- Private Swimming Lessons
- High Performance Training Camps
- Contracted/ partner programs greater than \$299.99
- Licenced Afterschool Care

- Employment certification

3 Children/ Youth in Care (Guardianship)– Financial Support:

This type of Financial Support is for Children and Youth who are in the care (guardianship) of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, (or other government care {guardianship} agency) to help them build healthy lifestyles, habits, and meaningful community connections.

Eligibility:

Eligibility for Financial Support for Children and Youth in Care (guardianship) is based on individual need, and the person must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. be a Resident of Maple Ridge; (not applicable to persons with a study or visitor visa); and:
- ii. they must be in the care (guardianship) of:
 - o the Ministry of Children and Family Development (Youth between the ages of 0-18 years); or,
 - o Any Province of BC affiliated Child/Youth in Care (guardianship) Program/ service (Children/Youth between the ages of 0-18 yrs)
- iii. provide Third-Party Verification/ adjudication demonstrating that they meet the above criteria, in a form satisfactory to the City (social worker).

Program Components:

Persons meeting eligibility requirements as outlined in (3) of this section, will receive the following benefits:

- 50% off Admissions (single admission, 10-pass, 20-pass, 1 & 3-month pass); and,
- 25% off program fees to a maximum spending of \$150 annually.

Program restrictions:

Please note that there are some exclusions to registered programs and include but are not limited to:

- Private Swimming Lessons
- High Performance Training Camps
- Contracted/ partner programs greater than \$299.99
- Licenced Afterschool Care
- Employment certification

4 Financial Access and Support work will be guided by Council related strategies, including but not limited to:

- (a) Accessibility and Inclusiveness strategy (Draft);
- (b) Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2023);
- (c) Dementia Friendly Communities (2018);
- (d) Maple Ridge Youth Strategy (2018);
- (e) 'Walking Together' Cultural Plan (2018);

- (f) Maple Ridge Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2016-2021); and
- (g) Age-Friendly Community Dialogue and Action Plan (2015).

Administration:

This Policy will be coordinated, administered and maintained by the Recreation Access Coordinator with support from City departments responsible for the above-mentioned strategies.

The policy and supports provided will be reviewed every two years.

(Administration Only)	Signature	Date Signed
Resolution No.:	_____	_____

DRAFT