

# **Financial Assistance Policy**

The Altru Family YMCA is a non-profit community service organization serving Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and the surrounding communities. Our mission is to promote Christian principles through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. The Y staff and volunteer leadership stand behind its mission to provide membership, programs and services to everyone in the community, regardless of their financial circumstances. Through the generous donations of individuals and businesses, foundations and the support of the YMCA Partner of Youth Scholarship Program and the United Way, we are able to provide scholarship assistance to make that possible. Scholarships are provided within the limits of available funding.

## Level of Assistance

The level of assistance available to individuals and families is based upon a sliding fee scale that takes into consideration your gross household income and number of dependents. The Y believes in establishing a sense of ownership and pride in one's involvement in the Y. Therefore, applicants will always be asked to pay a portion of the membership, program or service fees. This fee must be paid prior to participation as a member or program services. For our participants with a disability, if your participation requires the assistance of an escort, there will be no charge for the escort.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Since a limited amount of funds are available, priority will be given to those participants with the greatest need. The program is designed to aid those in a "crisis" or "high-risk" situation. Examples of such situations include: a disability, medical referral, rehabilitation, single-parent household or special family arrangements and extremely low income. The Y realizes that individuals and families may sometimes experience unexpected, temporary situations or hardships that affect one's ability to pay. If your tax return or pay stub does not truly indicate your hardship, please include a letter stating your particular hardship.

## How to Apply

Applicants must complete either a membership or program scholarship application form in full. Application forms are available at the Y Member Service Desk or online at <u>www.gfymca.org</u>. We require that all applicants submit verification of their income with their completed application. Income verification must be <u>current</u> and includes: pay check stubs, unemployment check stubs, disability or social security statements, government and/or other assistance verification. All information provided during the application process will remain confidential. Income verification must be updated at least once per year. Scholarship assistance is provided for single program sessions or in 3 month increments at a maximum for membership or child care assistance.

## **Contact Information**

For additional information, please contact Bob McWilliams, Chief Operating Officer, at the Altru Family YMCA, 701-775-2586.