



Downers Grove Park District Financial Assistance Program

Before you Start

Who can apply?

Downers Grove Park District residents who are experiencing financial hardships and reside within Park District boundaries. Families must also meet the USDA Reduced Price Meals income guidelines.

Evidence of financial need must be demonstrated. Factors defining need include household size, family income or extenuating financial situations, such as excessive medical bills or current participation in public aid.

**Please note, we no longer accept screenshots of required financial documentation. If needed our team can assist with making copies of documentation in-person,*

Required Documents

Identity & Residency Documents – must submit all

- Driver's License or State ID
- Current Lease, if renting OR Copy of Mortgage Statement, if own home.
- Two current utility bills showing address name & address (example: gas, electric, insurance, HOA, etc) – must be two different providers

Income Verification – must submit at least one

- 2025 Federal Tax Return (Form 1040) **and** proof of filing (such as IRS e-file acceptance confirmation, IRS transcript, or stamped copy)
- A complete eligibility letter from the State of Illinois, dated within the last 6 months verifying state benefits (SNAP, Health Care), including all pages

Optional Documentation:

*These documents are not required but may be submitted **in addition** to the required documentation to help determine financial need. Please note, these documents **will not** be accepted in lieu of the required documents.*

- Proof of reduced or Free School Lunch Program
- Last 30 days of paystubs
- Other proof of reduced income (such as unemployment benefits)

Approval and Funding Amount

Approval

Financial Assistance approval and funding amount awarded is determined based on the documents provided and their alignment with Agricultural Income Eligibility Guidelines. Incomplete or missing documents may result in a reduced funding award or denial of application. *Applicants are encouraged to submit all required documents to maximize their eligibility for assistance.*

Funding Amount

- The household **may** receive up to a **maximum** of \$750 per eligible person in the household.

Eligibility

USDA Reduced Price Meals Income Guidelines (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

Families must meet the USDA Reduced Price Meals income guidelines.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME
1	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	\$39,128	\$3,261	\$753
3	\$49,303	\$4,109	\$949
4	\$59,478	\$4,957	\$1,144
5	\$69,653	\$5,805	\$1,340
6	\$79,828	\$6,469	\$1,493
7	\$90,003	\$7,501	\$1,731
8	\$100,178	\$8,349	\$1,927
Each Add'l Member Add	\$10,175	\$848	\$392

Attendance Policy

Financial assistance funds are limited and are a valuable resource. To ensure fair and effective distribution, it is essential that participants commit to attending the activities they have been approved for.

For activities that have a duration of four or more sessions, participants are expected to attend a minimum of (80%) of the sessions. For activities with fewer than four sessions, (100%) attendance is expected.

If a participant is unable to take part in an activity due to a medical or other valid reason, it is the responsibility of the participant or their legal parent/guardian to notify the park district of the conflict before the activity takes place. In cases where a medical reason is cited, the park district may request a doctor's note for verification.

- If the family has available Financial Assistance funds, the cost of the missed activity will be deducted a second time.
- If there are insufficient Financial Assistance funds available, enrollment in another activity may be subject to cancellation.
- Consistent non-compliance with attendance requirements may lead to the forfeiture of Financial Assistance awards and disqualification of the participant from future award consideration.

Guidelines

- **Applications for the 2026 Fiscal Year may be submitted October 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026**
- Limited funds are available for financial assistance and will be awarded in accordance with the Park District fiscal year. (**January – December**).
- Awarded funds are valid for programs that take place within the approved fiscal year. In the event that a program (such as Preschool) spans more than one fiscal year, financial assistance funds will apply only to the year in which the program begins. Applicants may not apply additional funds for the continuation of the same program in a subsequent fiscal year.
- Once the Financial Assistance Application has been reviewed and financial need and residency has been proven, the application will be valid through the end of the approved fiscal year. The Park District reserves the right to ask for updated housing or additional documentation if deemed necessary at any time.
- The Downers Grove Park District reserves the right to approve either partial or full funding or deny an applicant's request.
- Awarding financial assistance does not ensure continued approval for succeeding fiscal years.
- Information submitted in the application must be true and accurate. Fee assistance funds are legally recoverable if paid and awarded on the basis of false information supplied by the applicant and will nullify any future requests for financial assistance.
- Information submitted is not a matter of public record. The District will keep all application materials confidential and will not share the application materials with other individuals, organizations or agencies. Only District staff who review and approve scholarship applications will have access to the submitted materials.
- Recipients must adhere to the Park District's Attendance Policy for Financial Assistance. Failure to comply may result in cancellation of current funding, removal from all enrolled programs and/or disqualification from future financial assistance consideration.

Submit your application and documentation

- **Email to:** financialassistance@dgparks.org
- **Drop-off:** Downers Grove Park District Cathy Mahoney Recreation Center
4500 Belmont Road
Monday-Friday; 9am to 8pm and Saturday/Sunday; 9am to 4pm
- **Mail to:** Downers Grove Park District, c/o Financial Assistance
4500 Belmont Road
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Notification of Award

You will be notified of your application status within 7 – 10 business days, if not sooner, via email.

Contact

For questions regarding the Financial Assistance Program, please contact us Mon-Fri from 9am – 4pm by email at financialassistance@dgparks.org, or by phone at 630.960.7500.