

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PLAY

February 2024

What is PLAY?

The Positive Leisure Activities for Youth (PLAY) Program is a subsidy that allows eligible families to enroll in recreation programs offered by their local municipal recreation departments. The subsidy ensures families living with low income have access to recreation and sport programs all year.

What are the eligibility criteria for PLAY?

Families who live in York Region, who have children and meet at least one of the following criteria may be eligible:

- Receive rent subsidy
- Receive Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Receive Child Care Fee Subsidy with an annual household income of \$43,000 or less

Participants must be children between the ages of four and 18 or single parents with children under the age of 18. Families must apply and meet the eligibility criteria for PLAY once a year. The annual eligibility PLAY period follows the calendar year (i.e., begins in spring and ends in winter).

How do I apply for PLAY?

You can apply for PLAY by visiting york.ca/recreationsubsidies and completing an application online. Or you can contact Access York (1-877-464-9675) to speak with a customer service representative who will assist you with completing an application.

What happens after I apply for PLAY?

After you apply, the Children's Community Programs team will assess your eligibility for the program based on the eligibility criteria. If you and/or your children are eligible for PLAY, the parent/guardian on the application will receive a communication providing information on how to register for programs with your local municipality. York Region encourages participants to promptly follow up with their local municipality to register for their program of choice. Program spaces are given on a first come, first serve basis.

What if the program I want is not available in my municipality?

If the program you want is not available in your municipality, explore the recreation programming for neighbouring municipalities within York Region. If you would like to register for a program in another city/town in York Region, contact York Region at CHSrecreationsubsidies@york.ca or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 72070



and staff will be able to make the changes to your file before you register. Please note additional fees (non-resident fees) may be charged when registering outside of your home municipality. These fees are not covered by PLAY.

My child has special needs – how can their needs be accommodated?

York Region will fund one-on-one support workers for eligible children. **conditions apply*

Municipal recreation departments are responsible for providing support workers for children with special needs. Families requiring this type of support will be directed to speak with staff at the municipal recreation department before completing registration to ensure staff are available for the desired program's duration. If a specific municipality is unable to meet your family's accommodation needs, we would be happy to help you explore other options in neighbouring municipalities.

My family doesn't qualify for York Region's PLAY program but my child would still like to attend programs – what can I do?

We regularly review our eligibility criteria to ensure we are offering our program to families in greatest need. Families who cannot be accommodated through York Region's PLAY program are encouraged to contact their local municipality to see if there are other subsidy options available. Canadian Tire Jumpstart is another popular program to assist with program subsidies.