

Therapeutic Recreation: Summer Camp Funding Options

Disability Specific

[Autism Direct Funding](#) (summer camp specific fund)

Eligibility: Waterloo Region residents with a diagnosis of Autism aged 0-17.

Details: Will provide up to \$500 to pay for summer camp, respite support or recreation program occurring between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. Funds are limited, priority is given to families who have few or no other financial supports.

Deadline: January 31, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

[Children's Flexible Respite Funding](#)

Eligibility: Wellington County residents with a diagnosis of Autism aged 0-17.

Details: Will provide money to pay for summer camp, respite support worker or recreation program, and specialized classes or lessons occurring between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. Applications will be selected by a lottery system.

Deadline: February 11, 2024

[Summer Camp Reimbursement Funds- Autism Ontario](#)

Eligibility: Child or youth living in Ontario with a diagnosis of Autism aged 0-17

Details: Will cover up to \$600 per child to pay for either the cost of camp or a 1:1 support worker to attend camp with your child. You do not have to be a member of Autism Ontario to apply for funding. Selection to receive funds is random.

Apply between May 1 to May 31, 2024

[Camp Bursary Application- Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society \(WWDSS\)](#)

Eligibility: Children and youth aged 4-21 diagnosed with Down syndrome and are a member of WWDSS for a minimum of one calendar year. Must also have completed 10 hours of volunteer work for WWDSS during the current calendar year.

Details: Camp bursaries are available to assist with the cost of sending a member to camp that is above and beyond the costs for a typical week of camp. For example, the bursary program will pay 50% of the cost of a specialized camp designed for children with special needs or will cover the cost of a support worker to attend camp with the participant.

Deadline: February 20, 2024

Community Service Fund- Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Eligibility: Individual with a diagnosis of neuromuscular disorders and are a member of Muscular Dystrophy Canada, as well as a member of a community volunteer chapter.

Details: Will cover up to \$1000 which can be used towards attendant services and fees for formal adapted recreational programs including summer camp.

Apply any time.

Other Disability Specific Options:

- [Special Services at Home \(SSAH\)](#)
- [Passport Funding](#)

Income based (All Regions)

Jumpstart

Eligibility: Children and youth between the ages of 4-18 with financial need. Family must meet the financial criteria chart set by Revenue Canada's Low-Income Cut-Offs.

Details: Will cover up to \$300 per activity and \$600 per year for sports or physically active camps. Program must have a five-week duration and include one session per week.

Applications open January 29, 2024. Apply for funding prior to registering for camp/program.

Fee Assist- YMCA of Three Rivers Camps

Eligibility: Families with financial needs attending a YMCA of Three Rivers Camp (Guelph-Wellington, Stratford-Perth, and Waterloo Region).

Details: Will help cover registration cost of YMCA summer camps. More information and step by step instructions are available [here](#).

Apply for funding when registering for camps.

Amici Children's Camp Charity

Eligibility: Children and youth between the ages of 7-17 with financial need and are not receiving any other subsidized funding for overnight summer camp. Family must meet financial eligibility criteria.

Details: Will help cover registration cost for partnership camps. A list of partnership camp is available [here](#).

Applications are available end of September. New applications should be received before the end of January.

Some camps provide their own funding. Contact the camp to find out if they have any funding support.

Income based (Waterloo Region)

[Leisure Access Card- City of Kitchener](#)

Eligibility: Residents of Kitchener with low income. Your total household income (before taxes) is at or below the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) line. Can be found [here](#).

Details: Will provide a yearly amount of \$400, per person, to be used to cover the cost of city run programs. Funding year runs from November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024.

Apply now. Funding must be applied for and approved prior to registering for camp.

[Leisure Access Card- City of Waterloo](#)

Eligibility: Residents of Waterloo, above the age of 4 years, with low income. Your total household income (before taxes) is at or below the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) line. You must also have a disability that restricts you from performing activities.

Details: Will provide up to \$300 per person, per year to be used to cover the cost of city-run programs (including camps), affiliated minor sports, or affiliated arts and culture programs. Funding year runs from December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024.

Apply now. Funding must be applied for and approved prior to registering for camp.

[Activities for Less- City of Cambridge](#)

Eligibility: Resident of Cambridge with financial needs.

Details: Will provide up to \$300 per year and per family member to be used to cover the cost of City of Cambridge run recreation programs and memberships, including summer camps. Fee assistance starts from the date of approval for one full year. Subsequent applications are accepted no earlier than 3 weeks prior to the expiry of current approved fee assistance.

Apply now. Funding must be applied for and approved prior to registering for camp.

[House of Friendship summer Camp Sponsorship \(Family Outreach Program\)](#)

Eligibility: You must be 17 years of age or younger with financial needs and living in Waterloo Region.

Details: They prevent and reduce the effects of poverty and will help cover registration costs for local day camps.

Contact the Family Outreach worker in your neighbourhood.

[Region of Waterloo- Childcare Subsidy Programs available for camps](#)

Details: The Region of Waterloo offers a camp subsidy program which families can apply through the Region of Waterloo website. Once completed and submitted, ROW staff will evaluate and determine approval on a case-by-case scenario.

Contact the childcare subsidy office.

Income based (Guelph/Wellington)

Free To Grow

Eligibility: Children and Youth ages 0-18 who are residents of Guelph and Wellington County. Families must have low income and living below the Low-Income Cut-Off.

Details: Maximum subsidy per child, per calendar year is \$400- on a first come, first-serve basis and provided funds are available.

Apply now. Funding must be applied for and approved prior to registering for camp.

The County of Wellington, children's Early Years Division

Eligibility: Children up to age 13 who live in the County of Wellington and qualify based on family income and need for childcare.

Details: Childcare fee subsidy can help to pay for licensed childcare and approved camps and recreation programs. It is only available at programs that are subsidy approved by the County of Wellington.

Contact the childcare subsidy office.

Guelph Community Health Centre (Parent Outreach worker Program)

Eligibility: Parents of children between the ages of birth to 18 living in the Brant, Two Rivers & Grange Hill East neighbourhoods in Guelph.

Details: Provides support to access community programs and assistance with subsidies for recreational programs. Additional supports are available for families who may be experiencing challenges at home.

Contact the Parent Outreach Worker for your neighbourhood.

Fee Assistance in Recreation (FAIR), City of Guelph

Eligibility: Individuals 18 years and older in financial need.

Details: Helps subsidize the cost for camps, recreation programs, swim passes, or other memberships. Apply for a discount up to 80% of the cost of City of Guelph Recreation Programs to a yearly maximum of \$250 per calendar year.

Apply now. Funding must be applied for and approved prior to registering for camp/program.

Have a camp question or need support for camp planning?

- Review the camp planning resources on our website in the [Thrive Together library](#).
- Email us (rectherapy@kidsability.ca) with your camp questions or to request a camp consult. KidsAbility camp consult clinic appointments are offered January through mid March.

Every effort is made to ensure that this information is accurate. If you notice information that is incorrect or if we have missed any camp funding options, please [email](#) us.