

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR SUMMER DAY CAMP SUBSIDY

February 2022

1. What is summer day camp subsidy?

Summer day camp subsidy provides an opportunity for children ages four to 13 to attend summer day camp programming for free. Camps are offered by local municipal recreation departments. Experienced recreation staff create a fun environment for campers to build leadership skills, make new friends and strengthen or build new skills.

2. What is the eligibility criteria for summer day camp subsidy?

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

Children must be between the ages of four and 13 to attend camp. Your local municipal recreation department may have additional eligibility criteria for their specific camp programs.

3. What happens after I apply for summer day camp subsidy?

After you have applied for summer day camp, the York Region Children's Community Programs team assesses your family's eligibility for the subsidy based on the eligibility criteria. If a member of your family is eligible for summer camp, the parents/guardians on file will receive a communication with the following information:

- How and when to register for camps with your local municipality
- Funding amount available for each child (presented as a total per day or week)
- Total number of summer camp weeks available for each child
- How to access inclusion support for children with special needs

It is your responsibility to review the camps available in your local municipality's summer camp guide and complete camp registration with your municipality. **York Region only provides subsidy approval and does not complete your camp program registration for you.**

4. How do I know which camp to choose for my child?

How your family decides which camp to attend is up to you. York Region provides the website and contact information for each municipality in the subsidy confirmation communication. Each municipality offers a variety of camp choices. It is best to review your municipality's summer camp guide to see what programs they offer and then choose which camps work best for your family while staying within your funding limits.

5. What happens after we select a camp?

After you have reviewed and selected the summer day camp your child(ren) would like to attend, you must complete camp registration directly with your local municipal recreation department. Instructions for completing this registration are sent to eligible families in their subsidy confirmation communication.

6. What is included when a camper is eligible for York Region funding?

Children who attend summer day camp using York Region subsidy may be eligible for the following:

- Free enrollment in a municipally run summer day camp with a value at or under the rate advertised in the subsidy confirmation communication for the approved number of weeks
- A camp backpack including basic supplies (example of items: sunscreen, water bottle, lunch bag, hand sanitizer, two masks); *limited supply available*
- One-on-one support worker for children with special needs; conditions apply
- Extended day care, if available; conditions apply

7. Where are the camps located?

Camp locations may differ depending on the municipality. Many camps are run in local community centres; some take place in green spaces within your neighbourhood. Check your local municipal summer camp guide for camp locations.

8. 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 weeks of camp. Municipal recreation departments are solely responsible for the accommodation and registration of campers. If a specific municipality is unable to meet your family's accommodation needs, we are happy to help you explore other options available at neighbouring municipalities.

9. The camps or camp weeks available do not meet my child’s interests or needs – now what?

Programming is organized and run by your local municipal recreation department. If you are unable to find a program that suits your needs within your local municipal recreation department, you may explore the options in neighboring municipalities within York Region. Please send an email to CHS_recreation_subsidies@york.ca if you would like to register in a municipality outside of the one in which you currently reside. Please note additional fees (non-resident fees) may be charged when registering outside of your home municipality. These fees are not covered by summer camp subsidy.

10. My family doesn’t qualify for York Region’s summer day camp subsidy, but my child would still like to attend camp – what can I do?

We regularly review our eligibility criteria to make sure we are offering our program to families in greatest need. Families who cannot be accommodated by York Region’s summer day camp subsidy may choose to explore other subsidy options offered directly through the municipal recreation departments, or [Canadian Tire Jumpstart](#) programs.

