

Y.O.U. Fee-for-Service Program: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Since its founding in 1971, Y.O.U. has been a place where every young person is welcomed and supported — always at no cost to families. We are proud of the diversity and inclusiveness of our programs, and we remain deeply committed to ensuring that all youth continue to have access to the opportunities and support they deserve.

At the same time, we recognize that some families in our community are in a position to give back financially. In today's fiscal climate, this type of support is critical to our sustainability. That's why we are, for the first time, asking families who can afford it to contribute a sliding scale program fee. It is also important to realize that for 85% of our families, our program remains and will remain free of charge. Even with these contributions from some families, the fees remain well below the true value and actual cost of the program — and every dollar directly helps Y.O.U. continue serving all youth, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

This was not an easy decision. Like many nonprofits, we face real fiscal challenges and are working hard to diversify our funding so we can remain strong for years to come. Your support helps ensure that Y.O.U. can continue to be here — for what matters most: our youth.

Thank you for your understanding, your generosity, and your partnership in this mission.

As we transition from a fully free model to a fee-for-service program, we want to be transparent, supportive, and clear. Below are answers to common questions families may have:

Will families still be able to attend for free?

Yes. Families with household incomes of up to **\$60K** will continue to participate **at no cost**.

How much will the program cost for my family?

Our fee is based on a **sliding scale** by household income and **days of program offered** at your eligible/selected school site:

Household Income Tier	Cost
\$100k+	\$1,750.00
\$80-\$100k	\$875.00
\$60-\$80k	\$515.00
\$0-\$60K Or eLEAP	Free

- **\$0 – \$59,999:** No cost, Scholarship eligible level (eLeap, Y.O.U.,etc.)
- **\$60,000 – \$79,999:** \$515
- **\$80,000 – \$99,999:** \$875
- **\$100,000+:** \$1,750

* eLEAP recipients MUST register for the Summer program at explore.digitalbackpack65.org using their District 65 email and password. eLEAP is donating \$150 for all eLEAP recipients who pledge at least \$0 to Y.O.U. Additional eLEAP donations are encouraged and appreciated.

*For fee paying families with siblings, you will receive a 25% discount per additional child.

Will caregivers be required to submit a paystub or tax form in order to qualify for the bracket they are in?

No.

Is the cost of registration (both deposit and total amount) per household or per child?

Per child.

Are there discounts applied when families have more than one child enrolled?

Yes, a 25% discount per sibling will apply. Please reach out to be sent the discount code.

Is there a cap on how many people can register?

We enroll students up to our capacity to serve students safely and effectively. Once our seats are filled, you will be notified and can complete the waitlist form.

Does the \$50 deposit count toward their total cost/payment?

Yes.

Why use a sliding scale?

We know each family's financial situation is unique. The sliding scale is designed to make participation fair and affordable for as many families as possible. Your honesty and integrity in reporting household income ensures that we can continue offering programs equitably.

What if my family's financial situation is complicated or doesn't fit neatly into the scale?

We understand household income doesn't always tell the full story. If your family has special circumstances, please reach out. We are committed to working with you to ensure your child can participate.

If a family qualifies for eLeap but does not want/is not able to use their eLeap funds for Y.O.U. are they expected to pay out of pocket- or is the program free for them?

Participants who receive eLeap funds are not being asked to pay out of pocket for our program. Because Y.O.U. is a free program for eLEAP recipients, eLEAP will donate \$150 to Y.O.U. on your behalf. When you pledge \$0 towards Y.O.U., this donation is made at no cost to your scholarship.

What if my family can't pay the full amount?

No child will be turned away due to inability to pay. Families are encouraged to reach out to us directly—we can work together to find solutions.

For families who can pay, when are they expected to pay in full?

We ask that you remit payment upon receiving confirmation of the amount due. If you are unable to do so, there will be an option to “register now and pay later”. In this case, a separate payment link will be sent to you and we ask that you submit payment before the start of the Summer program.

How is Y.O.U. supporting families beyond fees?

Local fundraising efforts and generous community donations help us bridge the gap between program costs and family contributions. Your participation and support make it possible to continue offering high-quality, enriching programs for all.

What span of time does the listed fee cover?

The fee covers the entire Summer program - from the June 15th start date through the end of the program on July 24th.

How many days a week are included in the Summer program?

The Summer program is offered 5 days a week.

What are the program schedules?

Monday - Friday: 9AM - 3PM

Is it one fee regardless of how many days a week our child is attending?

Yes. We are unable to break up the fee if your child does not attend the full program.



Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact [info@youthopportunity.org] for more information or to discuss your family's specific situation. We will direct your question to the appropriate party.

We deeply value your partnership and trust. Together, we can ensure all youth have access to safe, supportive, and enriching opportunities.