

SOCA

Financial Assistance Program

Purpose

The purpose of the SOCA Financial Assistance Program is to offer financial support to those families with the greatest need and to provide support to qualifying applicants. One of SOCA's core values is to welcome all participants and remove barriers to participation. The Financial Assistance Program seeks to serve this important value. It is SOCA's wish to provide assistance so that children may participate in SOCA programs, based on demonstrated need and SOCA's ability to fund the subsidy.

General Information

Financial assistance is available only in the youth programs. Assistance is provided to the Travel (Lightning, Storm, Express and Metro), Challenge, Recreational and Hot Shots programs, only. There is no financial assistance available in the supplemental camp and clinic programs.

Financial assistance is applied to registration fees, only. Financial assistance does not apply to uniform or other soccer equipment expenses, tournament related expenses, travel expenses, or other expenses related to participation.

There is no full financial assistance in either the Travel or Challenge programs. All participants in these programs are required to contribute to fee payment. Partial assistance is available.

Full financial assistance is available in the Recreation and Hot Shots programs.

There are three levels of assistance available to qualifying families. Need is determined based upon participation in government public assistance programs (typically indicated by Medicaid), or by documenting income within established limits. The qualifying limits that SOCA uses are those currently in place for the federally supported free and reduced meals programs in the public schools.

Application Deadlines for 2009/2010 Soccer Year

Travel Program (Lightning, Storm, Express, Metro)	June 8, 2009 (requests considered for full year)
Challenge Program: Fall season only	June 8, 2009
Challenge Program: Spring season only	January 19, 2010
Recreation Program: Fall season only	July 28, 2009
Recreation Program: Spring season only	January 26, 2010
Hot Shots Program: Fall season only	August 18, 2009
Hot Shots Program: Spring season only	February 9, 2010

Procedures

All applications for assistance must be made by completing a current SOCA Request for Financial Assistance form.

If a family is requesting aid for more than one child, Sections 1 and 2 of the SOCA Request for Financial Assistance form must be completed for each individual child. Sections 3-7 of the form need only be completed once per family, per application. All materials must be submitted together.

All requests will be reviewed by SOCA and a determination made immediately if possible, or within five business days.

Upon determination by SOCA, applicants will have the option to: 1) accept the offered financial assistance and pay for any balance due, 2) accept the offered financial assistance and pay the first installment of an agreed installment payment plan, 3) decline the assistance and decline to participate, 4) appeal for additional funding within five business days of original determination.

An appeal for additional funding does not guarantee nor imply additional funds will be provided. Additional funds are extremely limited. Each appeal must include all original documentation, a written narrative describing the need for additional funds, and any other documents that may support the request for additional funds.

The appeal will be reviewed by a committee of the Board of Directors. A determination and notice will be provided to the applicant within five business days. The applicant has an additional five business days to act upon the Committee's determination by either completing registration or declining to participate.

No player registration is considered complete until the applicant's share of the fee is paid, or full assistance is granted.

Documents Required

All applications must be accompanied by a copy of family Medicaid card, if applicable, or copies of:

1. Most recent Form 1040, Federal Income Tax Return.
2. Four (4) most recent pay stubs from all household income earners.
3. Copies of any additional legal documents supporting the request for assistance.

All financial assistance request materials submitted to SOCA are strictly confidential.

