

Preamble:

To guide Pride Winnipeg members on the evaluation of submissions through the Financial Hardship Program.

Policy Statement:

Pride Winnipeg recognizes the need of people for inclusion and opportunities to interact with the LGBTTQ* community. This need is important as it serves an important social function in promoting acceptance, diversity and mental well-being. Pride Winnipeg further recognizes that this need is vital to those facing financial hardship. In an effort to eliminate barriers and promote the well-being of those in need, Pride Winnipeg has established a Financial Hardship Program, which seeks to provide basic access to those that are in a state of quantified financial hardship. This policy will provide the guidance on how to determine what financial hardship is, how people can access the program, what is required to apply and how to evaluate submissions.

Procedures:

1. Definitions/Explanations
 - a. Financial Hardship: For the purposes of Pride Winnipeg, financial hardship is defined as a state where a person is suffering from extreme and involuntary privation due to circumstances beyond a person's control resulting in a situation of scarce or non-existent financial resources.
 - b. Financial Hardship Program: a program whereby Pride Winnipeg allocates a quantity of free admission opportunities to be provided to those whom apply and are currently experiencing Financial Hardship. The free admission opportunities will only be available for events that are 100% owned and operated by Pride Winnipeg. All other events (e.g. partner events) will not be guaranteed to have a free admission opportunity.
2. Program Management
 - a. Applications will be reviewed, evaluated and acted upon by the Finance Committee.
3. Program Access
 - a. Pride Winnipeg must provide at least two avenues of application (e.g. internet and paper).
 - b. The application must be as accessible as Pride Winnipeg resources can allow.
 - c. Free admission opportunities will be evaluated and granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.
4. Requirements for Application
 - a. Applicants must complete the Financial Hardship Program Application Form
 - b. A letter describing the current privation situation, which is signed by both the applicant and a guarantor.
5. Evaluation of Submissions
 - a. Forms must be completed in full
 - b. Based upon applications that are complete and submitted in full, evaluators will proceed to determining eligibility based upon the order in which the requests were received and quantity of free admission opportunities remaining.

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