

WESTERN CONNECTICUT YOUTH ORCHESTRA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

It is the policy of the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra to deny no child admission to the program because of an inability to pay. To this end, limited financial assistance is available.

A Financial Assistance Application form is accessible online on the WCYO website at www.wctyo.org under the Auditions page. Applications are due by July 15th of the incoming year for a child accepted into a WCYO ensemble following spring auditions, or within two weeks of acceptance into a WCYO ensemble if a child auditions at a time other than during primary auditions in the spring. Applicants should complete the Financial Assistance Application form providing the information requested, along with verification of after-tax income. If more details are required, the WCYO Board of Directors will ask for them.

Decisions regarding financial assistance are made by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). Decisions will be made promptly after the July 15th application due date, or within two weeks of receipt of an application submitted as the result of acceptance at a time other than as the result of primary auditions in the spring. Applicants will be notified of the decision with regard to their application via email, and in the case of an award of partial tuition an updated tuition amount due will be confirmed.

There is a family cap of two tuitions per season, regardless of how many children from a single family are participating in WCYO ensembles. The tuition benefit a family receives as a result of the family cap is considered financial assistance and factors into the determination of any additional financial support.

Financial assistance is principally offered to cover the cost of tuition. Financial assistance to cover additional program or special event costs will be considered separately and upon request.

The following guidelines are used in determining financial assistance.

- Families, as a rule, must have an after-tax income of \$75,000 or less

- Special consideration may be given to:
 - divorced/single parents
 - families with other children in college or special programs
 - unemployed parents
 - situations where the parent/guardian is supporting extended families
 - medical disabilities
 - other similar hardships

- Commitment to the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra plays a large role in the determination of financial assistance. The WCYO Board of Directors may consult with the WCYO Music Director, String Orchestra Conductor or Wind Ensemble Conductor with regard to a child's commitment to his/her ensemble prior to awarding financial assistance for any subsequent season.