



Reduced Fee Membership Eligibility FAQs

Do I qualify for a Reduced Fee Membership?

There are three different levels of eligibility for individuals making less than \$57,000 and \$77,000 for households. Eligibility is based on **total** gross income. Verification of income is required every year.

How is total gross income calculated?

Total gross income includes items beyond salary or employment income. There are income sources that are not included in gross income for tax purposes, but are still included when calculating total gross income. The most common nontaxable income sources are Social Security benefits, life insurance payouts, IRAs, pensions, some inheritances or gifts, and earned interest. All nontaxable income is included when calculating your eligibility.

Do my tax deductions impact my eligibility?

Tax deductions are not considered when calculating eligibility.

What documentation can I submit to verify?

Option 1: Submit the first **two pages** of your latest federal tax return (form 1040).

Option 2: Submit verification of benefits that are based on income for eligibility e.g. Medicaid benefits or housing benefits.

If neither option is available to you, please contact the Village office to discuss alternative options that may fulfill verification requirements.

Why do I need to submit documentation of my income?

Our Reduced Fee Memberships are supported by grants, donations, and bequests. Income verification is imperative to ensure the credibility of our program and to fulfill the guidelines established.

I am not sure if I qualify, what should I do?

To find out more about how to qualify, contact The Village Chicago office at 773.248.8700.