

August 20, 2024

Re: Item No. 15.1.9

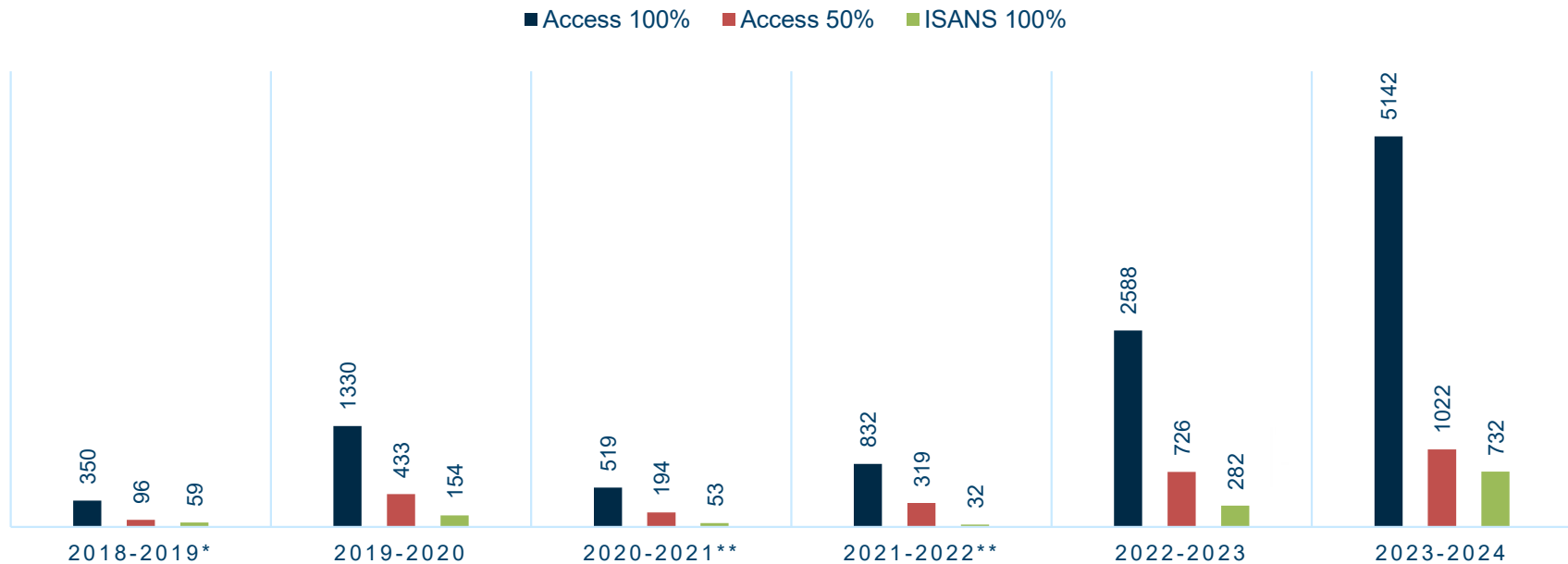
HALIFAX

Recreation Funding Access Application Process

Background

- To be eligible to receive an access discount, an applicant must:
 - (a) be a resident of the Municipality; and
 - (b) demonstrate financial need
- Program covers 50% or 100% of the total cost of memberships and programs at Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) run recreation centres. There are no limits on the program.

APPROVED APPLICANTS PER FISCAL YEAR



Program Data

	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024
Number of discounts processed	3,596	6,896
Percentage of applications not approved	11%	19%
Percentage of applications that exceed the parameters of the program	0.07 %	0.2%
Percentage of total registrations	11%	14%
Average # of programs accessed	5.8	4.7

Program Successes

- Variety of ways to demonstrate financial need
- Program is aligned with other similar programs across Canada
- Increased usage of the discount from summer camp programs
- Positive feedback from the community around the impacts of the program

Barriers to Program Participation

- Knowledge of the program and application process
- Lack of access to paperwork to prove financial need
- Difficulty with registration/access to program
- Distances travelled to access a recreation facility that uses the discount program

Next Steps

- Changes to Bylaw 100 and Administrative Order 2019-010-ADM
 - Canadian Child Benefit Statement no longer required
 - “Welcomed in Halifax Card” as proof of financial need
 - Addition of a 25% discount Low Income Cut Off Table
 - Personal training is not eligible under the Recreation Funding Access Program

Next Steps

- Work with MDFs to potentially implement the Recreation Funding Access Program
- Establish Internal Program Guidelines
- Coordinate with Finance (Tax Relief program) and Transit Relief program to streamline the application process
- Community outreach about the program in targeted areas of need with low program uptake