



FINANCIAL AID FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Families demonstrating financial need are eligible for financial aid. There is no income level requirement for financial aid eligibility, however tuition assistance is prioritized for families demonstrating the most financial need.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

In order to apply for financial aid, you must submit:

- 1) A financial aid application form
- 2) A registration form
- 3) A copy of pages 1-2 of your most recent federal income tax return
- 4) A \$35 deposit to hold a place in the class you request for your child on the registration form.

You can print the financial aid application form and the registration form from First Stage's website:

Registration Form: http://www.firststage.org/media/pdf/Acad_reg_form_09-10.pdf

Financial Aid Application Form: http://www.firststage.org/media/pdf/Fin%20Aid_revised_11_09.pdf

Note: In order to fill out the registration form, you will need to refer to the course catalog. You can view the course catalog online at http://www.firststage.org/media/pdf/Academy_SY_09.pdf. Before you fill out your registration form, be sure to check First Stage's website for the latest information on class availability, as some classes may be full.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call (414) 267-2970 to request that we mail hard copies of these materials to you.

Mail or drop off all of the above to First Stage Children's Theater:

325 W. Walnut Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

CAN I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID ONLINE?

Electronic submission of a financial aid request is not available, however you can print hard copies of the financial aid application form and registration form from the First Stage Children's Theater website (see links above).

WHAT IF I CANNOT SUPPLY A COPY OF MY INCOME TAX RETURN?

If you are not able to submit a copy of your income tax return, some other official documentation verifying your annual household income will suffice.

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE TO MAIL IN MY FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION, CAN I STILL REGISTER ONLINE?

Although online registration is available, *financial aid applicants cannot register for classes online*, because online registration requires a full-tuition credit card payment to complete the order. Financial aid applicants must register and submit financial aid requests by mail only.

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

A non-refundable, \$35 application fee is required with your financial aid application. This is an annual fee that you do not need to pay more than once if you apply for financial aid in more than one semester during the year.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

First Stage Children's Theater accepts applications for financial aid on a continuous basis throughout the year. Financial aid is available on a limited basis and is awarded as long as funds are available.

HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AID DOES FIRST STAGE AWARD TO APPLICANTS?

Financial aid awards vary greatly, depending upon each applicant's need and individualized arrangement. First Stage strives to award at least some financial aid to every single applicant.

HOW ARE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS DETERMINED?

A variety of factors are considered in determining financial aid awards. Though it contributes to the decision process, household income is not the sole determining factor of financial aid awards. We encourage applicants to provide as much information about the need for assistance as they are comfortable providing in the space provided on the financial aid application.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS TUITION?

The financial aid application form asks families to commit to a dollar amount portion of the tuition that they feel they can afford. This is an important factor in determining the financial aid award—leaving this question blank can delay the award process and also limits the flexibility of the financial aid offer.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A RESPONSE TO MY FINANCIAL AID REQUEST?

Financial aid requests typically take a few weeks to process.

WHAT IF I RECEIVE AN INVOICE FOR FULL TUITION EVEN THOUGH I APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID?

If you applied for financial aid but received an invoice for the full tuition amount, please refer back to your invoice—there is a note on the invoice explaining that financial aid applicants may receive invoices before their financial aid is awarded. If you received an invoice but have not yet received a response regarding your financial aid request, please hang on to your invoice as confirmation that a spot in the class has been secured for your child. You will be contacted shortly regarding your financial aid award, and your balance due will then be adjusted accordingly.

WHEN ARE PAYMENTS DUE?

Any payment you owe after financial aid has been awarded is due by 1 week before the start date of your child's session. Note that past due balances can impact your ability to receive financial aid in future semesters.

CAN YOU RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID MORE THAN ONCE?

Each semester at First Stage, you can reapply for tuition financial aid.

CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE CHILD?

Yes - please submit a separate application form and registration form for each individual child.

**If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the Academy
Office at (414) 267-2970 or academy@firststage.org.**