

South Huron Minor Hockey Association

Boys Coach and Manager Manual 2025-2026 Season

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Coaching Requirements

Bench Staff

Head Coaches are to select a bench staff that will be suitable for the team. Once selected, a list of bench staff will need to be submitted for executive approval as well as review of qualifications. Each position has specific requirements to be met as provided by Hockey Canada (see Qualifications section below). Teams can have a minimum of 2 or up to a maximum of 5 bench staff divided between qualified coaches and trainers. You must have at least **one qualified head coach and one trainer**. It is suggested you have an assistant coach and assistant trainer to allow for coverage in the event of illness, holidays or suspensions. You may also include 1 manager in the 5 bench staff – the manager will only need to be rostered if you plan to use them on the bench. In this case there would be required courses (along with a VSC check). If the manager is beyond your maximum of 5 and will not be used on the bench (i.e. will be completing administrative tasks and not on ice/bench help), rostering is not required.

Teams are not required to use all rostered staff on the bench at all times – your coaching plan may only have 3 in the bench, but it is still recommended you roster 5 to have backups available.

A minimum of one coach and one trainer is required for any on ice activity (practices and game play included). Should you not have a trainer available for a game, you can arrange to share a trainer with the opposing team. It is possible your trainer may be asked to do the same. Should this happen, the trainer will need to sign in on both sides (home and visitor) of the gamesheet and attend to any injuries for both teams. Failure to complete this step could result in a suspension for the head coach.

Should the head coach be unavailable for a game and the assistant coach is filling in, be sure to adjust the positions listed on the game sheet to reflect this.

A list of required qualifications for each position can be found at the end of this manual as well as under the Team Official tab on the website. All qualifications must be completed prior to being rostered.

Head Coach to submit bench staff contact information using the following form no later than September 15, 2025 (if named head coach after this date, to be completed as soon as possible):

- [Bench Staff Submission Form](#)

Qualifications

A list of required qualifications for bench staff can be found on the website under the Team Officials tab > Coaching Requirements.

Boys Team Official Requirements: [OMHA Resources on Team Official Requirements](#)

Bench staff will register and pay for courses out of pocket. Once all required training for the season is complete, please submit your receipt, certificate of completion to your division coordinator.

Send certification of completion and receipt to the appropriate Division Coordinator:

- U5/U7 (IP) Coordinator
- U9 Pathway (Boys)
- U11 – U18 Boys (Currently Treasurer)

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.



TEAM OFFICIAL QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2025-2026

- All qualifications listed are the **MINIMUM REQUIREMENT**
- All Team Officials (Coach, Trainer, & Manager) require Respect in Sport (RiS) - Activity Leader or Speak Out!
- All Team Officials (Coach, Trainer, & Manager) require Gender Identity & Expression Course
- All Team Officials must complete Rowan's Law Resource Review & Acknowledgement
- All qualifications must be registered in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR)

DIVISION	CATEGORY	HEAD COACH	ASSISTANT COACH	TRAINER
U7 U8 U9	ALL	Coach 1 ¹	Coach 1 ¹	HTCP Level 1
U10 – U21	House League (HL) Local League (LL) Minor Development (MD) Select	Coach 2 Trained ²	Coach 2 Trained ²	HTCP Level 1
U10 U11	Representative	Development 1 Trained ³	Coach 2 Trained ²	HTCP Level 1
U12 U13 U14 U15 U16 U18 U21	Representative (Below A)	Development 1 Certified ⁴	Development 1 Trained ³	HTCP Level 1
U12 U13 U21	AAA/AA/A	Development 1 Certified ⁴	Development 1 Trained ³	HTCP Level 1
U14 U15 U16 U18	AA/A	Development 1 Certified ⁴	Development 1 Trained ³	HTCP Level 1
U14 U15 U16 U18	AAA	High Performance 1 Certified ⁵	Development 1 Trained ³	HTCP Level 2

COACHING QUALIFICATION LEGEND:

1. Coaches in divisions **U9** and Below **must** hold Coach 1- **No other qualifications are accepted**
2. Coach 2 'Trained' or higher: Coach 2 'Trained' or 'Certified'; Development 1 'Trained' or 'Certified'; High Performance 1 & 2 'Trained' or 'Certified'
3. Development 1 'Trained' or higher: Development 1 'Trained' or 'Certified' or; High Performance 1 & 2 'Trained' or 'Certified'
4. Development 1 'Certified' or higher: Development 1 'Certified' or; High Performance 1 & 2 'Trained' or 'Certified'
5. High Performance 1 'Certified' or higher: High Performance 2 'Certified'

ACTING IN THE ROLE OF HEAD COACH:

Should a team's Head Coach not be available, an Assistant Coach rostered to that team is eligible to act in the role of Head Coach for that game only. If the Head Coach resigns or is removed from the position and subsequently removed from the team's Roster, the Association is responsible to Roster a new individual as Head Coach holding the qualifications appropriate to the role.

HOUSE LEAGUE (HL):

- Assistant Coaches at House League require Respect in Sport (RiS)-Activity Leader or Speak Out! and Gender Identity and Expression Course Only. However, they would require the appropriate qualification listed in chart above for participation with teams from outside their House League (i.e. exhibition and/or tournament play)
- In addition, if the Head Coach were not available to start a House League game, an appropriately NCCP qualified Coach would be required to act as the Head Coach.

VSC (Vulnerable Sector Check)

A current VSC is required for all SHMHA Team officials including but not limited to head coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, managers and at large team officials, on-ice volunteers, skills coaches, third party skills coaches, dressing room supervisors and anyone else who, through their duties may work with children.

Completed Vulnerable Sector Checks are being centralized through Ontario Hockey Federation (OFH) and must be submitted online. Instructions on the VSC, frequently asked questions and how to submit can be found on the OHF's [Vulnerable Sector Checks \(VSC\)](#) page.

Note: For the 2025/2026 season:

- A VSC from the 2023/2024 season will be accepted. This documentation is required to be submitted online through the OHF Screening Submissions Portal. A [Declaration](#) for Year 3 is also still required for this process.
- A VSC from 2022 is considered expired as of May 31, 2025 and a new VSC must be submitted, along with a signed declaration.

If you require a new VSC to be completed, please complete this process as soon as possible as processing times may be delayed.

- [Letter for VSC from OFH](#) (required to be submitted with your police check). On this form, it will ask for the following details: Member: OMHA, OWHA (example), Association: South Huron Minor Hockey
- [Ontario Provincial Police - Online Police Record Check](#)

All VSC must be completed and approved within the OHF portal (HCR profile will be updated to green and show as valid once the VSC is approved) prior to any off or on ice team activity.

Email for confirmation of VSC Status and questions to the Vulnerable Sector Check Coordinator.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Season Information

IMPORTANT: Please review the [2025/2026 OMHA Manual of Operations](#) prior to your season start. This document includes important policies/procedures, minimum suspension lists and other important details that you should know. In the case of discrepancies with this manual, the manual of operations supersedes this manual.

Important Season Dates

Coaches and bench staff are encouraged to review the important season dates found under the Team Officials tab on the website. This will outline important meetings, clinics, rostering and AP deadlines, blackout dates for the association for tournaments and guidelines.

Parent Meeting

Following the formation of teams, it is important for the coach to call a parent meeting to introduce themselves, the bench staff and clarify expectations and goals for the season. This meeting can be held in the lobby of either SHRC or STA, or in a changeroom provided one is available. It is suggested to schedule it either before or after a practice.

In preparation for this meeting:

- Coach – determine tournament dates and fees
- Manager – collect volunteer bond cheques (\$500 dated February 1, 2026) and medical forms to provide to team trainer

Suggested topics to cover:

- Team responsibilities – carrying away jerseys, gamesheet, timeclock, payment of referees – these are items that can be scheduled or assigned to parents
- Expectations of players and parents
- Role of team Trainer
- Confirm up to date or preferred contact information for parents
- Determine/discuss best option for communications – email, group chat
- Dress code for players (warm up gear required)
- Expected arrival times ahead of practices and games (home and away)
- Tournaments – dates, fees
- Mode of communication between coaches and parents and reminder regarding the 24-hour rule when addressing concerns

Rosters

All teams will need approved rosters for regular season play as well as tournaments. It is important that you provide your bench staff names for approval to executive as soon as possible, but no later than **September 15, 2025 (if named after this date, please complete this as soon as possible)**.

Bench Staff must have all of their required qualifications completed in order to be approved on the roster.

Affiliate player forms must be submitted and approved prior to using any affiliate players in games with your team. Forms can be found on the SHMHA website under the Team Officials tab. Gamesheets must show these players with an AP beside their name. See affiliate players for more information.

ONLY approved players, affiliate players and bench staff can be used in games. Using ineligible players or bench staff can result in a suspension for the Head Coach.

The last date for changes to rosters or to submit AP forms is January 10, 2026.

As soon as an approved roster is available for your team, it will be sent to you or your manager.

Roster questions or status contact the Roster (Boys) contact.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Affiliated Players (AP) - Boys

Each team should select and file forms for several affiliate players and one goalie where possible. These players will be added to the roster for approval and then be available should the need arise. AP forms require signatures from the player/parents as well as both coaches. Teams do not need to use these players unless wanted or necessary, but unexpected situations often arise where they may be needed. Affiliated players are only to attend practices/games should they be asked. The AP player's rostered team must give permission each time a player is to be used. **The final date for submitting AP forms for approval is January 10, 2026.** Coaches are welcome to invite these players to practice or games based on their needs.

Coaches can request suggestions on the affiliated players from either the coach of the team being affiliated from or the evaluation committee (or a mixture of the 2).

AP changes and mapping to be added to the manual at a future date. Please contact Roster (Boys) for clarification for the 2025/2026 season.

Travel Permits

All teams (OMHA) are required to have a valid travel permit in order to attend any tournament or play an exhibition game (home or away). You will also need to submit a travel permit to the organizers of any tournaments you have registered for.

Once your tournament entry has been approved or your exhibition game has been officially scheduled, you must then submit a travel permit request form **at least 7 days prior to the tournament or exhibition game**. Once approved, a copy will be sent to the Team Contact listed on the form.

***NEW FOR 2025/26 Season - Request a Travel Permit by completing the [Travel Permit Request \(OMHA\) Form](#).**

All questions or urgent requests (less than 7 days from tournament or exhibition) can be directed to the OMHA Rep, which can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Tournaments

The majority of teams will select between 1 and 3 tournaments to play in each season. The expenses for the tournaments are to be paid by the teams and are not covered by SHMHA. The selection of these tournaments is determined by the coach and should use parent input on the number, timing, cost and location. Tournaments can fill quickly and teams will need to register for these as early as possible to ensure entry. SHMHA works hard to host a home tournament for each of our teams each season. If a home tournament is available for your team, it is expected that your team will register for it as one of their selected tournaments. When making these selections, please consider the travel expenses involved for families. Please note that the OMHA Championship are a tournament format and will require travel should your team qualify (Shamrock teams).

Once tournaments have been selected:

- Travel permits are required for attending tournaments (including home). See the travel permit section for details.
- Notify your league rep of any game conflicts so they can reschedule.

Notify your League Rep of game conflicts.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

- Notify Ice Scheduler to have the tournament added to your calendar.
 - You will need to provide tournament name, dates and location.
 - After the ice scheduler has added the tournament to your team's calendar, managers can add tournament games to the team calendar using the mobile app or desktop version.

Notify the Ice Convenor of any tournaments.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Practices & Player Development

Teams have been provided with a weekly practice and game schedule that will remain consistent through the season starting early in October and ending in March (watch for black outs during home tournaments).

Should you need to cancel or change a practice, please notify the ice scheduler **as soon as possible**. Any cancelled practice times will be sent out to other teams to fill. It is our hope that no ice goes unused as it remains an expense to SHMHA regardless of use.

Alternatively, your team contact will also receive emails listing any open ice times that are available to your team to add to your schedule throughout the season. There should only be 1 team contact communicating with the Ice Scheduler throughout the season (pick up ice, cancellations etc.). This contact is identified at the beginning of the season by the head coach in the bench staff submission.

SHMHA endeavours to distribute extra ice as evenly as possible, but there may be times when ice will need to be swapped, cancelled or rearranged to accommodate weather cancellations or the rescheduling of games etc.

***NEW FOR 2025/26 Season:** Any additional player development activities (including social activities), outside of regular scheduled ice time, **must be optional for players and cannot be made mandatory**. These activities are not to be added to your team's webpage as an event or activity.

Medical Information

A medical information sheet must be completed for each player. A copy of the form can be found on the SHMHA website under Team Officials tab. The forms are to be filled out by the parents and should be kept on file by the team trainer. Be sure to also collect a form for any affiliate players that will be skating with your team. These forms are to be destroyed at the end of the season.

Concussion and Return to Play

See links under Team Officials tab for links to information on concussion facts, prevention and return to play form.

- [Concussion Facts and Prevention \(hockeycanada.ca\)](https://hockeycanada.ca)
- [Return to play form.pdf \(rampinteractive.com\)](https://rampinteractive.com)

Injury Reports

For information related to injury reports, refer to the Trainers Manual (under the Team Officials tab). All questions related to Trainers responsibilities, medical forms, and injury reporting be directed to the Trainer Coordinator (Wellness and Safety).

Contact the Trainer Coordinator if you have questions related to player wellness and safety.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Supervising Your Team

There must be at least one team staff member in the arena when the first player arrives and until the last player leaves. Do not leave players unattended.

OHF “Two deep dressing room policy”:

It will be the Policy of the Ontario Hockey Federation that, when any player under the age of 19 is in the team dressing room(s) before, during and after a game or practice, a minimum of two of the following shall be present in the dressing room(s) or immediately outside the dressing room(s) with the door ajar: two team or club/association officials, properly screened or one such official and an adult person associated with the team. In the situation of Juvenile or U21 hockey the coach may use an adult player over the age of 19 to be the second adult associated with the team.

Two deep policy applies during any interactions with players (coach discussion with player, trainer assessment off ice etc.)

On the Ice

No player will be allowed on the ice at any time without proper equipment. Any individual under the age of 16 as an on-ice helper with a team must wear full gear. Helpers over the age of 16 (including coaches and bench staff) must wear a helmet.

Ice time is scheduled by the hour, but this block is only 50 minutes to allow 10 minutes to clear and resurface the ice. This applies to all groups.

No person is allowed on the ice surface while it is being cleaned. No person is to enter the ice surface until the staff has cleared from the area and closed the doors.

Website

Each team has their own page on the SHMHA website. Teams are to assign one team webmaster (usually the Manager) to have access for posting on this site.

Users who have previously had website access will maintain their existing username and password. New users will be assigned a username and password after their information has been submitted.

Request team webmaster access to the team page by contacting the Web Administrator.

- All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

The team webmaster will be able to post articles and information (schedule for gamesheet/time clock), tournament game scores and also add tournament games.

Once the ice scheduler has been given tournament information and dates, they will add the tournament to the team calendar. After it has been created and shows on the team calendar, the team webmaster can then add individual games.

In order to help with scheduling, if you must block off a specific time/date on your team calendar that your team is unavailable, please use DO NOT BOOK (location set to none) to ensure that no games are scheduled. No other details are required for this.

All content posted must adhere to social media policy (located on the website under Policies and Procedures [Social Media and Electronic Devices Policy \(South Huron Minor Hockey\)](#)).

Officials

Officials are automatically assigned when games are added to the schedule. Sufficient notice to reschedule a league game or add an exhibition game must be given in order to allow for this to happen. There is a severe shortage of qualified officials, so please give the ice and referee scheduler as much notice as possible to both schedule and cancel.

Teams will be responsible for paying and tracking officials for all of their home games. Cheques will be distributed at the beginning of the season to each head coach in order to allow for this to happen. Tracking forms are available on the website (under the Team Officials tab) and must be filled out at each game. Officials receive mileage upon arrival along with pay for the game – if your game is the first one of a series that the official has arrived for, you will be responsible for paying it.

You may request more additional funds have another cheque written. This could take a week or more, so please track your funds carefully.

Request additional funds for Official payment by contacting the Treasurer.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

A pay schedule for referees can be found on the website under the Team Officials tab. Fees are based on the division as well as the length of the game.

League game times/period lengths for Shamrock and Lambton Middlesex Local League may vary. **It is important for you to contact your league representative for clarification to these prior to your season start.**

- Shamrock Hockey League - [Manual of Operations 2025/2026](#)
- Lambton Middlesex Local League - [League Rules](#)

Note: game lengths for boys may be determined based on scheduled ice time (i.e., scheduling changes requiring games to be played during practice ice times). In this case, game times to be adjusted accordingly (10-10-15), regardless of age to stay within the allotted scheduled ice time.

Gamesheets

Gamesheets are completed electronically on iPad that are provided at the arenas.

iPads need to be returned and charged after each game.

- Stephen Arena - iPads are located in the SHMHA equipment room
- SHRC - there is a lock box on the wall as you leave the lobby towards the new dressing rooms.

Codes for the lock box at both arenas is [REDACTED] and will also be emailed to coaches. The code to unlock the iPad is [REDACTED].

The gamesheet app is available on the home screen of the iPad and should already be logged into the league. The login is ipad-shamrock if necessary.

Game details should already be loaded on the iPad – you do not need to set up from scratch.

Further instructions plus links to videos can be found on the SHMHA website under Team Official tab.

The home team is responsible for setting up the gamesheet, but it must be signed by the bench staff for both teams. You will need to locate and sign the iPad for away games as well.

Any affiliated players must have an AP beside their name.

Bench staff must be qualified and approved on the roster to be used.

Should a situation arise where you must share a trainer with the opposing team, be sure to add the trainer to both home and visitor sides of the gamesheet.

If you have scheduled a home exhibition game with a team you do not normally play in league, gamesheet will need to be contacted to have your opposing teams roster made available within the app.

Request opposing team roster for home exhibition by contacting the Gamesheets/iPads contact.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Teams MUST ensure that the gamesheet is locked and uploaded at the end of every game. Delays in uploading will result in fines from the league.

Coaches are responsible for submitting completed gamesheets after every game - **it is recommended that submission for all home games is completed prior to leaving the arena to avoid a fine to SHMHA.** You will be sent access to the app and a desktop version.

Issues or concerns regarding gamesheets should be reported immediately to your League Rep.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Exhibition Games

SHMHA allows teams to arrange for home exhibition games where ice time and referees are available. The selected time slot must be long enough to allow for a game. It is not recommended to schedule games in practice time slots as these are often not as long as game slots. Enough notice to allow for referees to be scheduled must be given. Once scheduled, notify the ice scheduler to have it added to your calendar. As it is not a league game, it will not be linked to your opponents calendar and they will also have to have it added on their end. The situation also applies in reverse should you be travelling for an exhibition game.

Notify the Ice Convenor of any exhibition games.

***NEW FOR 2025/26 Season - Request a Travel Permit (OMHA Rep) by completing the [Travel Permit Request \(OMHA\) Form](#)**

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

As discussed in the gamesheet section, if the opponent is not a member of your league, you may have to have their team added to gamesheet in order to be able to complete a gamesheet. Please be sure to request and confirm this has been done if you are travelling for the game.

Request opposing team roster for home exhibition by contacting the Gamesheets/iPads contact.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

There will be times where requests for home exhibition games may not be able to be accommodated due to referee shortages. In these cases, coaches will be notified as quickly as possible and will be responsible for notifying the other team to cancel the game.

Cancelling/Rescheduling Games

There are various reasons why a game may need to be cancelled. The travelling/visiting team may need to cancel for inclement weather. League games must be rescheduled if this happens and this will be done through the respective league rep. Should your team need to cancel for weather, please contact your league rep.

Notify your League Rep of game conflicts.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Late cancellations will result in fines for the cancelling team, so please prepare accordingly. The game will then be rescheduled at the earliest possible time for both teams.

For HOME game cancellations, please notify your league rep as well as the ice scheduler as soon as possible. Cancellation on the website will generate a cancellation notice to referees and if not done in time, the team may be responsible for paying the scheduled referees.

Team Equipment

Practice Locker and Equipment

SHRC and STA have both been stocked with practice equipment in a locker.

- STA: The code for the equipment room (across from the staff office) is [REDACTED], turn clockwise. The code for this locker is [REDACTED].
- SHRC: The code for the equipment room (below spectator seating) is [REDACTED], turn clockwise. The code for this locker is [REDACTED].

The lockers should remain locked at all times. A bucket of practice pucks is available for your use and MUST be returned to the locker once your practice has ended. **If you are the last Sabres ice slot of the day at the arena, please ensure all lockers and equipment rooms are locked, with pucks returned to the locker.**

For issues or concerns about lockers and equipment, contact the Equipment Coordinator

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Provided Equipment

Each team will be provided with a trainer's kit, a set of game pucks and jersey bag.

To replace items in your trainers kit or request additional pucks, contact the Equipment Coordinators

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Please do not take team pucks from the bucket of practice pucks as practice pucks needs to be available for all teams to share

Teams must return their trainers kit and remaining pucks at the end of the season.

Jerseys/Lockers

Teams will be provided with 2 sets of jerseys – home (white) and away (grey) in their team locker. Teams will be provided with a code for their locker at the earliest possible time.

If you require your locker code, please include the number written on your lock and contact the Equipment Coordinators

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Teams should take the time to assign jersey #'s to players and ensure there is a fit for everyone well ahead of your first game. Every effort has been made to make sure proper sizing has been provided, but you may find you need to switch some sizes. SHMHA will accommodate as much as possible.

To request additional jersey sizes, contact the Equipment Coordinator.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Do NOT remove jerseys from other lockers unless specifically directed to do so.

Once completed, the jersey tracking form (located on the website under the Team Officials tab) must be filled out and returned by October 15, 2025.

Jerseys should NOT be carried by players in order to avoid damage. Home jerseys can be kept in the team locker and a jersey bag will be provided to each team for carrying the away jerseys to games.

Both sets of jerseys should be washed throughout the season as well as prior to returning the jerseys at the end of the season. This is a team responsibility. Carrying the away jerseys and washing both sets can be assigned to a parent.

Request an additional jersey bag for a tournament or report a damaged jersey by contacting the Equipment Coordinator.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Should a jersey become damaged during the season please notify the equipment so a replacement jersey can be ordered.

At the end of the season, complete sets of WASHED jerseys matching the list must be returned to SHMHA. A designated date and location will be provided at that time.

Other information for Team Parents/Guardians

Team Photos

SHMHA arranges for a photographer to take photos of individual players and teams. Each team will be scheduled for a time slot to attend and all players and coaches should have their photo taken even if they do not plan to order a package – ensuring everyone is included in team photos. Information, schedule and order forms will be provided via email early in the season. Coaches/managers will then distribute to team members.

For additional information or questions regarding team photos, contact the Photography Coordinator.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Volunteer Requirements

SHMHA members are responsible for one volunteer shift per player each season. These shifts are typically completed during home tournaments. Additional information can be found under the Volunteering tab on the website.

The team manager is responsible for collecting a bond cheque from each player \$500 dated February 1, 2026.

These cheques are not cashed unless volunteer requirements are not met.

The package of bond cheques must be complete and is to be submitted on or before October 15, 2025.

You may have families who have opted out of volunteering and have paid a fee to do so during the registration process. If this is the case, please confirm those members with the volunteer contact prior to submitting your package to ensure completion.

To arrange for volunteer drop off cheques or confirm opt-out members, contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

All current contacts can be found on the [Organization Contact List](#) page.

Financial Assistance

SHMHA is committed to make hockey accessible to as many players as possible. Should you or your players need assistance with funding applications, registration, equipment or season expenditures, please contact your division registrar or the treasurer for additional information.

Learn more about programs available on our [Financial Assistance](#) page.

