



# City of Somerville Somerville YMCA

COMMUNITY BIKE GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

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## Executive Summary

The Somerville YMCA and the City of Somerville have partnered to launch a Community Bike Give Away Program. This initiative aims to provide bicycles to Somerville residents who need them most, promoting sustainable transportation, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and enhancing community connectivity. This program aligns with Somervision2040, particularly its focus on environmental sustainability, public health, and equitable access to resources. Building upon the experience of the Somerville YMCA's E-bike Give Away program, this initiative will prioritize an equity-centered approach to deliver bikes to individuals and families with the greatest need. In our shared commitment to creating a sustainable and equitable Somerville for the populations we serve, the YMCA remains willing and open to further iterations and collaboration with the City of Somerville.

## Program Goals

- **Promote Sustainable Transportation:** Increase the use of bicycles as a viable and environmentally friendly mode of transportation within Somerville, contributing to the goals outlined in Somervision2040 for reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.
- **Enhance Community Health and Well-being:** Encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles by providing access to bicycles for recreation and daily commuting.
- **Advance Equity and Access:** Deliver bicycles to Somerville residents who face transportation barriers due to financial limitations, lack of access to public transit, or other challenges. Prioritize individuals and groups identified as most in need through a comprehensive and equitable selection process.
- **Foster Positive Community Relations:** Strengthen the relationship between the City of Somerville, the YMCA, and the community by collaborating on a program that directly benefits residents.
- **Promote Bicycle Safety and Education:** Equip participants with the knowledge and resources necessary for safe and responsible cycling.

## Program Components

- **Bike Refurbishment and Maintenance:** Volunteers and potential partnerships with local bike mechanics will ensure that all donated bikes are safe and in good working order. Basic maintenance and repair workshops may be offered to recipients.
- **Participant Application and Selection:** A clear and accessible application process will be established to allow interested Somerville residents to apply for a bicycle. The selection process will prioritize equity, using a questionnaire and potentially interviews to assess need.
- **Bike Distribution:** Bikes will be distributed to selected participants through organized events at accessible locations, such as the Somerville YMCA and community centers.
- **Safety Education and Resources:** Recipients will receive information and resources on bicycle safety, local traffic laws, and basic bike maintenance. Partnerships with local bike advocacy groups may provide safety workshops and training sessions.
- **Ongoing Support and Community Building:** The program may facilitate connections among participants through group rides or workshops to foster a sense of community and encourage continued cycling.

## Partnership Roles

- **Somerville YMCA:**
  - Program administration and coordination.
  - Community outreach and participant recruitment, leveraging experience from the E-bike program.
  - Volunteer recruitment and management.
  - Space for bike storage, refurbishment, and distribution.
  - Development and delivery of safety education resources.
- **City of Somerville:**
  - Community outreach and building trust with residents.
  - Potential assistance with bike collection and distribution logistics.
  - Participation in safety education initiatives, providing information on local traffic laws.

- Identifying community needs and potential participants through their community engagement efforts.

## Application Process

- How to Apply:
  - Interested Somerville residents can apply for a bicycle through one of the following methods:
  - Online Application: Visit the Somerville YMCA website at [www.somervilleymca.org/city/bike](http://www.somervilleymca.org/city/bike) and complete the online application form.
  - Paper Application: Pick up a paper application form at the following locations:
    - Somerville YMCA (101 Highland Ave, Somerville)
    - City of Somerville (93 Highland Ave, Somerville)
    - Other locations deemed appropriate.
  - Assisted Application: For residents who need assistance completing the application, staff at the Somerville YMCA and designated personnel at the City of Somerville may be available to help during normal business hours.
  - Application Deadlines: The deadlines will be referenced on all applications and on the YMCA's website.

All applications must be submitted by applicable deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

- Selection Process:

A review committee comprised of representatives from the Somerville YMCA will evaluate all applications based on the demonstrated need, considering the program's equity goals. The committee may also consider factors such as:

- Lack of access to reliable transportation.
- Financial limitations impacting transportation options.
- Potential for the bicycle to improve access to essential services (work, school, healthcare).
- Commitment to safe and responsible cycling (willingness to participate in safety education).

- Household size and transportation needs of the entire family.
- Notification of Results:  
Applicants will be notified of the status of their application (approved or not approved) via any of the following: mail, email, or telephone.

## Participant Questionnaire

This questionnaire aims to gather information to help us understand your transportation needs and ensure equitable distribution of bicycles. Please answer all questions honestly and to the best of your ability. All information provided will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of participant selection.

### Section A: Personal Information

1. Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address in Somerville: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Email Address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you identify as (optional, for demographic purposes):
  - ☐ Male
  - ☐ Female
  - ☐ Non-binary
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Prefer not to say
7. What is your primary language? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Race/Ethnicity (Optional): (Please check all that apply)
  - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
  - ☐ Asian
  - ☐ Black or African American

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander<sup>1</sup>
- ☐ White
- ☐ Some other race or ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Prefer not to say

9. Household Size: How many people currently live in your household, including yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Number of Children Under 18 in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Employment Status: (Please check the option that best describes your current situation)

- ☐ Employed full-time
- ☐ Employed part-time
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Unable to work

12. Approximate Annual Household Income (Optional): (Please select the range that best applies)

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 - \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 or more
- ☐ Prefer not to say

13. Do you have access to a personal vehicle?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. Do you have a disability or condition that impacts your ability to use other forms of transportation?

☐ Yes

☐ No If yes, please briefly describe:

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### Section B: Transportation Needs

1. What are your current primary modes of transportation?

☐ Walking

☐ Public Transportation (Bus, Train, etc.)

☐ Personal Vehicle (Car, Motorcycle)

☐ Bicycle (personal)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you currently have reliable access to transportation that meets your daily needs (e.g., work, school, errands)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. If no, please describe the challenges you face with transportation:

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4. How would receiving a bicycle improve your ability to meet your daily needs? Please be specific.

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5. Are there specific reasons (e.g., financial constraints, accessibility issues) that prevent you from owning a bicycle?
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### **Section C: Bicycle Usage and Safety**

1. How do you anticipate using a bicycle if you receive one? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Commuting to work or school
- ☐ Running errands (groceries, appointments, etc.)
- ☐ Recreation and exercise
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you have any experience riding a bicycle?

- ☐ Yes, I ride regularly.
- ☐ Yes, I have ridden in the past but not recently.
- ☐ No, I am a beginner.

3. Are you willing to participate in a bicycle safety education session if offered?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. Do you have a safe place to store a bicycle?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### **Section D: Additional Information (Optional)**

1. Are there any other circumstances or information you would like to share that you believe would support your application for a bicycle?
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## **Section E: Agreement**

**By submitting this application, I confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the selection process is competitive and that not all applicants will receive a bicycle. I also agree to use the bicycle responsibly and participate in any required safety education.**

**To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Somerville YMCA, the City of Somerville, and their respective officers, employees, volunteers, agents, and representatives (hereinafter referred to as “Released Parties”) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, whether caused by the negligence of the Released Parties or otherwise, while participating in any activity related to the Community Bike Give Away Program, including but not limited to the use of the bicycle received through the program.**

**I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any loss, liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorneys' fees, that they may incur due to my participation in the Community Bike Give Away Program.**

**I acknowledge that bicycling can be a hazardous activity and that I am voluntarily participating in this program with full knowledge of the risks involved. I am responsible for wearing appropriate safety gear, obeying all traffic laws, and operating the bicycle in a safe and responsible manner.**

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**Signature of Applicant (or Guardian if under 18):**

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**Date:**