



Sliding Scale & Financial Aid Program

musiConnects believes that all people deserve the chance to learn and make music on a string instrument, regardless of their ability to pay. For many years, we offered two programs: one was tuition-free (“Residency”) and one was sliding-scale tuition (“RCP”). Starting in Fall 2023, we’ve joined these programs together. Going forward, every participant in our program will register the same way, paying only what they can. We expect that many of our participants will not pay any tuition at all. Others might choose a reduced amount, and still others might pay the full cost. This document explains how to find the fee that works best for your family.

Step One: Estimate your Sliding Scale Level

Use the chart below to estimate the sliding scale level that best matches your financial situation.

1. In the top row, choose your household size (the number of people living in your home).
2. Look down that column until you find the dollar amount that best describes how much income your family/household earns per year.
3. Look to the left of that dollar amount to find the sliding scale level (% of full tuition) that is closest to your family income. Use this level to guide your final choice on the next page.

		Household Size					
Sliding Scale Level	Ex. Tuition (30min PL)	1	2	3	4	5	6+
25% or less	\$125 per trimester	\$25,975	\$29,700	\$33,400	\$37,100	\$40,075	\$43,050
50% or less	\$250 per trimester	\$51,950	\$59,400	\$66,800	\$74,200	\$80,150	\$86,100
75% or less	\$375 per trimester	\$77,925	\$141,600	\$100,200	\$111,300	\$120,225	\$129,150
75-100% of tuition	\$500 per trimester	\$103,900	\$118,800	\$133,600	\$148,400	\$160,300	\$172,200

Income Limits from BPDA, based on **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HUD FMR Area -**

<https://www.bostonplans.org/housing/income-asset-and-price-limits>



Step Two: Determine your Tuition Amount

Once you have identified the sliding scale level that best represents your household size and income, use the chart below to choose the specific amount/percentage that feels appropriate for your family. You will enter this amount as a percentage (ex. 40%) on the musiConnects registration form.

	Tuition Amount/Percentage										
Lesson Length	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
30 min PL	\$0	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$750	\$900	\$1,050	\$1,200	\$1,350	\$1,500
45 min PL	\$0	\$203	\$405	\$608	\$810	\$1,013	\$1,215	\$1,418	\$1,620	\$1,823	\$2,025
60 min PL	\$0	\$248	\$495	\$743	\$990	\$1,237	\$1,485	\$1,733	\$1,980	\$2,228	\$2,475

The full cost of private lessons in the 2023-24 program year is as follows:

- \$50 per 30min lesson, or \$1500 for the year
- \$67.50 per 45min lesson, or \$2025 for the year
- \$82.50 per 60min lesson, or \$2475 for the year

Example:

Hannah is registering for 30min lessons with musiConnects. Her household has 3 people and a yearly income of \$60,000, putting her in the 25-50% range. Her family determines that they are best able to afford \$600 in yearly tuition, so they select 40% when filling out the registration form. A musiConnects staff member will follow up after registration to confirm their tuition amount.

Step Three: Confirm with musiConnects

musiConnects' sliding scale structure is pay-what-you-can. This means that participants can self-select the cost - including 0% - that best meets their needs. The online registration form offers a drop-down menu in which you can self-select your tuition percentage. Following receipt of this form, a musiConnects staff member will follow up with you to confirm your tuition (if any), request supporting documents (only as needed), make arrangements for an instrument loan, and confirm the program schedule.