Open Books Open Doors

Recognizing the need to provide library card assistance to families and individuals with demonstrable economic hardship living in unincorporated areas, the library created the Open Books Open Doors Program.

Those who are eligible live in unincorporated areas of Glen Ellyn or in unincorporated areas of surrounding communities but have children who attend school in Glen Ellyn School District 41, District 89 or District 87 (Glenbard South or Glenbard West only). Through this fund, which was created and is sustained from private contributions, the library has issued over 100 library cards since its creation in 2002.

Application forms and additional information are available online and at service desks throughout the library. For more information, please contact the Glen Ellyn Public Library Business Manager, Maria Tachna, at 630-790-6761.

Frequently Asked Questions: Open Books Open Doors

- If my application is successful, what happens next?

The library will contact you by mail with additional instructions for registering for your library cards. You will need to provide photo identification and a current bill to your eligible address.

- What if I disagree with the library’s decision about my application?

You may ask for a review by calling or writing the Business Manager at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Open Books Open Doors
A Library Card Assistance Program at the Glen Ellyn Public Library

Monday–Thursday......9 am to 9 pm
Friday and Saturday.....9 am to 5 pm
Sunday......................1 pm to 5 pm

400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-469-0879 | gepl.org

Please be aware that these procedures may change any time, as needed and entirely at the library’s discretion.
Frequently Asked Questions: Open Books Open Doors

■ What do I need to provide to the library?
You will need to submit a completed application (School or LINK version) along with a copy of your current rental or lease agreement, indicating clearly your monthly payment OR, if you are a homeowner, a copy of your most recent property tax bill. *Your application cannot be completed without this information.*

Illinois State Law requires this information as the basis for determining the mandated annual cost we must charge a nonresident household for a library card. If your application is approved, this information will determine the level of funding needed to cover the cost of one year of library privileges for your family.

■ If I have applied to my elementary school district within the past year for the Federal Free and Reduced-Priced School Meal Program, or the Illinois LINK Food Assistance Program and was accepted, what forms do I need to complete?
You will need to complete one of the Open Books Open Doors Library Card Assistance Applications (School or LINK version) and provide the library with the information described on the form.

■ If I believe I qualify under the Illinois LINK Food Assistance Program but have not applied, what forms do I need to complete?

To apply for Open Books Open Doors you must have a school-aged child in your household in the Free and Reduced-Price School Meal Program or you must be enrolled in the Illinois LINK Food Assistance Program.

■ Will the information I give be checked?
The library reserves the right to verify any and all information provided in the application forms to ensure accurate eligibility decisions.

■ If I don’t qualify now, may I apply again later?
If your economic circumstances change, you may apply again at any time.

■ In what order are applications considered?
Applications are considered and approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Once funds are depleted, current applications which meet economic criteria will be held, and, when funds are available, the earliest submissions will be funded first.

■ If I am a successful applicant for library cards at this time, what are my chances for assistance in future years?
Eligibility for library cards in future years will be dependent upon submission of a new application, continued eligibility, availability of funds and position on the waiting list, if any. All new and verified applications will be placed at the bottom of the current waiting list, regardless of previous success in receiving library card assistance.

■ What if my household size or income changes?
What if I move?
All Glen Ellyn Public Library cards issued are valid for a period of one year, presuming the individuals remain at their current address. All changes in address must be reported to the library. Moving from the area cancels your library card privileges. Income information must be verified on an annual basis.

■ What are the basic eligibility criteria for the Open Books Open Doors Library Card Assistance Program?
This program is based on financial need.

Families living in unincorporated Glen Ellyn or in surrounding unincorporated areas who have children attending school in Glen Ellyn School District 41, District 89 or District 87 (Glenbard South or Glenbard West only) and who participate in the Federal Free and Reduced-Price School Meal Program through their school (verified by a school representative), or have an Illinois LINK card (state issued food assistance) may apply.

Individuals living in unincorporated Glen Ellyn who receive assistance through the Illinois LINK Program may apply.