



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry Notice #01-06

March, 2001

REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ACCESSIBLE FOR-HIRE VEHICLES AND TAXICABS

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) recently promulgated a regulation that would require wheelchair accessible vehicle service to be available to users of for-hire vehicle service providers as of October 31, 2001. For-hire vehicle service providers have the option of dispatching wheelchair accessible vehicles themselves, or arranging for equivalent service on request. \$1 million has been budgeted by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and the City Council to facilitate the purchase or retrofit of accessible vehicles. While further research will be necessary before determining the final course of legislative action with respect to the inclusion of medallion taxicabs in the TLC's accessible vehicle program, funds will be available to the medallion taxicab industry as well as the for-hire vehicle industry to reimburse owners for the purchase of accessible vehicles.

The monies will be allocated among the for-hire vehicle and taxicab industries by a formula that will use as its general guideline the number of licensed for-hire vehicle bases in each borough, as well as the most recent census data specific to the residency of wheelchair users. Reimbursement will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis, with up to \$7,500 per for-hire-vehicle and up to \$5,000 per medallion taxicab.

For-hire vehicle and taxicab owners who recently purchased and placed into service wheelchair accessible vehicles (prior to this program's implementation) will be eligible to apply for reimbursement funding under this program.

Application packages are available from certified dealers and retrofitters, a listing of whom may be viewed at the TLC's web site at www.NYC.gov/taxi. Applications will also be available at the reception desks of TLC's inspection facility in Woodside, Queens (24-55 B.Q.E. West Service Road, 718-267-4500), or the TLC's headquarters (40 Rector Street, 212-676-1000).