


Eligibility for Fair Fares Program – See Rescheduled Hearing Notice – New Hearing Date

 rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/eligibility-for-fair-fares-program/



Rule status: Proposed

Agency: HRA

Comment by date: November 15, 2024

Rule Full Text

[HRA-Proposed-Amendment-of-Rules-Relating-to-Fair-Fares-Program.pdf](#)

The New York City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") proposes to amend the Fair Fares program by increasing the income eligibility standard from 120 to 145 percent of the federal poverty level.

Attendees who need reasonable accommodation for a disability such as a sign language translation should contact the agency by calling 1 (929) 221-7220 or emailing by **October 14, 2024**

Send comments by

Public Hearings

Public Hearing

Date

November 15, 2024

10:00am - 11:00am EST

Location

Connect Virtually

<https://www.zoom.gov/j/1614625260>

To join by phone, call 646 828 7666 and enter Meeting ID: 161 462 5260

Or go to www.zoom.us, click on "join a meeting" and enter Meeting ID: 161 462 5260

Phone (audio only): 1-646-828-7666

When prompted, enter meeting ID: 161 462 5260

Disability Accommodation

Comments are now closed.

Online comments: 4

Lisa Y. Rubin

While I agree with this proposal, I am very angry about your continuous and unconstitutional decision to lock out older adults from Access A Ride's Fair Fares program. Adults who are older than 64 are ineligible to apply, irrespective of their income. How do you justify this?

Comment added September 25, 2024 6:19pm

Michael Sutherland (Open Plans)

Open Plans writes today in regard to the expansion of the Fair Fares program's eligibility. We applaud the eligibility expansion outlined in the rule, and of all efforts to increase transit accessibility and ridership. The City can and should continue to build on these efforts. More detailed comments on these points and others are in the attached testimony.

Comment attachment

10-21-24-HRA-Hearing-Open-Plans-Testimony.pdf

Comment added October 21, 2024 10:15am

Testimony on 10/21/24 Human Resources Administration Rules Hearing

Open Plans writes today in regard to the expansion of the Fair Fares program's eligibility. We applaud the eligibility expansion outlined in the rule, and of all efforts to increase transit accessibility and ridership. The City can and should continue to build on these efforts. More detailed comments on these points and others are below:

- **Further expand the income eligibility standard to 200%.** Relieving some of the burden of transportation costs for working-class families is vital to ensuring we have a livable city for all New Yorkers. This relief allows income to go towards other household necessities and also reduces the likelihood of fare dodging out of necessity. Many New Yorkers' budgets are stretched razor thin so it is important to further expand the income eligibility standard to 200% to ensure this benefit reaches all the New Yorkers who need it.
- **Expand free bus pilots across New York City.** While outside of the bounds of this rule, the City should continue to work towards expanding transit access for all. The recent free bus pilots have grown ridership, especially among those living near the poverty line. Working to expand these pilots across the city in the highest impact areas would allow more New Yorkers to receive these benefits.

Respectfully,
Open Plans

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Michael Sutherland
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Anna Humphrey

My name is Anna Humphrey, and I am the Transportation and Voting Community Organizer at the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY). CIDNY strongly supports the proposed rule expanding the Fair Fares NYC program, which will raise the income eligibility threshold from 120 percent to 145 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. This expansion is essential for New Yorkers with disabilities, particularly those relying on Access-A-Ride and other paratransit services, who already face significant financial barriers in their daily lives.

Many people with disabilities live on fixed incomes, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which are often insufficient to cover the high cost of living in New York City. Increasing the income eligibility to 145 percent of the FPL will help ensure that more people with disabilities, who may not have qualified under the previous threshold, can access affordable transportation.

Transportation is a vital link to independence for individuals with disabilities. It enables access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and employment. For those relying on Access-A-Ride, the 50% discount offered through Fair Fares is particularly critical. It can reduce the financial strain associated with frequent medical appointments and other daily needs, improving both mobility and quality of life.

In conclusion, CIDNY urges the city to adopt this proposed rule as it will significantly improve access to public transportation for low-income New Yorkers, especially those with disabilities. Ensuring that more individuals can participate in the Fair Fares program will contribute to a fairer, more equitable city for all.

This testimony is supported by Sharon McLennon Wier, Ph.D., MEd., CRC, LMHC, Executive Director for CIDNY. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Humphrey

Transportation Community Organizer

Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)

Guy Bernard Lalanne

I would like to know how many more people would qualify for fair fare with that change! For me anyone who's making minimum wages should automatically qualify for "Fair Fare" The truth is, If we truly care about global warming we would offer free public transportation for all in order to reduce the number of cars on the road!

Family size 2023 income numbers 2024 income numbers

For individuals \$14,580 \$15,060

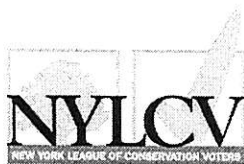
For a family of 2 \$19,720 \$20,440

For a family of 3 \$24,860 \$25,820

For a family of 4 \$30,000 \$31,200

That's my 2 cents

Comment added October 30, 2024 12:06pm



**Testimony of Deaunte Johnson, Policy Fellow
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York City Human Resources Administration
Proposed Rule Relating to Eligibility for Fair Fares Program
October 21, 2024**

My name is Deaunte Johnson and I am the Policy Fellow at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization representing over 30,000 members in New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

In order to effectively fight climate change and protect public health, we need to reimagine how people live and move in our City. According to the [New York City Comptroller's Climate Dashboard](#), New York City's transportation sector is the second highest source of NYC's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Moreover, [private vehicles account for 90% of transportation-based energy use in NYC](#) and are the largest contributors to transportation-related emissions and air pollution, which disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities. With this in mind, we need to invest in our public transportation system and create, improve, and encourage the use of low emission modes of transportation as an alternative to cars.

NYLCV supports the proposed rules to amend the Fair Fares program by increasing the income eligibility standard from 120 to 145 percent of the federal poverty level. The Fair Fares NYC program is crucial for making public transportation more accessible to low-income New Yorkers. The program helps eligible New Yorkers with low incomes manage their transportation costs by providing them with discounted subway and bus fares. NYLCV supports and appreciates the City Council and Adams Administration's FY25 efforts in expanding the program's income eligibility standard from 120 to 145 percent. However, as advocated in our FY25 budget testimony, we hope this program will expand eligibility in the future to 200% of the federal poverty line, as well as expand to other forms of public transit such as Citi Bike, Metro North, and the Long Island Rail Road. Additionally, we hope the city continues to invest in outreach and education to ensure that more New Yorkers that qualify for the program are aware of how to enroll and its benefits. Over 700 languages are spoken in the New York City metro area, meaning the program outreach should include advertisements in multiple formats and languages to ensure maximum effectiveness. With the cost of living only increasing, it is critical that we ensure affordable transportation for everyone.

Fair Fares NYC represents an opportunity for city leadership to ensure that the City is fully committed to investing in low-income residents and public transit, and fighting against climate

change. While we support the proposed eligibility, we need to keep pushing forward to ensure that we have a city that is truly accessible and equitable for all New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.