



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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**TLC RELEASES TAXI DRIVER
HEALTHCARE RFP**

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Public Affairs

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The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) this week published a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a vendor to provide a number of new healthcare-related services to the drivers of medallion taxicabs, including:

- The selected vendor will procure and provide Disability Insurance coverage for full-time taxicab drivers.
- The vendor will also help taxicab drivers navigate the healthcare options that will be available through the New York State health exchange (as required by the Affordable Care Act), to ensure that drivers find plans that are tailored to the unique dynamic of the taxi industry and the specific health issues faced by drivers.
- The vendor will further negotiate specific add-ons to health exchange plans, wherever possible, that relate to the unique needs of taxicab drivers.
- The selected vendor will also assist drivers in applying for any available healthcare subsidies.

Additionally, the RFP calls for the respondent to conduct an outreach and advertising campaign to inform eligible taxi drivers of the aforementioned services.

Taxicab drivers are independent contractors, many of whom do not have access to employer-funded healthcare services for themselves and their families.

The services that would be contracted through the RFP process will be funded by a \$0.06 per trip deduction authorized by the TLC on July 12, 2012 as part of a fare increase. These services will be paid wholly by taxi drivers, and will come at no cost to taxicab passengers or the City of New York.

“This RFP, and ultimately the services provided by the selected vendor, are a tremendous step forward for New York City’s hardworking taxicab drivers,” said TLC Commissioner and Chair David Yassky. “These drivers are the engine that moves over 200 million people a year in our city, and this healthcare fund will provide them with a well-deserved protection they’ve never before had.”

The due date for the RFP is May 8, 2013. It is anticipated that the process will result in the selected provider making services alongside the State’s anticipated launch of a working healthcare exchange by late 2013. The initial contract term will be two years.



***Some Examples of Taxicab Drivers Who
Would Have Benefited from this RFP***

- **Mohammad Mustafa Rahman** was walking home after parking his taxi when he was attacked from behind. As he lay on the ground, the assailant tried to cut his face with a knife. Mr. Rahman used his hands to protect his eyes and head. The assailant cut Mr. Rahman's hands so severely, he lost all feeling and mobility and required multiple surgeries. Denied Workers Compensation and ineligible for Unemployment Insurance, Mr. Rahman had no financial support to fall back on.
- **Sajjad Matin** had his leg amputated after a speeding SUV struck him from behind while he loaded the trunk with a passenger's luggage. While waiting for Workers Compensation and federal disability, Mr. Matin's family had no income coming in and lost their home.
- **Beresford Simmons** is a thirty-plus year veteran taxicab driver. He's logged in well over 40,000 fares in his tenure, with scars on his legs from hoisting luggage at the airports into the trunk to mark the years. When Mr. Simmons first fell ill to a heart attack, he had no compensation for his months out from work. He went back behind the wheel. A year and a half later, he spends 16 hours a week in dialysis, waiting for a kidney donation.
- **Gamal Khalil**, who suffers from high blood pressure and kidney illness, blacked out while driving his taxi. Uninsured, he incurred medical debt as he sought treatment for escalating health problems.
- **Alexander Khaspekov** woke up one morning unable to move. While his injury cannot be attributed to any one accident or injury, he was diagnosed with acute lumbar radiculitis as a result of years of driving, but receives no compensation for the time he needs for physical therapy.

The RFP may be obtained via the City Record website:

<http://www.nyc.gov/cityrecord>.

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) was created in 1971, and is the agency responsible for the regulation and licensing of almost 200,000 yellow medallion taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers, and the businesses that operate and support their industries. It is recognized as the largest and most active taxi and limousine regulatory body in the United States.

To find out more about the TLC, or to review its rules, regulations and procedures, we encourage you to visit our official web site at WWW.NYC.GOV/TAXI or call 311 in New York City, or 212-NEW-YORK from outside of New York City.