

NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Adoption of Amendments to Chapter 12 of Title 68 of the Rules of the City of New York Regarding the Fair Fares NYC Program

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED in the Commissioner of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) pursuant to Section 603 of the New York City Charter, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter, that HRA has adopted the above final rule.

A proposed rule was published in the City Record on September 6, 2023, and a public hearing was held on October 6, 2023.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Rule

The Fair Fares NYC Program helps New York City residents with low incomes manage their transportation costs by providing them with a 50% discount on public transportation. Eligible New York City residents receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares. Pay-per-Ride, weekly unlimited, and monthly unlimited options are all available. Fair Fares can also provide 50% off MTA Access-A-Ride paratransit trips.

The current Fair Fares rule provides that an applicant's gross income must not exceed 100 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This proposed rule will raise the income level to 120 percent of the FPL. Expansion of the Fair Fares program discount will assist low-income New Yorkers by improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature and recreation and foster equitable development and restoration of NYC post pandemic. Additionally, improved access addresses income disparities and allows for favorable quality of life outcomes for the lowest income New Yorkers.

The Department's authority for these rules is found in Section 603 of the City Charter and Sections 34 and 77 of the New York Social Services Law.

New material is underlined. Deleted material is [bracketed].

Section 1. Subdivision (a) of section 12-03 of Title 68 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (a) To be eligible to receive a Fair Fares discount an applicant must:
- (1) submit a completed application, including supporting documentation, in a format and manner established by the Program;
 - (2) submit a signed Fair Fares NYC Conditions of Use form pursuant to DSS/HRA's Memorandum with New York City Transit Authority; and
 - (3) meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - (A) The applicant must be a New York City resident;
 - (B) The applicant must be between 18 and 64 years of age;
 - (C) The applicant's gross income must not exceed [100] 120 percent of FPL;
 - (D) Except as provided in 68 RCNY § 12-02(a), the applicant must not currently be eligible for a duplicative discount or benefit from DSS/HRA, NYCT or any other entity or program;
 - (E) The applicant must not be currently suspended or permanently disqualified from the Program under 68 RCNY § 12-05(b);

§ 2. Subdivision (a) of section 12-08 of Title 68 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

- (a) For so long as the Program uses a card to facilitate the discount for some types of transportation, the Program reserves the right to limit the number of replacement cards it will issue to an individual within [a calendar] an enrollment year, in accordance with the Conditions of Use pursuant to DSS/HRA's Memorandum of Understanding with NYCT.