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MAYOR ADAMS, SPEAKER ADAMS, DSS COMMISSIONER PARK ANNOUNCE ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION FOR FAIR FARES TRANSIT DISCOUNT, ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE TRANSIT ACCESS FOR NEW YORKERS

Marks the Second Fair Fares Eligibility Expansion in as Many Years and Makes Nearly 200,000 New Yorkers Eligible for Half-Priced Fares

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, and New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Molly Wasow Park today announced an expansion of the Fair Fares transit discount, which will increase income eligibility to include New Yorkers earning up to 145 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), making nearly 200,000 additional low-income and working-class New Yorkers eligible to receive a 50 percent discount on subway and bus rides. This expansion of eligibility was made possible by the addition of \$20 million agreed upon in the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget and builds on last year’s expansion that resulted in a record number of New Yorkers enrolled in Fair Fares.

“As the cost of basic necessities continues to rise, every dollar counts for New Yorkers, and working-class families should not have to choose between paying for public transportation and groceries or bills,” said **Mayor Adams**. “That’s why – as part of our shared mission to support low-income New Yorkers – we worked closely with the city council to deliver this expansion of Fair Fares so that hundreds of thousands of people in our city can cut their public transportation costs in half.”

“Public transit is the lifeblood of our city that helps New Yorkers access opportunities, and we must make it affordable and accessible,” said **City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams**. “The Council is proud to have consistently led efforts to secure funding that expands the reach of Fair Fares to more New Yorkers so they can access our subways and buses. With so many New Yorkers struggling amidst an affordability crisis, the Council will continue to pursue expansion of the program to reach residents living at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.”

“Following the previous Fair Fares eligibility expansion, DSS has connected nearly 50,000 additional low-income New Yorkers to this critical transit discount and is now helping a record number of residents offset the cost of transit through the program,” said **DSS Commissioner Molly Wasow Park**. “Ensuring fair and equitable access to transit is a crucial step in creating a city that is serious about generating opportunities for all New Yorkers and supporting underserved communities. We are proud to work with the council to the Fair Fares program more accessible and we look forward to helping many more New Yorkers avail themselves of this discount.”

"No New Yorker should be denied access to public transit because they cannot afford it," said **Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**. "Fair Fares is a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of residents for whom every

dollar counts. I am proud to have advocated for the increase in baselined Fair Fares funding in the FY25 budget. This expansion of eligibility is a step toward ensuring more New Yorkers in need can access this crucial program, and I look forward to working toward further expansion of Fair Fares in the future.”

The budget agreement between the Adams administration and the City Council adds \$20 million of additional funding to the Fair Fares program, bringing the total level of funding for FY25 to \$115 million. This additional funding will ensure that DSS can continue to effectively administer the program for existing clients while also connecting thousands of newly eligible residents to Fair Fares. Currently, nearly 360,000 New Yorkers are saving on transit costs through Fair Fares, the most in the program’s history. Community outreach is a critical aspect of Fair Fares, and with this program expansion, DSS will continue to bolster outreach with their partners to promote the program, educate community-based organization about the benefits of Fair Fares and updated eligibility criteria, and ultimately help more New Yorkers save their hard-earned money when traversing the city.

For the second consecutive year, DSS has officially implemented a rule change to increase the program’s income eligibility standard, increasing it from 120 percent of the FPL to 145 percent of the FPL, meaning that the income eligibility threshold for a single adult will increase from \$17,496 to \$21,837 and from \$36,000 to \$45,240 for a family of four.

New Fair Fares income limits per household size.	
Persons in Household / Family Size	Max Income (145 Percent of Federal Poverty Level)
1	\$21, 837
2	\$29,638
3	\$37,439
4	\$45,240
5	\$53,041
6	\$60,842

New Fair Fares income limits per household size.

Persons in Household / Family Size	Max Income (145 Percent of Federal Poverty Level)
7	\$68,643
8	\$76,444
9	\$84,245
10	\$92,046

The Fair Fares discount is available to all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, between 18 and 64 years old whose income falls at or below 145 percent of the FPL. New Yorkers can visit the [Fair Fares website](#) to learn more about the program, apply online and begin saving 50 percent on subway and eligible bus fares or MTA Access-A-Ride paratransit trips.

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About the New York City Department of Social Services: The Department of Social Services, comprised of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), serves millions of New Yorkers annually through a broad range of services that aim to address poverty, income inequality, and prevent homelessness. HRA serves over three million New Yorkers through the administration of more than 15 major public assistance programs. DHS oversees a broad network of shelters, services, and outreach programs dedicated to helping New Yorkers experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. DSS is central to the City's mission to expand opportunity for more New Yorkers, address income inequality, help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness stabilize their lives, and ensure that vulnerable New Yorkers receive the benefits and assistance for which they may be eligible.