

Transit Assistance Program

Help For Riders Than Need Assistance With Transportation Costs



TriMet Transit Assistance Programs

There are currently three specific programs in place for economically disadvantaged populations.

- Fare Relief Program-
- Fare Assistance Program-
- Honored Citizen Low Income Fare

For more info go to <https://trimet.org/accesstransit/>

Fare Relief Program

- **Fare Relief Program**

- An annual grant program for 501 (c)(3) non profit organizations that serve low income clients
 - Grant funds are provided in the form of free fare
 - Dedicated for services critical to employment, housing and personal stability
 - Should not supplant existing resources dedicated to fare purchases
- To participate in the program and receive a grant:
 - Eligible organizations will be required to enter into an agreement with TriMet and Ride Connection that includes administrative duties
 - Verification of fare recipient low-income status;
 - Intake, processing and fulfillment of orders to qualifying recipients
 - Record keeping and management of fare inventory, including reporting of fare disbursements and assistance with annual audit functions
- Changes for the 2019-2020 grant cycle (application process open now)
 - Paper products will be going away- Replaced with Hop passes
 - 2.5hr. and Day passes still available via disposable single use Hop passes
 - Monthly passes available using a refillable Hop card
 - Approved organizations will need to establish a Fare Relief institutional account with TriMet to order grant fares

Fare Assistance Program

- **Fare Assistance Program**

- A discount program for 501 (c)(3) non profit organizations that serve low income clients enabling the purchase of fare at a discounted rate
 - Similar requirements as Fare Relief
 - Organizations can apply for this at any time. The application is currently not available as it is being updated to incorporate the change from paper fare to Hop fare
- Changes taking effect in 2019 Paper products will be going away- Replaced with Hop passes
 - 2.5hr. and Day passes are still available via disposable single use Hop passes
 - Monthly passes available using a refillable Hop card
 - Approved organizations will need to establish a Fare Assistance institutional account with TriMet to order discounted Hop passes
 - Application is currently on hold until the transition strategy for existing partner organizations is implemented (coming soon)

For more info on the Fare Relief or Fare Assistance programs go to:
<https://trimet.org/accesstransit/>

Honored Citizen- Low Income Fare

- A reduce fare program for individuals earning 200% of less than the Federal Poverty Level
- Launched on July 2nd 2018
- Fundamentally different from Fare Relief and Fare Assistance as the benefit is for the individual- not an organization
- Expands the definition for Honored Citizen to include Oregon residents with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- The reduced-price Honored Citizen rate reduces transit cost up to 72%
 - \$1.25 for single rides (from \$2.50)
 - \$2.50 for Day Passes (from \$5.00)
 - \$28 for Monthly Passes (from \$100)

Low-Income Fare Process

Eligibility Requirements

- Adults age 18-64
- Adjusted gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Oregon Resident
- Government Issued Photo ID

2 Step Eligibility Process

- Individuals must bring proof of eligibility & government-issued Photo ID to a Community Partner Location for eligibility screening
- Eligible individuals will bring their eligibility receipt & government-issued photo ID to the TriMet Ticket Office
 - A mobile photo option is available for hardship cases but currently requires scheduling with TriMet

Honored Citizen Benefits

- **Uses Hop Card technology to provide the reduced fare**
 - Enables “fare capping”- riders only pay for what they use and are assured the best fare possible for the way they ride
 - 2 rides in a day = a day pass
 - If they spend \$28 spent in a calendar month, their card automatically converts to a month pass
 - Any money loaded on their card that is not used carries over to the next month
- **Qualifying riders will receive a Low-Income Fare Honored Citizen Hop Card with Photo ID that serves as verification to ride transit at the reduced rate**
- **Income eligibility lasts for two years and then individuals must re-apply**
- **Important Note: Individuals 65+, on disability, or on Medicare should apply for an Honored Citizen Hop Card separately (5 year eligibility)**

Honored Citizens

- Riders that qualify can ride buses, MAX, WES, Portland Streetcar, and C-TRAN at the reduced Honored Citizen rate



Important Note: C-TRAN Express will have an additional charge that does not count towards fare capping

Questions?