

Measure C Farmworker Subsidies and Reimbursements For new and existing vanpools

Measure "C" funds can subsidize Farmworker Vanpool programs that originate within Fresno County. There are funds available for a variety of vanpool incentives, designed to spark the development of new vanpools and offer financial support and assistance to existing vanpools.

Eligible subsidies and reimbursements for new Farmworker Vanpools:

1. Vanpool start-up costs such as medical exams
2. Driver replacement cost
3. Emergency Ride Home Program
4. Monthly Vouchers issued by an eligible operator

Project descriptions:

1. Medical Exam Expense:

All primary and alternate drivers are required to have medical exams prior to driving. Measure "C" funds will reimburse that expense up to \$50 per driver. A maximum of three (3) drivers (one primary and two alternate) from each new vanpool.

2. Driver Replacement Cost:

Should a primary or alternate driver need to be replaced, the new driver/s may be reimbursed up to \$75 per driver for a medical examination. A maximum of three (3) drivers (one primary and two alternate) from any single vanpool may receive the subsidy.

3. Emergency Ride Home:

This reimbursement covers costs for Emergency Ride Home (ERH) services provided by a vanpool provider to the Vanpool participants. ERH programs offer vanpoolers a free ride to needed destinations in the case of an unforeseen emergency (illness, family crisis, unscheduled overtime). There is a variety of transportation options available to vanpool providers and participants including taxi service, rental cars, company fleet cars and having fellow employees or supervisors take the vanpooler to their desired destination (home, hospital, etc.). It is up to the vanpool provider and their vanpoolers to decide which options will be provided.

4. Monthly Voucher:

Vanpool providers may request funding for voucher programs that they develop and administer. Vouchers allow participants to join, switch or start vanpool groups.

Eligible subsidies and reimbursements for existing Farmworker vanpools:

1. Driver-replacement costs
2. Emergency Ride Home Program

Administrative, planning and implementation services associated with this Category

Implementation Guidelines affecting the Farmworker Vanpool Subprogram

New vanpools applying for subsidies or reimbursements must comply with the following:

- At least six (6) riders and one (1) driver
- Vanpool should operate at least five (5) days per week.
- An ERH provided or arranged by the vanpool provider or signed waivers from all participating vanpool riders/driver that they don't want ERH provided to their vanpool
- Must originate within Fresno County
- A qualifying "new" vanpool is one that is formed but not yet on the road, or a vanpool that has been on the road for less than two (2) months. No new vanpool may receive the subsidies or incentives unless 50 percent of the vanpool's riders have not traveled in a vanpool on a regular basis for a period of six (6) months from the time of application submission to the program
- Participants are required to use an authorized vanpool vendor such as Enterprise Rideshare, VPSI, KART or other agency, or form an employer sponsored vanpool. Owner-Operator vanpools are not eligible to receive these subsidies
- Vanpools may supplement this incentive with other subsidies. Examples include employers, the Air District and Commuter Checks
- The subsidy must be revoked if a vanpool's ridership falls below seven members (including the driver) for more than 4 consecutive months
- If an "offshoot" vanpool is formed from members of a vanpool that previously applied for a subsidy from this program, and the route is essentially the same, the original vanpool must remain viable or the new vanpool will not qualify for the subsidy

Existing vanpools must comply with the following requirements:

- At least six riders and one driver
- Vanpool should operate at least five (5) days a week, unless participants are working fulltime on an alternate work schedule that requires fewer commute days.
- An Emergency Ride Home Program (ERH) provided or arranged by the Vanpool Provider or signed waivers from all participating vanpool riders/driver that they don't want ERH provided to their vanpool
- Must originate within Fresno County
- Participants are required to use an authorized vanpool vendor such as Enterprise Rideshare, VPSI, KART or other agency, or form an employer sponsored vanpool. Owner-Operator vanpools are not eligible to receive these subsidies
- Vanpools may supplement this incentive with other subsidies. Examples include employers, the Air District and Commuter Checks
- The subsidy must be revoked if a vanpool's ridership falls below seven members (including the driver) for more than four (4) consecutive months
- If an "offshoot" vanpool is formed from members of a vanpool that previously applied for a subsidy from this program, and the route is essentially the same, the original vanpool must remain viable or the new vanpool will not qualify for the subsidy