



City of Hamilton Memorandum

To: Chair and Members of Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Date: April 8, 2025

Report No: PW25020

Subject/Title: Correction to Delegation Information on Fare Assist Program Eligibility

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

Information

The purpose of this memo is to clarify information about Fare Assist Program eligibility shared by a Delegate to the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities, item 6.2 at Meeting #25-003 on March 18, 2025.

The Delegate, Brad Evoy, Executive Director of Disability Justice Network of Ontario, presented a request for the endorsement of a community recommendation for a sibling program to the Fare Assist Program that would expand eligibility to those excluded from the Fare Assist Program. The Delegate stated that the Fare Assist Program excludes people receiving benefits or support from the following programs:

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
- Members of service programs

We write to you to clarify that the Fare Assist Program is open to all Hamilton residents with household income below the Statistics Canada Low-Income Measure and that eligibility is based on total household income, *regardless of income source*. This includes individuals and families with employment income, as well as those receiving support payments such as Ontario Works (OW), the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), the Canada Pension Plan disability benefit (CPP Disability), Employment Insurance (EI), or the payments from Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Applicants should refer to line 23600 on their most recent Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada Agency. Recent refugees, newcomers to Canada, and individuals aged 18 or 19 who have not yet filed a tax return may also qualify.

The Fare Assist Program is a Council-approved 36-month pilot program for the period of January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026. The program offers a 30% Fare Assist discount on single-ride PRESTO fares for individuals and their family. The overall goal of the Fare Assist Program is to have one program that is easier to use that offers affordable transit to those in need regardless of age or ability.

In order to improve clarity on Fare Assist Program eligibility, the City of Hamilton's Transit Division has updated the website and other communication materials.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Not applicable.

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