

CHICAGO'S WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE (WAV) INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Effective April 6, 2020

 **City's Accessibility Fund Fully Supports WAV Taxi Dispatch Service:** The City continues to pay for and support the contracted Centralized WAV Taxicab Dispatch Service.

 **Continued Financial Subsidy of WAVs:** The City increased incentives to taxi medallion owners with up to a \$25K subsidy for the conversion costs of a qualifying WAV and up to a \$35K subsidy toward the purchase of a qualifying factory-built WAV. The program continues to incentivize medallion owners to place a WAV taxicab into service versus a non-WAV taxicab. Conversions and purchases before April 6, 2020, still qualify for the previous subsidy of up to \$20K for a conversion and up to \$25K for a factory-built WAV.

 **Voucher Incentive:** The City created the voucher option for eligible WAV taxicab conversion costs and eligible factory-built wheelchair taxicab purchases. Medallion owners, who cannot secure the financing or fund the upfront costs, benefit from the voucher incentive at the above listed subsidy rates.

 **Vehicle Maintenance Incentive:** To support WAV taxicab owners and keep WAV taxicabs on the road longer, WAV taxicab owners are eligible for an increased annual subsidy up to \$9,000 for qualifying vehicle maintenance. WAV maintenance expenses prior to 2020 still qualify for the previous \$8,000 annual subsidy amount.

 **Incentives for Taxicab Drivers demonstrating Accessible Service Commitment:** The City offers reimbursement subsidies to taxicab drivers that pay to lease and drive WAV taxicabs that serve passengers who use wheelchairs. Those taxi drivers who pay to lease and operate WAV taxicabs are eligible to apply for a \$25 subsidy for a 12-hour lease / \$50 subsidy for a 24-hour lease. This subsidy will help offset the fuel costs for WAV taxicabs (minivans), as these vehicles are not fuel efficient and, as a result, have higher fuel costs than hybrid sedans. Lease agreements prior to April 6, 2020, still qualify for the previous \$15 subsidy for a 12-hour lease / \$30 subsidy for a 24-hour lease of a WAV taxicab.

 **Recognizing Exceptional Service:** BACP recognizes 5 WAV taxicab drivers a year for their outstanding service to the community, specifically to people with disabilities. Each Taxicab Driver Excellence Award winner is awarded a free taxicab medallion license with a restriction that it be a WAV taxicab for a minimum of 10 years.



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