



UPCOMING ENROLLMENT DEADLINES:

Next:
Monday, November 18, 2013

Future:
Friday, December 13, 2013
Monday, January 20, 2014



HOW DO I CALCULATE MY VANPOOL COMMUTING COST?



Vanpool participants are required to maintain an accurate certified commuting cost on their Transportation Incentive Program application. Calculating a correct certified commuting cost can be difficult due to the variety of pricing models that are available in the marketplace. The first step to understanding your vanpool commuting cost is to review the vanpool's receipt or other substantiating documentation. Documentation is required to validate the actual commuting cost for participants. Examples of documentation include but are not limited to: an invoice, a receipt, or a vanpool lease. There are two common pricing models that vanpools use to price their vanpool services: 1) individual receipt pricing model and 2) group receipt pricing model.

Individual Receipt Pricing Model

For a participant who receives an individual receipt for one seat in a vanpool, the actual commuting cost for that individual should equal the amount on the invoice or receipt. The participant is eligible for the amount listed on the individual receipt for one seat in the van pool. In this pricing model, illustrated by Table 1, the cost of riding in this van pool does not change based on the number of riders.

Table 1 - Individual Receipt

	Description	Formula	Value
A	Cost of one seat in a van pool:		\$125.00
B	Number of seats:		7
C	Number of riders:		N/A
D	Certified commuting cost:	= A	\$125.00

Group Receipt Pricing Model

For participants in a vanpool that receives one invoice or receipt for the entire vanpool, the actual commuting cost for each individual should equal the total amount of the invoice or receipt divided by the number of seats in the vehicle (determined by the vanpool company), regardless of whether those seats are currently occupied by a rider. Transit benefits cannot be used to offset the cost of empty seats in a vanpool. In the pricing model, illustrated in Table 2, the participant is eligible for a certified commuting cost of \$150.00. The riders in the van would be responsible to pay out-of-pocket for the empty seat.

Table 2 – Group Receipt Pricing Model, Where Number of Riders Is Less Than the Number of Seats¹

	Description	Formula	Value
A	Cost of leasing vehicle:		\$700.00
B	Estimated gas costs:		\$350.00
C	Local transit subsidy:		\$0.00
D	Total cost of van pool:	= A+B-C	\$1,050.00
E	Number of seats:		7
F	Number of riders:		6
G	Certified commuting cost:	= D/E	\$150.00

¹ This pricing model is also applicable when the number of riders equals the number of seats.

For participants in a vanpool that receives one invoice or receipt for the entire vanpool and whose vanpool has more riders than the number of seats available, the actual commuting cost for each individual should equal the total amount of the invoice or receipt divided by the number of riders. In this pricing model, illustrated by Table 3, the participant is eligible for a certified commuting cost of \$100.00.

Table 3 - Group Receipt Pricing Model, Where Number of Riders Is More Than the Number of Seats

	Description	Formula	Value
A	Cost of leasing vehicle:		\$1,400.00
B	Estimated gas costs:		\$500.00
C	Local transit subsidy:		\$400.00
D	Total cost of van pool:	= A+B-C	\$1,500.00
E	Number of seats:		12
F	Number of riders:		15
G	Certified commuting cost:	= D/F	\$100.00

For participants in a vanpool that issues an invoice or receipt based on a ridership sliding scale, the actual commuting cost for that individual should be equal to the cost of one seat according to the sliding scale, when the vanpool has no empty seats. Transit benefits cannot be used to offset the cost of empty seats in a van pool. In this pricing model, illustrated by Table 4, the participant is eligible for a certified commuting cost of \$150.00. The riders in the van would be responsible to pay out-of-pocket for the empty seats.

Table 4 - Sliding Scale Pricing Model

	Description	Formula	Value
A	Price per person with 5 riders:		\$210.00
B	Price per person with 6 riders:		\$175.00
C	Price per person with 7 riders:		\$150.00
D	Number of seats:		7
E	Number of riders:		5
F	Certified commuting cost:	= C	\$150.00

Participants and reviewing official should regularly review the vanpool supporting documentation to ensure that an accurate certified commuting cost is recorded in the Transportation Incentive Program System.

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