

Fare Programs Jurisdictional Scan Summary: Transit Fare Programs

Methodology

Online research was conducted of fare programs in North America that supported non profit organizations with low income clients. Research was not limited to programs that offered free fare product. The research found 18 transit agencies had programs that offered fare at a reduced rate or at no cost to non-profit organizations.

Key Findings

- No program offers exclusively free product; however, most jurisdictions offer non-profit agencies discounts on fare product.
 - Jurisdictions offer a variety of fare products to suit their client needs.
 - Most jurisdictions have formal grant programs.
 - Agencies are required to sign a funding agreement.
 - Agencies must comply with the administrative and reporting requirements.
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Research Summary

1. Fare Product

Each of the 18 jurisdictions offer a variety of fare products for nonprofits to purchase at a discounted rate and limit the amount of free product; the average discount is 50 per cent off regular price. No jurisdiction offered exclusively free product.

2. Grant Program

Every fare program is a formal grant program. To be approved for fare product, agencies must:

- apply within a certain timeframe;
- meet specific criteria;
- comply with mandated reporting requirements;
- have dedicated administrative capacity to run the program; and

- sign a funding agreement.

Most jurisdictions offer grants valued at \$5,000 - \$20,000, per agency. In 2021, 10 Edmonton agencies participating in Donate a Ride and/or PATH agencies received over \$5,000; 10 agencies received over \$20,000; and two agencies received over \$100,000.

3. Reporting and Administrative Requirements

Most jurisdictions require minimum reporting and administrative requirements.

- Reporting requirements generally include submitting record logs of distributed tickets, with information about the number of monthly passes distributed and the primary reason needed for a transit ticket.
- Administrative requirements generally include designating resources to administer the program and agreement to submit records.

Researched Agencies/Jurisdictions

- United States: Portland, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Charlotte, Clallam, Spokane, Olympia, Miami, Phoenix, Lane (OR), Denver, Skagit (WA)
- Canada: BC Transit, Halifax, Regina, Fredericton
(Limited scan because other agencies did not offer similar programs)