

# VanAid Empty Seat Subsidies

VanAid offers temporary financial aid to cover the cost of empty seats in vanpools that travel to worksites in Somerset County.

<i>Eligibility</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Is the vanpool registered with RideWise?	Go to next question	Vans have <i>30 days from their original start-up date</i> to register by filling out the attached registration. Vans that fail to register are not eligible for aid.
Is the vanpools final destination a worksite in Somerset County?	Go to next question	Sorry – the van is not eligible for assistance from RideWise.
Has the vanpool been in existence for a minimum of 90 days?	Go to next question	Vans must be operating for 90-days prior to receiving an empty seat subsidy from RideWise.
Is the van leased from VPSI or VPNJ?	Go to next question	Sorry – the van is not eligible.
Have new passengers been actively recruited? <i>(Please include flyers, ads and other notices with the application)</i>	Go to next question	There must be evidence of aggressive recruiting. RideWise can help by posting a website notice and checking the rideshare database for potential new passengers.
Have 30 days or more passed since passenger(s) left the van?	Go to next question	You may apply after 30 days provided you meet the eligibility criteria.
Has the group downsized to a smaller van?	Submit application	Funding is not available to vanpools that refuse to downsize.

Vanpools may submit an application only after meeting all the eligibility criteria listed above. Complete the attached application form and fax to (908) 704-1494. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or processed. For questions or assistance, contact RideWise at (908) 704-1011.

## Funding

First month - maximum of 2 empty seats funded

Second month - maximum of 1 empty seat funded

Third month - maximum of 1 empty seat funded

## Restrictions

- Vans may apply for empty seat funding once every 12 months
- Funding is provided at the discretion of RideWise
- Subsidies will be paid directly to the third-party vanpool provider
- Vans must submit an updated subsidy application *for each month* a subsidy is requested
- Passenger information that cannot be verified will result in a funding delay or refusal of funds
- Funding will not be granted to vanpools that refuse potential passengers for empty seats
- Vanpools that terminate their lease within 90 days of receiving an empty seat subsidy must repay all funds to RideWise