







Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)


CHICAGO'S WAV TAXICAB INCENTIVE PROGRAM:


 **City's WAV Fund Supplements Dispatch Service:** Centralized WAV Taxicab Dispatch is now being fully supported by the Accessibility Fund. As a result, WAV medallion owners will no longer be charged a monthly fee for the Centralized WAV Taxicab Dispatch Service. The Centralized WAV Taxicab Dispatch Service is managed and operated by Open Taxis (www.opentaxis.com). Anyone needing a WAV taxicab in Chicago can call Open Taxis (**1-855-WAV-1010**) or request a WAV taxicab via the Open Taxis App.


 **Continued Financial Subsidy of WAVs:** The City has been offering medallion owners a \$15K subsidy for the conversion costs of a WAV and a \$20K subsidy toward the purchase of a factory built WAV. The program continues to incentivize medallion owners to place a WAV taxicab into service versus a non-WAV taxicab.

 **Supporting Mandated WAVs:** Amendments to the Taxicab Medallion License Holder Rules opened up the above listed subsidy to medallion owners mandated to place WAV taxicabs into service and to Taxicab Driver Excellence Award Winners required to place WAV taxicabs into service.

 **"Early Bird" Financial Incentives:** During 2016, the City will provide an additional \$10K "early bird" incentive to taxicab owners mandated to add WAV taxicabs by January 1, 2018. WAV taxicabs that come online by December 1, 2016, instead of January 1, 2018 will be eligible for an extra \$10K early bird incentive.

 **Voucher Incentive:** The City is exploring expanding the current reimbursement program for WAV taxicab conversion costs and factory-built wheelchair taxicab purchases to include a voucher option. Medallion owners, who cannot secure the financing or fund the upfront costs, will benefit from the voucher incentive.

 **Vehicle Maintenance Incentive:** To support WAV taxicab owners and keep WAV taxicabs on the road longer, WAV taxicab owners will be eligible for an annual subsidy up to \$5,000 for vehicle maintenance.

 **Incentives for Taxicab Drivers demonstrating Accessible Service Commitment:** The City is exploring offering reimbursement credits or subsidies to taxicab drivers that lease and drive WAV taxicabs that serve passengers who use wheelchairs. These credits will help offset their fuel costs for WAV taxicabs (minivans), as these vehicles are not fuel efficient and, as a result, cost more to fuel than the hybrid sedans.