

Bellevue ORCA Business Passport Rebate

Reinstated as of May 2022

Providing an ORCA Passport transit and vanpool subsidy is a key way to support non-drive-alone commuting by your employees or at your building. Choose Your Way Bellevue is currently offering rebates (while funding lasts) to employers and property managers with 5-499 employees that start new ORCA Passport programs, for passes provided to employees at Bellevue worksites or residential buildings.

Rebate Amounts and Key Parameters*:

Employers—ORCA Business Passport

- Rebate of \$50 per pass in the first year, \$100 per pass in the second year
- Up to 100 passes per company are eligible for the rebate

Commercial Property Managers

- Rebate of 20% off the cost of each ORCA Passport pass
- Up to 100 passes per building or worksite are eligible for the rebate
- For a building to be eligible, ≥75% of employees in the building must not be eligible currently for a transit pass subsidized 50% or more by their employer
- Applicable at multiple-tenant buildings only (single-tenant buildings should use the employer rebate option, described above, if eligible)
- Rebate of 20% off cost of each ORCA Passport pass
- Up to 100 passes per building are eligible for the rebate

Residential Property Managers

- Rebate of 20% off the cost of each ORCA Passport pass
- Up to 100 passes per building or worksite are eligible for the rebate

*Other parameters and restrictions apply; contact info@cywb.org for details.

What is ORCA Business Passport?

ORCA Business Passport is a discounted, comprehensive annual transportation pass program for employers with a minimum of five employees.

How does ORCA Business Passport work (for businesses with 5-499 employees)?

The premise is simple: Put ORCA cards in the hands of all your employees or your tenants' employees, and then pay based on average usage in your area (or in the case of a customized program, based on usage at your worksite). It rounds out to a highly discounted product as compared to the retail price (currently \$1,404 per year for Sound Transit Express Bus or \$1,836 per year for ST Express from Snohomish County, typical fares needed for Bellevue commute programs).

The caveat: You must purchase a pass for each of your employees, or for each of the workers in your building if you are a property manager (you determine whether both full- and part-time employees are



included, or just full-time employees). Participating residential property managers must purchase a pass for each residential unit in their building. With ORCA Passport, employers and property managers may charge each ORCA card holder a co-pay of up to 50 percent of the annual cost of their pass to recoup some of the expense. If that sounds confusing – email us at info@cywb.org! We're here to help.

Business benefits include:

- Comprehensive annual transportation pass program within a single card
- Reduced administrative costs - the Passport annual program does not require monthly online administration or knowledge of what type of passes employees need
- Annual payments and no monthly loading of cards
- Management of employee cards online
- Equitable transportation benefits to all employees
- Pre-tax benefit options allowed for the employee copay

Employee benefits include (at a minimum):

- **Unlimited** rides on ALL regular bus routes for these agencies: King County Metro, Sound Transit, Community Transit, Kitsap transit, Pierce Transit and Everett Transit
- **Unlimited** rides on regional rail including: Sounder Commuter Train, Seattle Streetcar and Link Light Rail
- **Unlimited** rides on the Water Taxi (Downtown Seattle to West Seattle and Vashon Island) and Kitsap Fast Ferry (Downtown Seattle to Southworth, Bremerton and Kingston)
- **Fully subsidized Vanpool/Vanshare:** 100% subsidy on [Vanpool and Vanshare](#).
- **Home Free Guarantee:** Each pass holder is eligible for up to eight free taxi rides home from work in case of an emergency.

Ultimately it comes down to providing a valuable benefit for your employees and giving them an opportunity to choose how they travel to work. Choose Your Way Bellevue staff provides free consultations to all employers in Bellevue. If you want to discuss which program would work best for your employees, learn about transportation options, or are ready to develop a transportation program for your company, please contact info@cywb.org today for your free consultation.

Choose Your Way Bellevue

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