

California Commuter Programs

The Definition

The Commute Programs provide bicycle, transit, and vanpool incentives to all eligible state employees. The state, as the employer, may establish and implement procedures and eligibility criteria for the administration of the benefits in the Commute Programs, including required receipts and certification of expenses.

What is the Bicycle Commuter Program?

Effective May 1, 2018, any active state employee whose salary is paid directly by the State of California is eligible to participate in this program. Employee participation in the program is voluntary.

The Bicycle Commuter Program is a taxable benefit administered by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). This benefit is voluntarily provided by the State of California and encourages active state employees to consider bicycle commuting as a means of active transportation to and from their residences and places of employment.

What is the Mass Transit and Vanpool Commute Program?

Mass Transit

Employees working in areas served by mass transit, including rail, bus, or other commercial transportation licensed for public conveyance shall be eligible for:

- 75% discount on public transit passes sold by state agencies up to a maximum of \$65 per month

Employees who purchase public transit passes on their own are eligible for:

- 75% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$65 per month.

Vanpools

A vanpool is defined as a group of seven or more people who commute together in a vehicle. Employees riding in vanpools shall be eligible for:

- 75% reimbursement of the monthly fee up to a maximum of \$65 per month

In lieu of the vanpool rider reimbursement, the state shall provide \$100 per month to each state employee who:

- Is the primary vanpool driver
- Meets the eligibility criteria
- Complies with program procedures as developed by the state for primary vanpool drivers.