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NYC
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Mayor



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

**FAIR
FARES** NYC

April 30, 2025

Advocacy Groups Petition for Fair Fares

In 2016, the **Riders Alliance** began an aggressive campaign in partnership with the **Community Service Society** to garner support from over 70 organizations. These organizations worked together to collect signed petitions and letters, attend meetings, host rallies, and convene with the mayor. Their groundbreaking research led to the Fair Fares proposal.

<https://youtu.be/J8oN0Z0Htp0>



Note:

Three other municipalities have reduced fare transit programs including King County (Seattle), San Francisco (California), and Portland (Oregon).



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Fair Fares Funding Approval

- For more than 300,000 working poor New Yorkers, transit expenses often exceed 10 percent of their family budgets, limiting their ability to access jobs and forcing them to forgo other necessities.
- In June 2018, Mayor de Blasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson decided on a budget that included full funding for Fair Fares in FY'19.
- Fair Fares will make our City more affordable and equal, by ensuring that low-income New Yorkers have access to mass transportation.



Current Eligibility Requirements

Between the ages of
18 – 64

Resident of New York
City

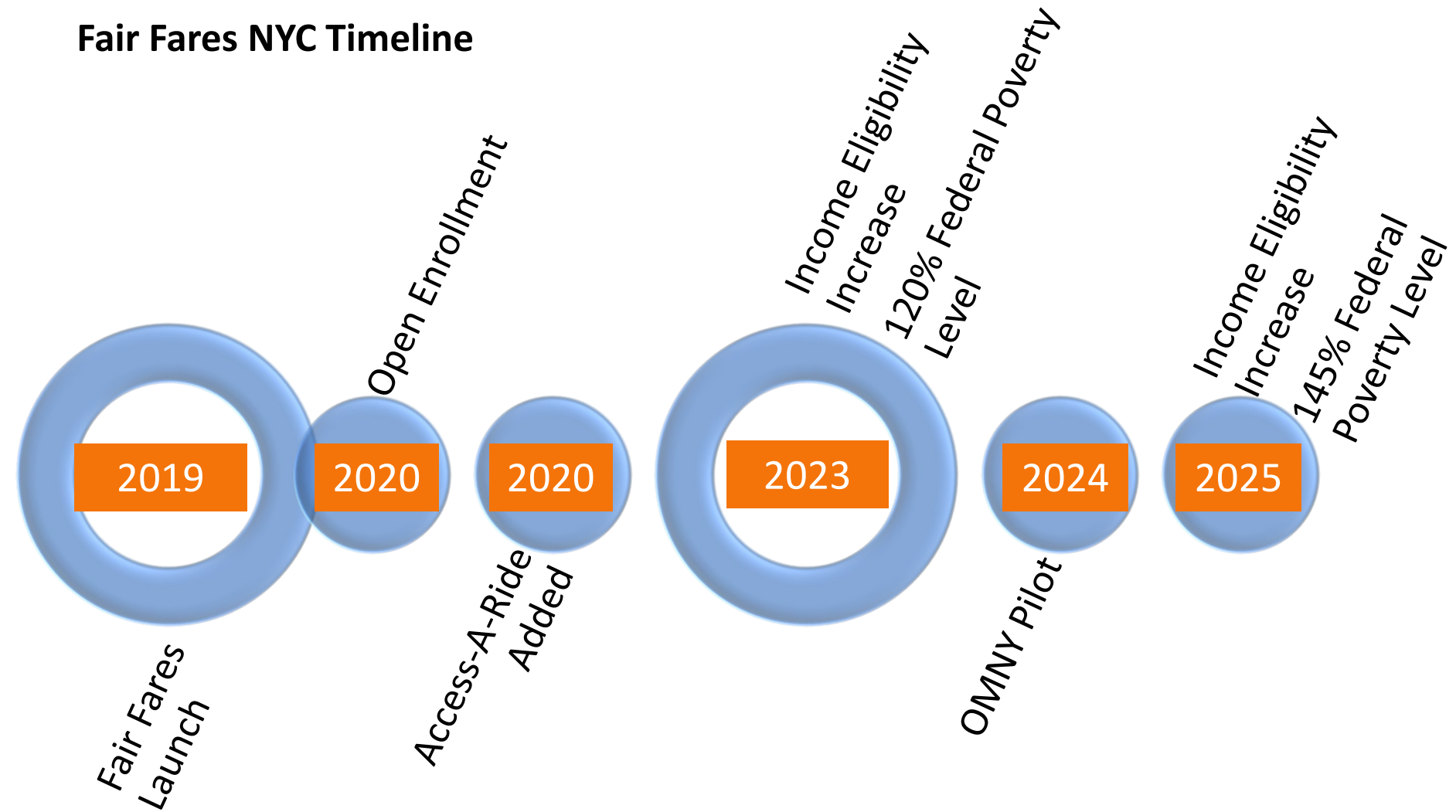
At or below 145% of
the Federal Poverty
Level (FPL)

Not receiving a transit
benefit from HRA or
participating in an
MTA discount program

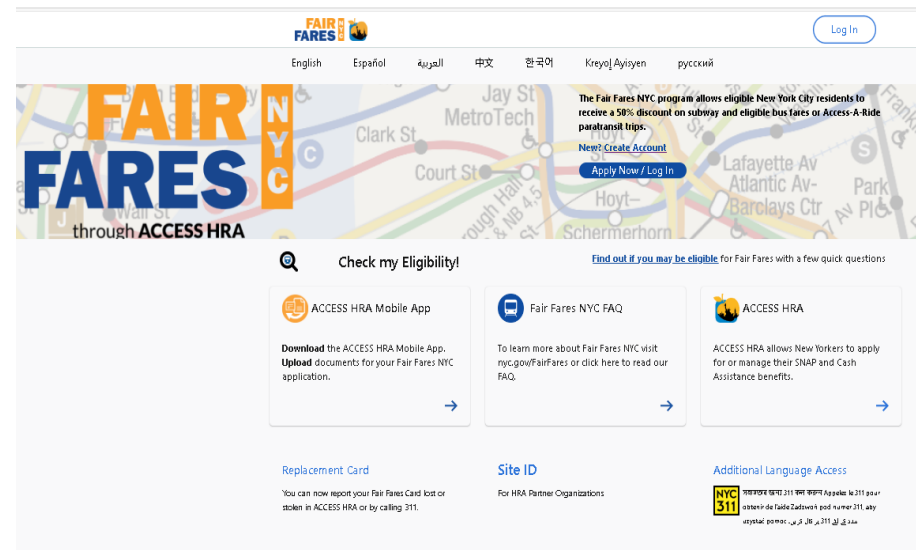
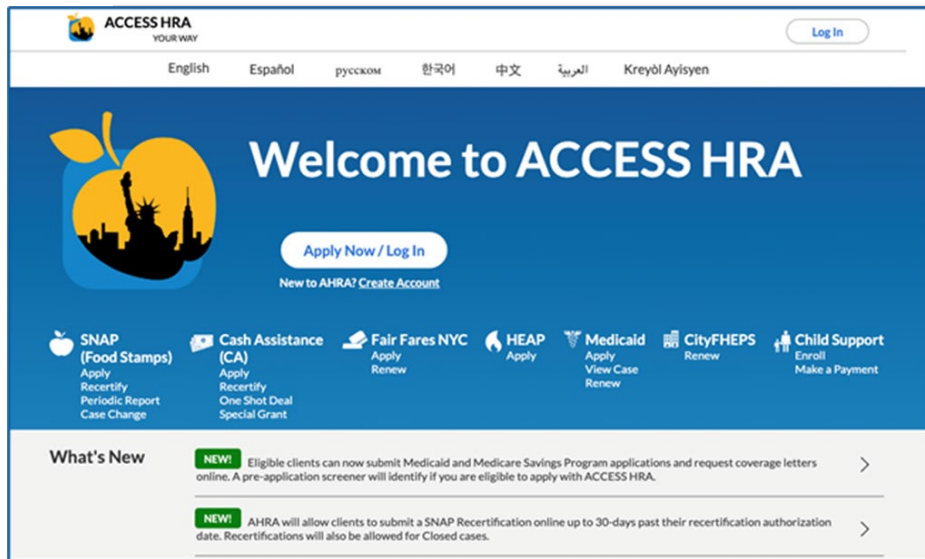


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Fair Fares NYC Timeline



How To Apply:

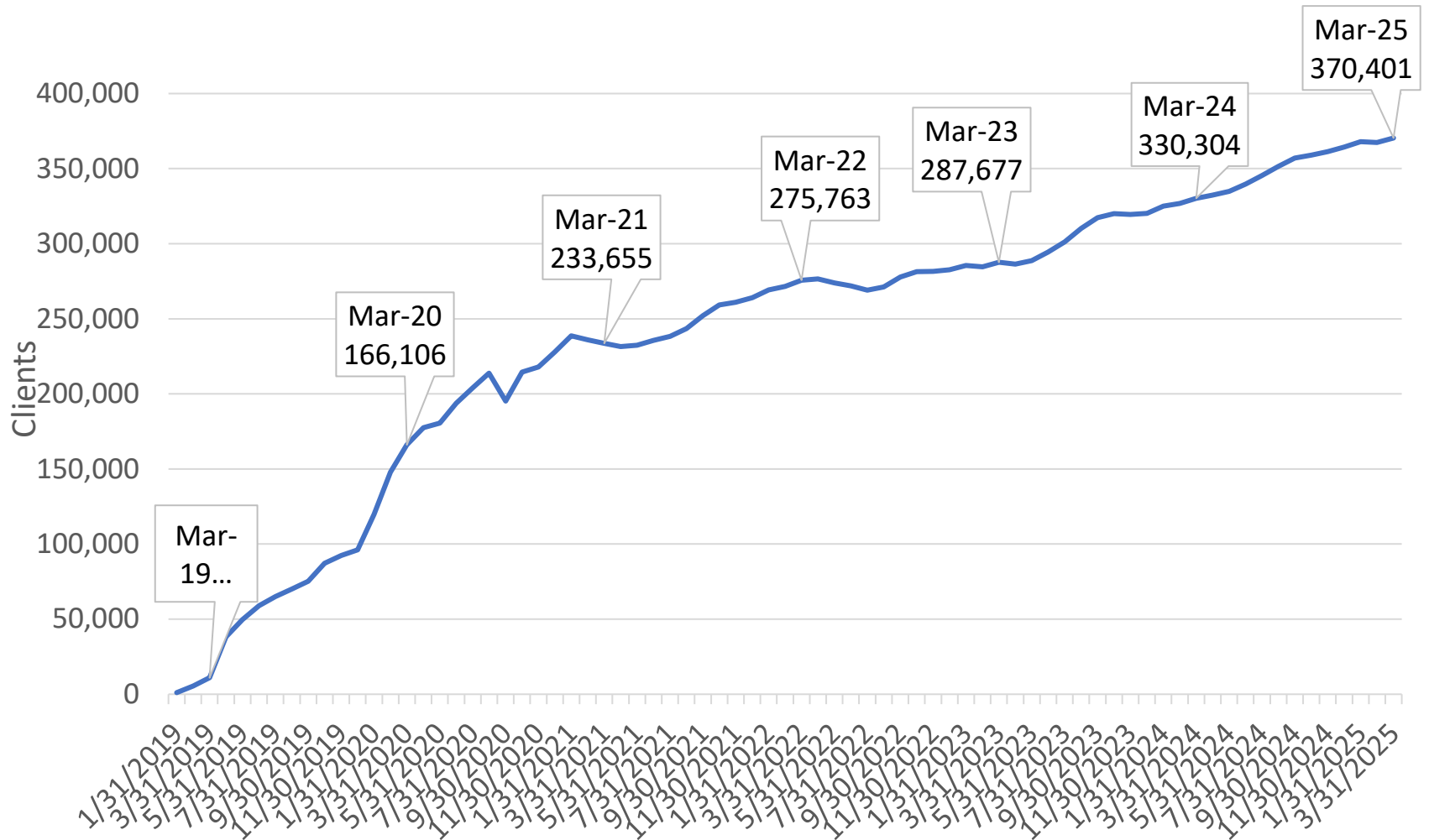


[NYC Fair Fares: How To Apply – YouTube](#)

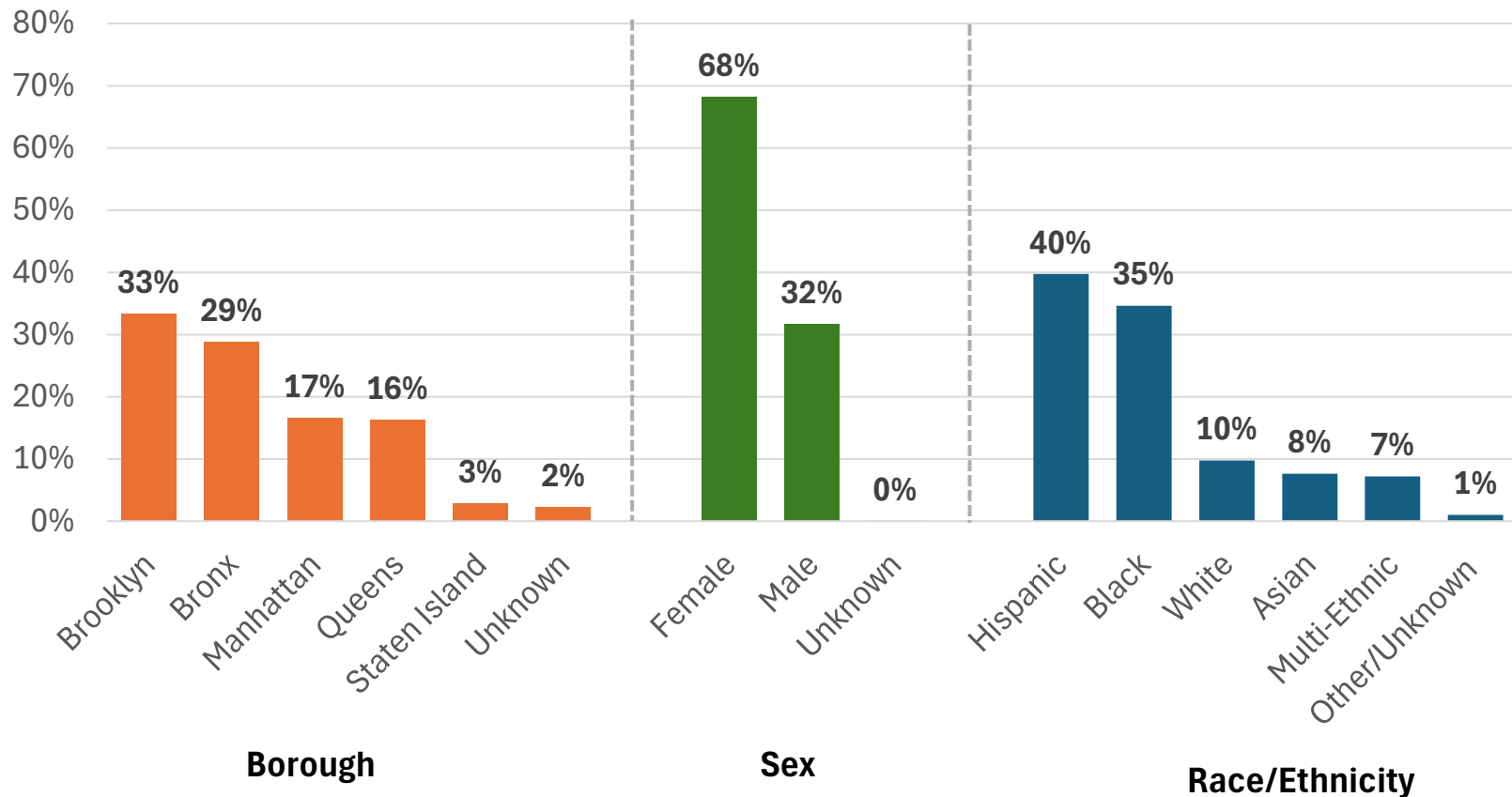


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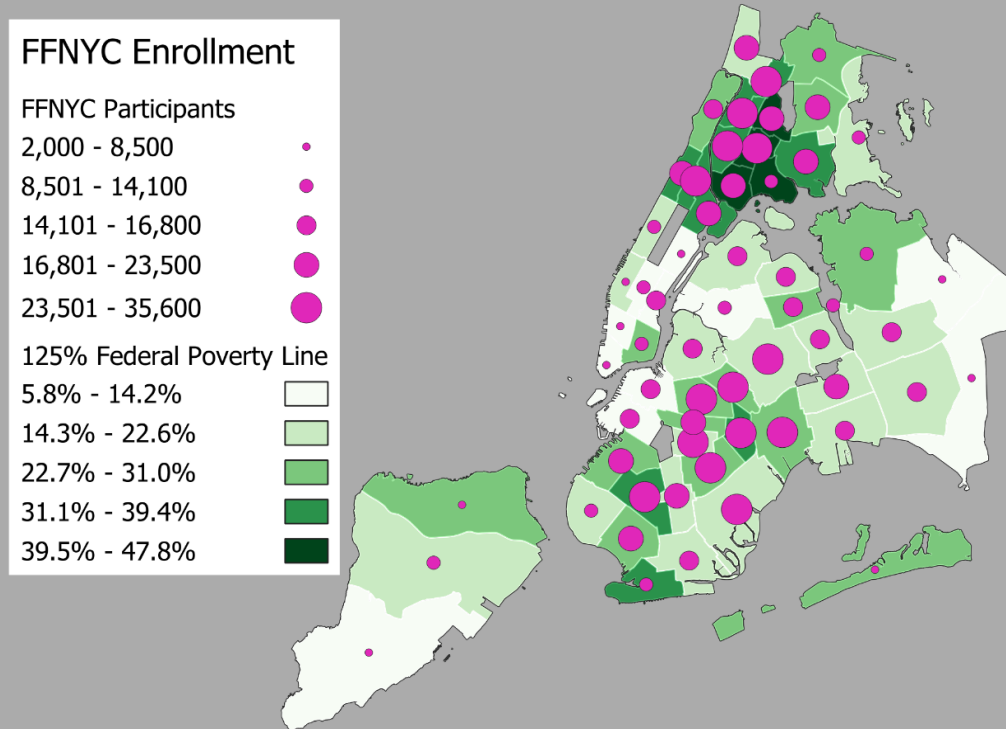
Fair Fares Enrollment



Demographic Breakdown of Fast Track Enrollees



Neighborhood and Income Level Breakdown



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Applicant & Participant Surveys

As a result of using a Fair Fares discount, I expect I will be / I was...	Strongly Agree		Agree	
	Applicant % (n=7,659)	Renewer % (n=150)	Applicant % (n=7,659)	Renewer % (n=150)
Less stressed about my financial situation.	62.8%	61.1%	29.7%	31.9%
Able to travel further away from home to get to work, school, or look for a job.	59.9%	67.4%	27.7%	30.5%
Able to visit more with family and friends.	57.8%	51.4%	32.5%	43.6%
Able to take more advantage of NYC's cultural or recreational activities / events.	55.6%	50.4%	33.8%	45.1%
Able to save time on traveling.	51.0%	53.6%	30.6%	37.0%



FFNYC Applicants' Responses

"Quería tomar un curso de inglés hace mucho tiempo, pero pagar los pasajes me salía muy caro. Al tener esta tarjeta podré ir todos los días a clases."

"[Fair Fares] has minimized the financial burden of every travel mainly for work which I have no other way to get there. I've made it to work every shift."

Work wise I can pick up more hours and travel to different locations

"[Fair Fares] definitely assists financially and addresses my disability and mobility challenges. Thank you for that!"

[With Fair Fares] I would be able to get my children to school everyday and not have a ACS case again

I am currently looking for work and the program will allow me to be able to search for work beyond walking distance. It will also allow me to be able to visit my mother who is across town in a long-term care facility

"I am entirely grateful to use this program. As a single mom its heartbreaking having to choose between transportation or lunch at work."

❖ *"I wanted to take English classes a while back but paying for the fare was too expensive. Having this card will allow me to go to class everyday."



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FFNYC Renewers' Responses

**Me ayudo bastante porque tengo hijos pequeños q dejar en la escuela y daycare y después para ir al trabajo me ayuda mucho esta metro car ya que yo soy una persona que ocupa los 6 días buses y trenes

It makes me feel valued as a lifelong New Yorker

*Gracias a este servicio. no he tenido que caminar mucho para el trabajo. Ya que algunas veces he tenido que caminar por falta de una MetroCard. por que no me alcanzaba el dinero para comprarme una de \$32 semanal

It has helped me commute further than expected

It's a great program and helps my single mother home to save money weekly

It definitely comes in handy when paying less, as in NY today everything is too expensive. Its Hard to pay rent, bills etc. On these types of income. So Thank you for giving me one less thing to worry about

"Thanks to this service. I have not had to walk much to get to work. Since sometimes I have had to walk for lack of a metro card. Because I could not afford the money to buy a \$32 weekly [card]."

**** "It helps me a lot because I have small children that I leave at school and daycare and then go to work this metro car helps me a lot since I am a person who uses buses and trains 6 days a week."**



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OMNY Pilot Responses

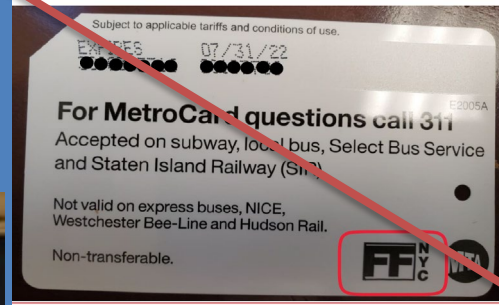
“It took 10-15 minutes to set up my account. I got a lot of support from staff. Having the handout was really helpful. They took all the time I needed, patted me on the back and sent me on my way.”

One client remarked OMNY is “way easier than a MetroCard, [I’ve] never had a problem. Maybe once it came up red and I had to tap again, but MetroCards are finicky.”

“For me, having a physical disability, not having to mess with cash, not having a right arm, it’s much easier to tap than swipe. Even the MetroCard swipe slot is on the right side, so it’s hard.”

End of MetroCard

As of February 15, 2025, FFRNYC has transitioned to the One Metro New York (OMNY) payment system and is no longer issuing Fair Fares MetroCard.



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**THANK
YOU**



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