

RIDESHARE



Why Vanpool?

- May reduce maintenance and insurance costs for each member's own vehicle.
- Shared cost of gas.
- IRS commuter subsidies are available for qualified vanpools. Ask your tax professional about the Transportation (Commuting) Benefits in IRS Publication 15-B.
- In some vanpools drivers receive free or discounted trips.
- Enhance corporate image with green commuting options.
- Reduce need to provide parking.
- Provide a higher return on overall emission reduction.
- Increase employee retention and attract new employees.
- Increase productivity: employees in vanpools are less tired and less stressed.
- Employees are more likely to arrive on time and use fewer sick days.

Vanpool Examples

Although other rideshare programs may be available, Enterprise is one provider operating in South Central Louisiana. Their online promotional materials give a very good explanation of how vanpools can be set up. For more information, visit their website <https://www.commutewithenterprise.com/>. Enterprise also offers a short video on their Rideshare program: <https://vimeo.com/222224562>.

Don't forget to check out the Transportation (Commuting) Benefits in IRS TAX PUBLICATION 15-b. You and/or your employer might be eligible when you participate in a qualified vanpool program!

VANPOOL PROGRAMS

Vanpooling is a simple, sustainable, and cost effective method of commuting to work. A vanpool consists of 6 to 14 passengers plus a driver who commute together on a regular basis. Vanpool programs vary, but the basic types include those in which the vans are leased, company-owned, or member-owned and operated.

Many vanpool programs lease a van through a third party vendor, which provides insurance coverage, maintenance program, and 24-hour roadside assistance. Some options might include provision of a fuel card. The third party vendor will also help to establish the vanpool itself, provide marketing materials, and help fill vacant seats whenever necessary. For employee-based vanpools, some providers help to calculate monthly passenger fees so everyone knows what they pay.

Items to Consider in Creating a Vanpool

- Select a designated and appropriately licensed driver and back-up drivers.
- Many vanpool operations require drivers to complete a defensive driving course.
- Be sure to have all of the correct insurance coverage for the vanpool.
- One member of the vanpool is the designated "record or book keeper." The job is to collect the passenger fees and keep a log on who has paid and provision of payments to the vanpool owner.
- Consider WiFi-equipped vans and other amenities to attract and retain riders.
- Most vanpool and carpool programs include a Guaranteed Ride Home program.
- Look for other interested co-workers on your company's social media website, postings in a breakroom or through your HR office.
- Find out if your company can offer preferred parking at the workplace for vanpools/carpools.

For more information and assistance, contact

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