

Common Questions and Answers about ORCA Business Accounts

1) What is an ORCA Business Account?

A Business Account is established with either an online or a written agreement between a business and a transportation agency (or agencies) for purchasing ORCA cards for employees, students and/or human services clients.

2) How does the ORCA card work

Unlike magnetic strip cards, such as credit cards, the ORCA Card uses smart card technology to automatically account for different fares and transfers. The fare for any ride is automatically confirmed or deducted when the rider taps their card to the ORCA logo on the card reader on a bus or at the readers at train stations or ferry terminals.

3) What ORCA business products can my company purchase for employees?

ORCA business products are grouped into two major programs: **Business Choice**, similar to the monthly retail Puget Passes or commuter vouchers, or **Business Passport**, similar to the current FlexPass program. ORCA Business Accounts are easy to manage since the Cards can be distributed just once, then reloaded each month via the website.

4) What other business options are available?

- **Electronic vouchers** (E-vouchers) allow a business to provide a transportation subsidy to as many employees as it chooses. The employee/cardholder can then decide how to 'spend' the subsidy – by applying the value and buying a monthly pass or by converting the subsidy to an E-purse and spending it as needed. E-vouchers are available only through a business account. Unredeemed E-vouchers will be credited back to the business after 30 days.
- **E-purse** stands for electronic purse and provides businesses with another means to store value on an ORCA card. The employee can use the value stored in the E-purse to pay for travel on a per-trip basis or to apply to the purchase of a monthly pass. Employees can add personal funds to the E-purse on their company-provided ORCA card.

5) Can our business provide a vanpool subsidy using ORCA?

Yes, although at roll-out of the new system, a vanpool subsidy may continue to be handled outside the ORCA system. In the case of the ORCA Business Passport, the vanpool subsidy would be handled like the FlexPass is now, through the serial number of the ORCA Card. With ORCA Business Choice, vanpool specific passes can be purchased for Metro vanpools.

6) How does our company offer Washington State Ferries passage for employees?

Washington State Ferries' monthly pass may be added to any ORCA Business Account card, either alone or coupled with any other transportation product.

If your company adds value to the ORCA card as an E-voucher or E-purse, your employees can pay for ferry travel on a per-trip basis.

7) What about employee privacy?

No personal information will be stored on an employee's Business ORCA Card. However, an employee may elect to register his or her card so that a lost or stolen card can be more easily replaced. The agencies have planned for multiple layers of system security, which include data encryption for all communications systems, the use of Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) for access to customer data and controlled employee access to all data. Additionally, Washington State laws protect a customer's personal and 'travel use data' from public disclosure.