

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Sponsored by the HUCTW Joint Housing and Transportation Committee
May 2009

Home buying seminars

Did you know that Harvard Real Estate Services (HRES) offers home buying seminars throughout the year to all Harvard employees? Aside from in-person seminars, HRES is also now offering webinars, which allows you the convenience of participating in a seminar from your desk. During the seminar HRES will provide information on the entire home buying process including how to obtain a copy of your credit report, how to determine how much you can afford to pay, understanding the different types of agencies, the new \$8,000 tax benefit, the various mortgage options and what happens at the closing. Please go to <http://www.facultyrealestate.harvard.edu/seminars.htm> for a complete list of seminar and webinar dates and registration information.

Transportation Fund Award Summary

This January, the transportation fund distributed 125 awards to HUCTW members with high commuting costs. The fund reimbursed 12.1% of the semi-annual commuting costs of applicants, with the awards averaging \$115.

The transportation fund reimburses a portion of commuting expenses which are greater than \$100 a month. For information about the fund, application forms and description of the supporting documentation required, please visit www.huctw.org/transportation. The next deadline for the transportation fund is **July 15th** for costs incurred between January 1 and June 30.



Important information for commuters

Harvard University's *CommuterChoice* Program recently unveiled a new commuting program option for faculty and staff:

As of March 24, 2009, *CommuterChoice* offers pre-tax savings (up to 35%) on the purchase of Private Transit products! Available products include passes and vouchers on private bus and rail lines coming into Boston as well as those within cities such as Lowell and Worcester.

Note: Pre-tax savings for private transit as of April 2009 is \$230/month. (From Jan.-March the pre-tax savings was \$120/month.)



The Joint Housing and Transportation Committee

The Harvard University-HUCTW Housing and Transportation Joint Union and Management Committee is committed to exploring creative ways to address the economic pressures associated with housing and transportation for HUCTW members. Specifically, Harvard University and HUCTW jointly share the goal of establishing and administering meaningful programs aimed at assisting employees with their housing and commuting arrangements. If you have any questions about the committee or suggestions for programs or ideas that the committee should pursue, please contact Kasia Razynska (kasia.raz@huctw.org) or Lynn Wang DeLacey (lynnwang.delacey@huctw.org).