Transportation Voucher Program Basics

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Transportation Work Group and Grantees
Lack of Transportation Is the King Kong of Barriers

Limits all aspects of life:

- Work
- Shopping
- Health care
- Visiting friends and family
- Recreation
- And more
The NEED for Public Transportation

- The New Economic Engine
  - Michigan Land Use Institute, 2001

- “We reiterate our support for public transit in southeast Michigan. An effective regional transit system is important in connecting workers with jobs . . .”
  - General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler, 2001
Public Transportation?

What do you see?
Transportation Vouchers – a Proven Option

Buses don’t work for everyone.

Vouchers – a low cost, low maintenance option. Not just buying buses and paying drivers.
What Is a Transportation Voucher Program?

Riders receive
- a “checkbook” and
- a number of miles

The sponsoring agency
- trains riders and drivers
- works out payment rates
- reimburses the drivers

Riders use vouchers to get rides
SAMPLE VOUCHER

Site Name
Site Street Address
City, State, Zip
Site phone number

Pay to
the order of G. W. Timmons

Date: June 10, 2006
120 miles

Number of one-way rides: 2

For (circle one): WORK MEDICAL SOCIAL/RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHOPPING

SUBMIT FOR PAYMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS

John Q. Participant
Signature
Data from Michigan Pilots

From October 06 to July 07

435 riders  263 drivers
10,197 trips  266,483 miles

Used for

24% Social/leisure  22% Employment
30% Errand/shopping  2% Education
20% Medical  2% Civic Involvement

Per Grantee reports, August, 2007
Why Use a Voucher Program?

Benefits to
- Riders
- Agencies
- Drivers
- Business
- Community
Choice and Self-determination

✓ Where to go
✓ How and who with
✓ When – day, evening, weekend
Success Story

Cheryl got her driver’s license
Rider Quality of Life
It’s All About People!

- Family and friends
- Make new friends
- Being part of the community
Why Vouchers?
Benefits for Agencies

- Promote cost-sharing
- Increase cost-effectiveness
- Better services for their people

Without supplanting
Why Vouchers?
Benefits for Drivers

- Opportunity to contribute to the community
- Reimburses costs, like gas
- Companionship
Why Vouchers? Economic Benefits

Spend money or make money

✓ More customers for businesses
✓ People can find jobs, pay taxes
✓ Education for a more skilled workforce
✓ Cost-effective way of expanding transportation options
Typical Community Partners

**Human Services**
- Mental Health agency
- Senior Center
- Community Action Agency
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Michigan Works
- United Way
- Human Services Collaborative Body

**Provide Rides**
- Transit agency
- Taxis
- Volunteer programs

**Advocates**
- RICC (Regional Interagency Consumer Committee)
- The Arc
- Disability Network (CIL)
- Riders

**Community**
- Businesses
- Colleges
- Community colleges
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Health care providers
For More Information

Contact Glenn Ashley
UCP Michigan
4970 Northwind Dr, Suite 102
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-203-1200
ashley@ucpmichigan.org

www.TransportationAllies.net