

Senior Transportation Program

Description

This program supports operating expenses for new transportation services for adults 60 years of age and older. The overall objective is to increase the quality and quantity of coordinated transportation services available for older adults.

Eligible Recipients

There are two categories of eligible recipients:

- **Private non-profit organizations.** A non-profit organization is a corporation or association determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be an organization described by 26 U.S.C. 501(c), which is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(a), or one which has been determined under state law to be non-profit and for which the designated state agency has received documentation certifying the status of the non-profit organization; and
- **Operators of public transportation services.** Private operators of public transportation services can also partner with an eligible recipient.

Eligible Expenses

To expand transportation options for older adults, DRPT encourages projects that will utilize and build upon existing transportation providers and current staffing structures, with emphasis on the following priorities:

- Supporting new voucher programs for transportation services for older adults – The Senior Transportation Program can provide vouchers to older adults to purchase rides, including: (a) mileage reimbursement as part of a volunteer driver program; (b) a taxi trip; or (c) trips provided by a human service agency. Transit passes for use on existing fixed route or ADA complementary paratransit service are not eligible.
- Supporting volunteer driver and aide programs – The Senior Transportation Program can support new volunteer driver programs, including the costs associated with the administration, management of driver recruitment, safety, background checks, scheduling, coordination with passengers, and other related support functions, mileage reimbursement, and insurance associated with volunteer driver programs. The costs of new enhancements to increase capacity of existing volunteer driver programs are also eligible. In addition, the Senior Transportation Program can support projects that provide a higher level of assistance to enable older adults to access transportation options, including aide programs that provided door-to-door or door-through-door services.
- Supporting travel training programs – The Senior Transportation Program can support projects that provide older adults with instruction in the use of existing public transportation services, such as training in planning trips and reading bus schedules.

- Supporting new and/or expanded coordinated transportation services for older adults – The Senior Transportation Program can support new coordinated transportation services or help expand existing coordinated services that expand mobility options for older adults. This could include mobility management strategies that promote access to a variety of transportation services, coordinated travel training and trip planning activities, coordination transportation information on various travel modes, or manage eligibility requirements and arrangements.

All projects selected for funding must also be consistent with the strategies identified as the priorities in the applicant’s regional Coordinated Human Service Mobility (CHSM) Plan.

Match Ratio and Limits of Funding

It is anticipated that Senior Transportation Program applications will receive a state match ratio of 80 percent. Application budgets must be at least \$5,000 and no more than \$20,000. DRPT has funded this program with approximately \$150,000 of state funds annually.

Application Evaluation Process

Senior Transportation Program applications will be evaluated by DRPT using the following criteria:

- Project Justification – explanation of the need/problem that the project will address
- Planning – documentation that sufficient planning has been conducted to execute the project
- Project Scope – approach to addressing the need/problem
- Project Readiness – ability to initiate and substantially complete the project within the fiscal year the funds are being applied for
- Technical Capacity – identification of project management team and ability to execute the project
- Project Budget – ability to execute the project scope within the proposed project budget
- Project Schedule – ability to execute the project scope within the project schedule
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – approach to measuring performance and evaluating the results of the project

Upon completion of the evaluation process, DRPT includes the recommended applications and allocation in the Draft Six Year Improvement Program. The CTB approves the release of the draft program to the public for comment. Following receipt of public comments, the CTB approves the final Six Year Improvement Program.

Application Procedure

Applications for all State Aid Grant Programs are made online on DRPT’s On-Line Grant Application system (OLGA) at: <https://olga.drpt.virginia.gov>.

Required data include:

- Contact information (including Project Manager)
- Project justification
- Planning documentation (including cost estimation methodology)
- Project scope
- Project schedule
- Project budget
- Monitoring and evaluation plan

In order to ensure that local matching funds will be available for all applications recommended by DRPT for funding, a certification from the Chief Executive Officer of the entity applying for funding must be submitted to DRPT in May prior to the development of the Final Six Year Improvement Program. DRPT will provide future guidance on the form of the certification.