




FIND A RIDE

Making the Connection: Transportation Options for Older Adults



What are your biggest challenges in this region of Ohio?

Have you read your county/regional coordinated transportation plan?

Why is rural transportation such a challenge?

Councils on Aging/Senior Centers- often tied to levy dollars with specific language on how/where funds can be used.

Cross-County Transportation

Limited funding to support transportation efforts

Mobility Management vs. Find a Ride

Mobility Management- Mobility management means helping communities and individuals create and manage their mobility options.

A bit longer explanation: Mobility management is an approach to designing and delivering transportation services that starts and ends with the customer. It begins with a community vision in which the entire transportation network—public transit, private operators, cycling and walking, volunteer drivers, and others—works together with customers, planners, and stakeholders to deliver the transportation options that best meet the community's needs.

Mobility Management vs. Find a Ride

Find A Ride- Uses 5310 (funding for specialized populations) and Title IIIB (Older Americans Act) and other local dollars to pay contracted transportation providers for trips. Individuals must be over the age of 60, or under with a disability. We try to connect to other options first (Medicaid, Council on Aging, etc.)

This pot of funding is separate from Mobility Management but also requires a 20% local match.

Transportation's Role in Social Determinants of Health

A 2019 survey by Kaiser Permanente

- *Americans view social needs, such as housing and transportation, as equally important to their health as medical care.
- *The vast majority of Americans want their medical providers to ask about social needs.
- *Those experiencing unmet social needs were twice as likely to rate their health as fair or poor compared to those who did not.
- *Social needs are predictors of physical and mental health.

<https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/>

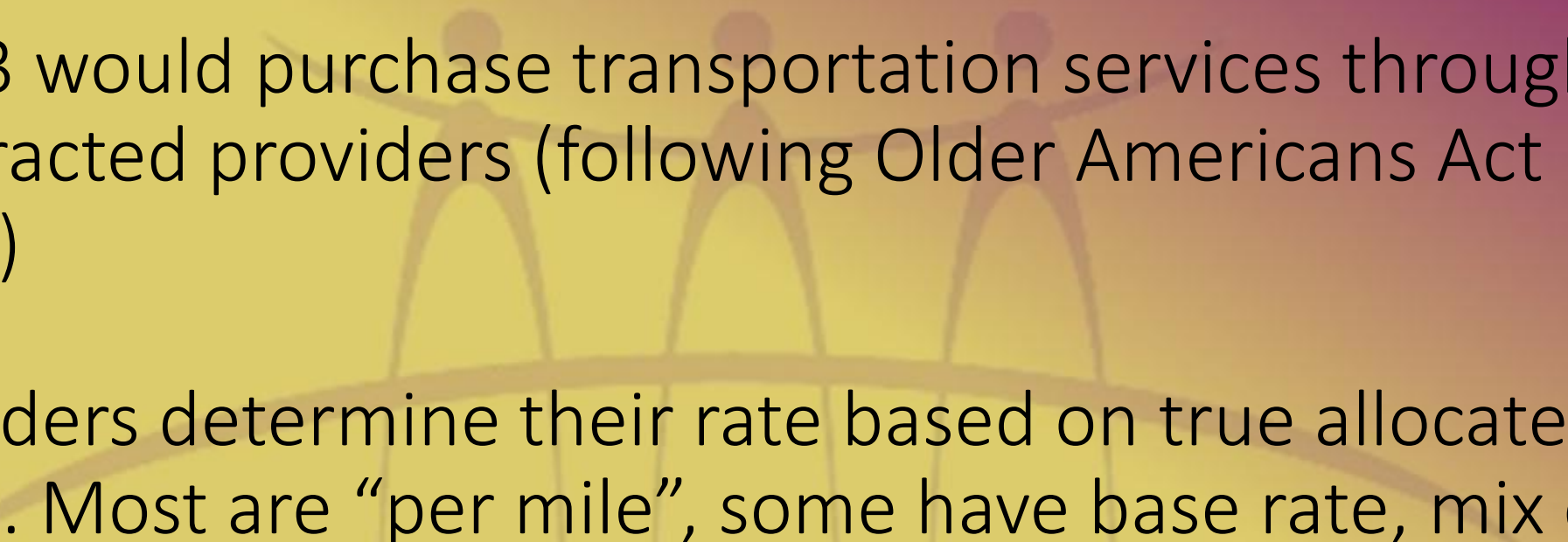
History:

Regional Planning Commission hosted a Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee. Discussed who could be administrative agent for 5310 Mobility Management and Operating Dollars.

Easter Seals Project Action Consulting grant- FACTS established.

There was a 50/50 match requirement.

AAA3 could keep Title IIIB funds in house to use as match (federal to federal is allowable)



AAA3 would purchase transportation services through contracted providers (following Older Americans Act rules)

Providers determine their rate based on true allocated costs. Most are “per mile”, some have base rate, mix of non-profit and for-profit transportation providers.

2019- 14,889

2020- 17,160

2021 (through 9/30/21)- 14,028 on target to provide 18,072

MOU's for 20% local match with 7 organizations including some Nursing Facilities and Mental Health CBO's

Receive funding from United Way, Hospitals, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Managing RTCI for 4 counties

Resources:

- The Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Transit
- AAA3.org/my-transportation
- Easter Seals Project Action consulting
<https://www.projectaction.com/>
- NADTC (National Aging and Disability Transportation Center)
- National Center for Mobility Management

Ride Connect

- Developed by 3 Mobility Managers- requested special funding from ODOT to start a Volunteer Driver Program to serve our most rural counties:
- Challenge- COVID

Requirements for every Provider

- Notification to Find A Ride staff of significant changes with individual's condition
 - For example: Missed service, Hospitalization, Significant change in health, decline in mobility
- Required to report any suspected Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation to County Job & Family Services' Adult Protection Services and Find A Ride staff
- Give 30 day notice if discontinuing service to an individual or discontinuing contract
- Confidentiality of individual's information
- Completion of Criminal Background Checks on employees
- Record retention
 - Must retain documentation for a minimum of 3 years after payment or audit by State Agency

Service Specifications

- Back-up plans when a driver or vehicle is unavailable.
- Daily pre-trip inspections completed on each vehicle
- Annual Vehicle inspections completed by ASE-certified mechanic
- Door to Door service
- Driver's Qualifications
 - Orientation
 - Transfer Techniques
 - On-going training
 - Driving record
 - Valid License for minimum of 2 years
 - Fewer than 6 points on license
 - Physician's statement
 - Drug & Alcohol Test
 - Certified in First Aid/CPR

Service verification

- Consumer's name
- Service date
- Pick-up point and time of the pick up;
- Destination point and time of the drop off
- Service units(one-way trip equals one unit)
- Driver's name
- Driver's signature



Thank you!

Beca Sheidler
Mobility Manager
Area Agency on Aging 3

419-371-5942

bsheidler@psa3.org