

TransitCares ... IowaCare transportation funding

The Iowa DOT's Office of Public Transit has created TransitCares, a program providing IowaCare clients transportation to medical appointments and pharmacy visits.

Public transit agencies are eligible to receive reimbursement for providing transportation to IowaCare clients. Program guidelines include:

- 100 percent funding (State Transit Assistance special project), no local match required.
- Costs may be incurred for reimbursement beginning Monday, April 16, 2012.
- Reimbursement provided monthly for April, May, and June 2012; quarterly reimbursements in fiscal year (FY) 2013.
- Suggest charging a \$1 one-way fare.
- Strongly encourage regional systems to schedule weekly or biweekly trips to clinics/hospitals to keep costs down.

If interested, public transit agencies must:

- Notify their transit programs administrator that IowaCare transportation will begin, and provide the date.
- Place a separate TransitCares line item on quarterly reports, revised monthly during the first three months of the program (April through June 2012), quarterly in FY 2013.
- Be willing to reach out to the federal-qualified health center(s) covering residents in the transit region to inform them of the service, and possibly coordinate transportation and appointment times.

The Office of Public Transit will create a press release and brochure about the program to be mailed to the IowaCare enrollees.

Initially, transit agencies will take IowaCare clients at their word that they are currently enrolled in the IowaCare program. Office of Public Transit staff is working with Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) on a memorandum of understanding to access client names and addresses on a monthly basis, so rider eligibility can be verified.

Funding for this service will be monitored throughout the service period, but absolutely will end Dec. 31, 2013.

For those familiar with TMS Management Group, Inc. (TMS), IowaCare trips are not related to TMS. Transportation is not a benefit currently provided under IowaCare, funding is being provided by the Iowa DOT's Office of Public Transit, not IME or the Iowa Department of Human Services. If a transit agency can only provide service, because of driver or vehicle limitations, to IowaCare clients one day a week to keep costs down, that is allowable. Also, IowaCare patients will be scheduling trips directly with the transit agency, no portal or referrals will be required.