



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

For Seniors and People with Disabilities on Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance Transportation

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) recognizes that elderly citizens and adults with disabilities receiving Medical Assistance need to have transportation available in order to access medical services. For emergencies you should always call 911.

The use of friends, neighbors, and family members is encouraged. If none of these are available, you may be able to get rides from health centers, community agencies, or volunteer groups in your area. When none of these options are available, there are also a number of transportation options listed below.

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)

People with disabilities and elderly enrolled in Medical Assistance or the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly Program may apply for the “no-fare” program and ride free with a RIPTA Senior/Disabled Buss Pass during all hours on regularly scheduled routes. In limited areas of the state, flex service is also available. Information about flex service can be obtained by calling 1-877-906-FLEX (1-877-906-3539). For application and regular route information call RIPTA at 401-784-9500.

The RIDE Program

RIDE provides door-to-door transportation to people over age sixty (60) and people with disabilities under age sixty (60). Transportation is generally available during weekdays for medical appointments, adult day care, and meal site lunches. Once you have your pass, call RIDE at least two weeks before your appointment at 401-461-9760 or 1-800-479-6902.

Hospital Transportation

If you go to a hospital and cannot take the same transportation home, the hospital staff will help you find appropriate transportation. If the person you see does not know about this program, ask to speak to the social services or emergency department staff.

When None of These Options are Available or Appropriate

DHS will help you to arrange suitable non-emergency transportation for services covered by the Medical Assistance Program. Please call 401-784-3899 for assistance.

Medical Assistance recipients have the right to appeal DHS decisions regarding provisions of transportation services.