

## Federal Opportunities Workgroup

For over ten years, the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT) and local stakeholders with an interest in promoting human service transportation within Washington State have sought to increase mobility for people with special needs through coordination. ACCT received a [2004 United We Ride Leadership Award](#) in recognition of Washington's work promoting coordination and improving transportation options for people who depend on public transportation or who have few transportation options.

However, there are some areas of coordination that have not been achieved. In particular, opportunities to better coordinate Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation with other programs. In response to these efforts, the Federal Opportunity Working Group (FOW) was created through Washington State legislation (ESHB 2072) in 2009.

Staffing to support the FOW is provided through the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation. The Washington state agency responsible for administration and oversight of Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), has been an active participant in these discussions.

## Work of the Federal Opportunities Workgroup

The FOW is tasked with reporting back to the Legislature key findings resulting from its deliberations, including:

- Identifying transportation definitions and terminology used in the various relevant state and federal programs, and establishing consistent transportation definitions and terminology;
- Identifying restrictions or barriers that preclude federal, state and local agencies from sharing client lists or other client information, and make progress towards removing any restrictions or barriers;
- Identifying relevant state and federal performance and cost reporting systems and requirements, and work towards establishing consistent and uniform performance and cost reporting systems and requirements; and
- Exploring, subject to federal approval, opportunities to test cost allocation models that:
  - Allow for cost sharing among public paratransit and Medicaid non-emergency medical trips; and
  - Capture the value of Medicaid trips provided by public transit agencies for which they are not currently reimbursed with a funding match by federal Medicaid dollars.

## Membership

The Federal Opportunities Workgroup was appointed by the Washington State Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation. The appointed workgroup members are as follows:

- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
- Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Non-Emergent Medical Transportation Brokers
- Public Transit Agencies
- Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation
- Indian Tribes
- Pierce County Local Coordinating Coalition
- Regional Transportation Planning Organizations

Policy oversight is provided by a FOW Executive Committee, which is comprised of decision makers from key agencies involved in this project. This committee is comprised of:

- Washington State Legislature  
Representative Deb Wallace
- Washington State Department of Transportation  
Katy Taylor, Public Transportation Division Director
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs  
John Lee, Director
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Doug Porter, Medicaid Purchasing Administration Director,  
HealthCare Authority Administrator
- Federal Transit Administration  
Rick Krochalis, Region 10 Administrator
- Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Vacant

For more information about the ACCT, FOW, or proposed pilot projects: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/acct).