

DSHS-VETERANS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION

Pilot Objective:	The key objective is to develop a simple and agreeable cost allocation method that would allow for non-Non-Emergent Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) riders (Veterans) to share an NEMT trip.
Geographic Area:	Olympic Peninsula as the origination point (Mason, Clallam and Jefferson Counties); Central Puget Sound (King, Pierce and Kitsap Counties) as destination point.
Pilot Partners:	Paratransit Services, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Veteran's Affairs

PROBLEM STATEMENT: There are significant transportation service gaps throughout Washington State, especially in the rural communities. There are people with special transportation needs without transportation options that require access to essential services, employment-related services, social connections and youth and senior activities. The publicly funded transit systems provide service to a small percentage of Washington State geographically while DSHS serves the entire state through its Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program. The transits do not serve many rural communities as they are outside their taxing jurisdiction and service boundaries. DSHS may be able to help fill the significant service gaps in rural communities by allowing non-NEMT riders to share NEMT trips for an appropriate fee, though there are apparent barriers to identifying a simplified cost allocation model that will be acceptable to CMS.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY:

1. Test the ride sharing potential available with NEMT transportation in communities outside of the Public Transportation boundaries.
2. Develop a simplified cost allocation model acceptable to participating funders. (For the purpose of this pilot, the non-NEMT riders will be limited to Veterans).
3. Identify a funding source for the Veterans portion of trip funding.

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME: Once an acceptable cost-allocation formula is approved, Paratransit Services could launch the program within 30 days. Most of this time would be dedicated to marketing the program to the Veterans.

PROJECT QUESTIONS:

1. Can 42 CFR 440 be amended to allow for simplified cost allocation process for shared rides, as long as it save Medicaid money?
2. Can a funding source be identified for the direct and indirect cost of the VA portion of trips?

PROJECT FLOW CHART

