

**SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2021**

County: Monmouth

1. **Types of Service – Monmouth County operates a demand response service which operates 5 days per week with the exception of 13 County recognized Holidays. We are a curb to curb service with fully handicapped accessible vehicles. Our drivers are trained using the PASS system and also in-house driver safety and client sensitivity courses, also refresher training for wheel chair tie downs are done on a regular basis. We provide service to the senior population (60) years of age and over and we also provide service to our disabled residents who's disability is both permanent and temporary but they must be 18 years of age or older. Our service provides transportation to doctors' appointments, life sustaining treatment (dialysis, chemo, and radiation), senior centers, nutrition sites, food shopping, food pantries, general shopping and socialization. We also accommodate a variety of other requests that our clients may make. We provide service to CVR (the Center for Vocational Rehabilitation) and the Monmouth County Division of Work Force Development. Service is also provided to our Veterans, we transport to Brick, East Orange and Lyons Veterans hospitals twice a month and we go to Tinton Falls VA Clinic upon request. Every request for service is important to us, we make every effort to accommodate our residents but our service is based strictly upon availability. Clients must book their appointments 4 days in advance, but we do try to accommodate an appointment that comes in under the 4 day requirement. A fare is charged for our service and is paid directly by the client unless other arrangements have been made.**

2. **Monmouth County operates its own in house service; we have a fleet of 42 and have just received an additional 2 vehicles from the County. Monmouth County currently employs 16 full time drivers. We currently have an additional 17 openings waiting to be filled. There is a nationwide shortage of CDL drivers but we are actively recruiting prospective employees daily.**

Our local CAC committee is a mixture of representatives of both the senior and disabled population, among them you will find representatives from CVR, senior centers and the general public.

For the year 2021 we will receive if our application is accepted \$1,404,358.00 as our portion of the Casino Revenue (SCDRTP), and \$246,690.00 from the FY2021 5311 grant which \$61,422.50 will be a county match, the County will use part of our CASINO revenue to satisfy this match.

3. **Our goals for 2021 include creating more transfer locations throughout the county, this will enable our clients to travel a greater distance which will allow them more availability to doctors, hospitals and county services,**

such as the office on Aging and Disabilities, Veterans Services, County Clerk's office, County Libraries and general shopping. Currently we have 2 transfer stations in the County, one is located at 250 Center Street in Freehold and another location at the County Connection located at 2449 highway 66 in Neptune. 2021 is going to be another year that is dedicated to outreach, but with the limits placed on us due to COVID 19 we are going to have to depend on our brochure's being placed in doctors' offices, pharmacy's, food pantry's, and food stores. Our ability to visit senior housing is suspended so we will have to be creative in getting the word out. In years past SCAT always looked forward to increasing ridership but this year has changed that for us, we now look to having ridership reinstated. Our Senior Centers have been closed since March, CVR is now just starting to open full time and so many other community locations that SCAT transported the residents to are either closed or have limited service.

Finally, I believe that the needs of our clients will change as we rebound from the COVID 19 virus and we will make every effort to change and grow with them. The Monmouth County Division of Transportation receives so much support from the County of Monmouth itself, our budget remains stable, we are provided our building, and the assistance of all related departments and services. Our Freeholder Board is extremely hands on, always inquiring about the needs of our clients and always willing to assist in any way possible, they also encourage this division to explore different opportunities that may aid us in providing even better service to our clients while remaining fair and fiscally responsible to all residents of Monmouth County.