

**SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS  
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2023**

County: Monmouth

1. **Types of Service – The Monmouth County Division of Transportation offers a demand response service which operates 5 days per week except for 13 County recognized Holidays. We are a curb-to-curb service with fully handicapped accessible vehicles. Our drivers are trained using the PASS system, in-house driver safety classes and client sensitivity courses, also refresher training for wheelchair tie downs are done on a regular basis. There are also back round checks done on all drivers as well as monthly random drug and alcohol testing. We provide service to the senior population (60) years of age and over, service is also provided to our disabled residents whose disability is both permanent or temporary, they must be 18 years of age or older to qualify.**
2. **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 and most recently COVID 19 Vaccine sites. 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 and 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, if a trip does come in to the intake department under the 4 days requirement the intake department will look at the schedule to see if we can accommodate it, if there is no openings we will place the client on a wait list and notify them if a cancellation comes in. A fare is charged for our service and is paid directly by the client unless other arrangements have been made.**
3. **Monmouth County operates its own in-house service; we have a fleet of 35 vehicles and are actively trying to find vendors for new purchases. Monmouth County currently employs 10 full time drivers. We currently have an additional 23 openings and are doing all that we can to recruit new drivers. There is a nationwide shortage of CDL drivers, so we are also looking into smaller vehicles that do not require a CDL to operate. 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 public.**

**For the year 2023 we are making application to NJ Transit in the amount of \$ 1,919,882.00 for Casino Revenue (SCDRTAP) funding and \$301,053.00 from the FY2023 5311 grant which \$75,263.00 will be a county match, the**

**County will use part of our CASINO revenue to satisfy this match and no match dollars will be taken from the County budget.**

- 4. Our goals for 2023 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 this will also allow the service to provide more trips as drivers will be in fact serving multiple locations. 2023 is going to be another year that is dedicated to outreach, the limits that were placed on the public due to COVID 19 will make it more important then ever that we get the word out about our service and all the other wonderful services provided by Monmouth County. We are also going to have to ensure that our brochures are being placed in doctors' offices, pharmacy's, food pantries, and food stores. The ability to visit senior day programs is now restored and I look forward to getting back out with the clients again. We are also now going back to attending Municipal events where we will be doing outreach and we intend to focus once again on the "Care Givers" this strategy has worked well for us in the past, we receive many calls from family members inquiring about what we can do for their relatives, we also refer clients to other County agencies as well. As we proceed further away from COVID 19 we can see an increase in ridership as businesses open and our clients are now starting to make more doctors' appointments and to go to places such as Target, Khloe's, Marshalls and so on and our senior centers are beginning to slowly reopen to their members. In December I have scheduled a meeting with the Monmouth County Transportation Planning Department, the purpose of this meeting is to discuss transportation for our senior and disabled residents after hours, such as evenings and weekends. Providing such service will add to the quality of life for our residents and is a goal that I look forward to accomplishing. It is much needed.**

**Finally, I believe that the needs of our clients are changing, and the effect left behind by COVID 19 will be felt for many years to come. I intend to 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, and I am proud to share that we are 100% self-sufficient which means that we do not operate with County money, we use strictly operating funds from our grants. Our Commissioner 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.**