

**SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2022**

County: Monmouth

1. **Types of Service - Monmouth County offers 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, in-house driver safety classes and client sensitivity courses, also refresher training for wheelchair tie downs are done on a regular basis. We provide service to the senior population (60) years of age and over and 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. 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 and we are in the process of ordering 2 handicapped excess able vans which will help us to provide service to our Municipalities that have smaller streets, the vehicle will be purchased strictly with grant money. Monmouth County currently employs 15 full time drivers. We currently have an additional 18 openings waiting to be filled. There is a nationwide shortage of CDL drivers, but we are actively recruiting prospective employees. 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 2022 we will receive if our application is accepted \$1,386,078.00 as our portion of the Casino Revenue (SCDRTAP), and \$245,218.00 from the FY2022 5311 grant which \$61,304.50 will be a county match, the County will use part of our CASINO revenue to satisfy this match.

4. Our goals for 2022 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. 2022 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 of the other wonderful services provided by Monmouth County. We are also 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 still suspended so we will have to be creative in getting the word out. 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 also our senior centers are beginning to slowly reopen to their members.

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 we look forward to seeing the construction begin on our new building. 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.