

Implementation Guidelines – Special Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities Program

These guidelines lay out the service types that are eligible to be funded with Alameda County Measure B (2000) and Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF, 2010) revenues under the Special Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities Program (Paratransit). All programs funded partially or in their entirety through these sources, including ADA-mandated paratransit services, city-based non-mandated programs, and discretionary grant funded projects, must abide by the following requirements for each type of paratransit service.

Fund recipients are able to select which of these service types are most appropriate for their community to meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities. Overall, all programs should be designed to enhance quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities by offering accessible, affordable, and convenient transportation options to reach major medical facilities, grocery stores and other important travel destinations to meet life needs. Ultimately, whether a destination is important should be determined by the consumer.

The chart below summarizes the eligible service types and their basic customer experience parameters; this is followed by more detailed descriptions of each.

Service	Timing	Accessibility	Origins/ Destinations	Eligible Population
ADA Paratransit	Pre-scheduled	Accessible	Origin-to-Destination	People with disabilities unable to ride fixed route transit
Door-to-Door Service	Pre-scheduled	Accessible	Origin-to-Destination	People with disabilities unable to ride fixed route transit and seniors
Taxi Subsidy	Same Day	Varies	Origin-to-Destination	Seniors and people with disabilities
Specialized Accessible Van	Pre-scheduled & Same Day	Accessible	Origin-to-Destination	People with disabilities using mobility devices that require lift- or ramp-equipped vehicles
Accessible Shuttles	Fixed Schedule	Accessible	Fixed or Flexed Route	Seniors and people with disabilities
Group Trips	Pre-scheduled	Varies	Round Trip Origin-to-Destination	Seniors and people with disabilities
Volunteer Drivers	Pre-scheduled	Generally Not Accessible	Origin-to-Destination	Vulnerable populations with special needs, e.g. requiring door-through-door service or escort

Service	Timing	Accessibility	Origins/ Destinations	Eligible Population
Mobility Management and/or Travel Training	N/A	N/A	N/A	Seniors and people with disabilities
Scholarship/ Subsidized Fare Programs	N/A	N/A	N/A	Seniors and people with disabilities
Capital Expenditures	N/A	Accessible	N/A	Seniors and people with disabilities

Note on ADA Mandated Paratransit: Programs mandated by the American’s with Disabilities Act are implemented and administered according to federal guidelines that may supersede these guidelines; however all ADA-mandated programs funded through Measure B or the VRF are subject to the terms of the Master Programs Funding Agreement.

Interim Service for Consumers Awaiting ADA Certification: At the request of a health care provider, or ADA provider, city-based programs must provide interim service through the programs listed below to consumers awaiting ADA certification. Service must be provided within three business days of receipt of application.

Note on Capital Expenditures: Any capital expenditures within the eligible service categories must be consistent with the objectives of the Alameda CTC Special Transportation for Seniors and Peoples with Disabilities (Paratransit) Program described above and are subject to review by Alameda CTC staff.

City-based Door-to-Door Service Guidelines

Service Description	<p>City-based door-to-door services provide pre-scheduled, accessible, door-to-door trips. Some programs allow same day reservations on a space-available basis. They provide a similar level of service to mandated ADA services. These services are designed to fill gaps that are not met by ADA-mandated providers and/or relieve ADA-mandated providers of some trips.</p> <p>This service type does not include taxi subsidies which are discussed below.</p>
Eligible Population	<p>Eligible Populations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People 18 and above with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route services. Cities may, at their discretion, also provide services to consumers with disabilities under the age of 18, and 2. Seniors 80 years or older without proof of a disability. Cities may provide services to consumers who are younger than age 80, but not younger than 70 years old. <p><i>Cities may continue to offer “grandfathered” eligibility to program registrants below 70 years old who have used the program regularly in FY 11/12, as long as it does not impinge on the City’s ability to meet the minimum requirements of the Implementation Guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>Program sponsors may use either ADA eligibility, as established by ADA-mandated providers (incl. East Bay Paratransit, LAVTA, Union City Transit) or the Alameda County City-Based Paratransit Services Medical Statement Form, as proof of disability. Program sponsors may, at their discretion, also offer temporary eligibility due to disability.</i></p>
Time & Days of Service	<p>At a minimum, service must be available any five days per week between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm (excluding holidays).</p> <p>At a minimum, programs must accept reservations between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm Monday – Friday (excluding holidays).</p>
Fare (Cost to Customer)	<p>Fares for pre-scheduled service should not exceed local ADA paratransit fares, but can be lower, and can be equated to distance. Higher fares can be charged for “premium” same-day service.</p>
Other	<p>Door-to-Door programs must demonstrate that they are providing trips at an equal or lower cost than the ADA-mandated provider on a cost per trip and cost per hour basis.</p> <p>Programs may impose per person trip limits to due to budgetary constraints, but any proposed trip limitations that are based on trip purpose must be submitted to Alameda CTC staff for review prior to implementation.</p>

Taxi Subsidy Program Guidelines

<p>Service Description</p>	<p>Taxis provide curb-to-curb service that can be scheduled on a same-day basis. They charge riders on a distance/time basis using a meter. Taxi subsidy programs allow eligible consumers to use taxis at a reduced fare by reimbursing consumers a percentage of the fare or by providing some fare medium, e.g. scrip or vouchers, which can be used to cover a portion of the fare. These programs are intended for situations when consumers cannot make their trip on a pre-scheduled basis.</p> <p>The availability of accessible taxi cabs varies by geographical area and taxi provider, but programs should expand availability of accessible taxi cabs where possible in order to fulfill requests for same-day accessible trips.</p>
<p>Eligible Population</p>	<p>Eligible Populations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People 18 and above with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route services. Cities may, at their discretion, also provide services to consumers with disabilities under the age of 18, and 2. Seniors 80 years or older without proof of a disability. Cities may provide services to consumers who are younger than age 80, but not younger than 70 years old. <p><i>Cities may continue to offer “grandfathered” eligibility to program registrants below 70 years old who have used the program regularly in FY 11/12, as long as it does not impinge on the City’s ability to meet the minimum requirements of the Implementation Guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>Program sponsors may use either ADA eligibility, as established by ADA-mandated providers (incl. East Bay Paratransit, LAVTA, Union City Transit) or the Alameda County City-Based Paratransit Services Medical Statement Form, as proof of disability. Program sponsors may, at their discretion, also offer temporary eligibility due to disability.</i></p>
<p>Time & Days of Service</p>	<p>24 hours per day/7 days per week</p>
<p>Fare (Cost to Customer)</p>	<p>Programs must subsidize at least 50% of the taxi fare.</p> <p>Programs can impose a cap on total subsidy per person. This can be accomplished through a maximum subsidy per trip, a limit on the number of vouchers/scrip (or other fare medium) per person, and/or a total monetary subsidy per person per year.</p>

City-based Specialized Accessible Van Service Guidelines

Service Description	<p>Specialized Accessible van service provides accessible, door-to-door trips on a pre-scheduled or same-day basis. This service category is not intended to be as comprehensive as primary services (i.e. ADA-mandated, City-based Door-to-Door, or Taxi programs), but should be a complementary supplement in communities where critical needs for accessible trips are not being adequately met by the existing primary services. Examples of unmet needs might be a taxi program without accessible vehicles, medical trips for riders with dementia unable to safely take an ADA-mandated trip, or trips outside of the ADA-mandated service area. When possible, a priority for this service should be fulfilling requests for same-day accessible trips.</p> <p>This service may make use of fare mediums such as scrip and vouchers to allow consumers to pay for rides.</p>
Eligible Population	At discretion of program sponsor with local consumer input.
Time & Days of Service	At discretion of program sponsor with local consumer input.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	At discretion of program sponsor with local consumer input.
Other	Specialized Accessible van programs must demonstrate that they are providing trips at an equal or lower cost to the provider than the ADA-mandated provider on a cost per trip and cost per hour basis.

Accessible Shuttle Service Guidelines	
Service Description	<p>Shuttles are accessible vehicles that operate on a fixed, deviated, or flex-fixed route and schedule. They serve common trip origins and destinations visited by eligible consumers, e.g. senior centers, medical facilities, grocery stores, BART and other transit stations, community centers, commercial districts, and post offices.</p> <p>Shuttles should be designed to supplement existing fixed route transit services. Routes should not necessarily be designed for fast travel, but to get as close as possible to destinations of interest, such as going into parking lots or up to the front entrance of a senior living facility. Shuttles are often designed to serve active seniors who do not drive but are not ADA paratransit registrants.</p>
Eligible Population	Shuttles should be designed to appeal to older people, but can be made open to the general public.
Time and Days of Service	At discretion of program sponsor with local consumer input.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	At discretion of program sponsor, but cannot exceed local ADA paratransit fares. Fares may be scaled based on distance.
Cost of Service	By end of the second fiscal year of service, the City's cost per one-way person trip cannot exceed \$20, including transportation and direct administrative costs.
Other	<p>Shuttles are required to coordinate with the local fixed route transit provider. Shuttle routes and schedules should be designed with input from the senior and disabled communities and to ensure effective design, and any new shuttle plan must be submitted to Alameda CTC staff for review prior to implementation.</p> <p>Deviations and flag stops are permitted at discretion of program sponsor.</p>

Group Trips Service Guidelines	
Service Description	Group trips are round-trip rides for pre-scheduled outings, including shopping trips, sporting events, and community health fairs. These trips are specifically designed to serve the needs of seniors and people with disabilities and typically originate from a senior center or housing facility and are generally provided in accessible vans and other vehicle types or combinations thereof.
Eligible Population	At discretion of program sponsor.
Time and Days of Service	Group trips must begin and end on the same day.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	At discretion of program sponsor.
Other	Programs can impose mileage limitations to control program costs.

Volunteer Driver Service Guidelines	
Service Description	<p>Volunteer driver services are pre-scheduled, door-through-door services that are typically not accessible. These programs rely on volunteers to drive eligible consumers for critical trip needs, such as medical trips. This service meets a key mobility gap by serving more vulnerable populations and should complement existing primary services (i.e. ADA-mandated, City-based Door-to-Door, or Taxi).</p> <p>Volunteer driver programs may also have an escort component where volunteers accompany consumers on any service eligible for paratransit funding, when they are unable to travel in a private vehicle.</p>
Eligible Population	At discretion of program sponsor.
Time and Days of Service	At discretion of program sponsor.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	At discretion of program sponsor.
Other	Program sponsors can use funds for administrative purposes and/or to pay for volunteer mileage reimbursement purposes (not to exceed Federal General Services Administration (Privately Owned Vehicle) Mileage Reimbursement Rates) or an equivalent financial incentive for volunteers.

Mobility Management and/or Travel Training Service Guidelines	
Service Description	<p>Mobility management services cover a wide range of activities, such as travel training, escorted companion services, coordinated services, trip planning, and brokerage. Mobility management activities often include education and outreach which play an important role in ensuring that people use the “right” service for each trip, e.g. using EBP from Fremont to Berkeley for an event, using a taxi voucher for a same-day semi-emergency doctor visit, and requesting help from a group trips service for grocery shopping.</p>
Eligible Population	At discretion of program sponsor.
Time and Days of Service	At discretion of program sponsor.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	N/A
Other	For new mobility management and/or travel training programs, to ensure effective program design, a plan with a well-defined set of activities must be submitted to Alameda CTC staff for review prior to implementation.

Scholarship/Subsidized Fare Program Guidelines

Service Description	Scholarship or Subsidized Fare Programs can subsidize any service eligible for paratransit funding and/or fixed-route transit for customers who are low-income and can demonstrate financial need.
Eligible Population	Subsidies can be offered to low-income consumers with demonstrated financial need who are currently eligible for an Alameda County ADA-mandated or city-based paratransit program. Low income requirements are at discretion of program sponsors, but the requirement for household income should be between 0-50% AMI (area median income).
Time and Days of Service	N/A
Fare (Cost to Customer)	N/A
Other	Program sponsors must describe their low-income requirements and how they will determine and verify eligibility. If program sponsors include subsidized East Bay Paratransit (EBP) tickets in this program, no more than 3% of a program sponsor's Alameda CTC distributed funding may be used for the ticket subsidy. Other services or purposes proposed for scholarship and/or fare subsidy must be submitted to Alameda CTC staff for review prior to implementation.

Meal Delivery Funding Guidelines

Service Description	Meal Delivery Funding programs provide funding to programs that deliver meals to the homes of individuals who are generally too frail to travel outside to congregate meal sites. Although this provides access to life sustaining needs for seniors and people with disabilities, it is not a direct transportation expense.
Eligible Population	For currently operating programs, at discretion of program sponsor.
Time and Days of Service	For currently operating programs, at discretion of program sponsor.
Fare (Cost to Customer)	For currently operating programs, at discretion of program sponsor.
Other	Currently operating funding programs may continue, but new meal delivery funding programs may not be established.