

VAN ARUNDEL

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

VAN ARUNDEL is a multi-agency partnership to consolidate existing human services transportation services (utilizing state-of-the-art technology for centralized dispatch, scheduling and billing). The goal of the project is to serve more low-income residents' and welfare recipients' transportation needs and attract the general public on a self-pay or employer-subsidized basis.

Anne Arundel County is an urban, suburban and rural jurisdiction southeast of Baltimore, and northeast of Washington, DC, with existing transit and paratransit operators whose services cannot meet the employment-related transportation needs of many welfare recipients and other low-income residents.

Six government human services agencies and more than 10 private human service providers in Anne Arundel County either contract for, or operate, transportation programs for their clients. None of the programs are coordinated or consolidated. As a result, transportation resources (e.g. vans) are under-utilized when, for example, one agency's van transports one of their clients door-to-door. Because of inefficient use of resources, no agency's transportation funds meet all of their clients' employment-related transportation needs.

Most welfare recipients and other low-income residents have limited access to public transit services in this County, and subsidies offered by the Department of Social Services are useless if existing private transportation providers have no empty seats. Limited transportation options impede welfare recipients in their struggle to seek and keep jobs, and in their search for higher-paying ("living wage") jobs.

Jobs that pay a living wage, with health benefits, exist in several industrial corridors in Anne Arundel County, but existing transportation services do not reach the homes of the welfare recipients and other low-income residents who could vie for those jobs.

Van Arundel is designed to be a one-year project to perform the consolidation, by recruiting a Task Force, whose members will be drawn from the organizations that currently have transportation programs. The Task Force, supported by a Project Coordinator and administrative staff, will identify the employment-related transportation needs, and decide how to consolidate the programs after visiting other locales nationwide that have successfully performed consolidation. Examples of methods of consolidation are: contracting with a transportation coordination provider, or creating a local, non-profit corporation or government-based operation.

After consolidation, Anne Arundel County's human service transportation programs will:

- a) centralize scheduling, dispatch, and billing/invoice processing;
- b) coordinate service/route development, and marketing to low-income riders and welfare recipients, as well as to employers;
- c) coordinate driver training, certification and manpower needs (drivers needed and drivers needing jobs);
- d) create a revolving loan fund to replace providers' aging vehicles and/or expand their vehicle base; and,
- e) create a mechanism to donate aging vans to non-profits for use by welfare recipients in need of work-related vehicles (for example, the women who are enrolled in a local electrical trades training program and need their own vehicles to go to/from job sites throughout the County).

Operating Costs:

Staff: Coordinator	Salary:	\$50,000
	Benefits:	15,000
Transportation Assistant	Salary:	30,000
	Benefits:	9,000
Administrative Assistant	Salary:	8,000
	Benefits:	2,400
Computer equipment and software		5,000
Supplies		7,500
Other administrative costs (task force members' travel)		8,100
Travel expenses for staff and for site visits		15,000
Contract out or non-profit/govt. operation of consolidation		\$150,000
TOTAL COSTS		\$300,000

Project partners:

- **The Senior Transportation Planner for Anne Arundel County** will identify the particular employment-related transportation programs that can be consolidated, and outline their gaps in employment-related transportation.
- **The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, Inc.** will provide project oversight and will hire and oversee the project staff funded by the Access to Jobs funds.
- **Existing human services organizations and government agencies** that serve the employment-related needs of welfare recipients and other low-income residents will provide the funds for rider subsidies and reimbursements upon consolidation of their transportation services programs.
- **Existing public transit/paratransit operators and private transportation companies** will provide the transportation services to welfare recipients and low-income residents, and other members of the general public, upon consolidation of human service transportation services.

Sources of funding:

Anne Arundel County Transportation Development Plan	\$15,000
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	\$135,000
Access to Jobs (U.S. Dept. of Transportation)	\$150,000