



JOB CENTER

“INVESTING IN MARYLAND’S FUTURE”



WHEELS FOR WORK

“Wheels for Work” is a public-private partnership that makes used cars available at a reasonable cost to welfare applicants and recipients whose only impediment to holding meaningful employment, at a living wage, is transportation. It is being operated as a pilot program by the Job Center at the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, the Anne Arundel County Department of Central Services, and several non-profit charitable organizations in Anne Arundel County.

To date, dozens of welfare recipients have obtained “Wheels for Work” vehicles, have left the welfare rolls, and are working full-time. In one woman’s case, local church volunteers had driven her back and forth to work for months because public transportation was not available and private, for-hire transportation was too costly.

“Wheels for Work” is not intended to solve the transportation needs of all welfare applicants and recipients. However, County leaders recognize that if welfare reform is to be effected at the local level, the unique needs of families in Anne Arundel County must be addressed through locally appropriate strategies.

Because public transportation is not widely available, and in fact is being scaled back in Anne Arundel County as Federal and State funds dwindle, “Wheels for Work” and other innovative initiatives, must be developed to help adults who find jobs keep those jobs and not come back to welfare.

A complete cost-benefit analysis is being conducted of “Wheels for Work,” particularly to determine whether the up-front investment in transportation generates sufficient savings in welfare funds to justify the administrative and program costs of the program. As of August 1997, about 24 cars had been distributed through Wheels for Work, and none of the recipients returned to the cash assistance caseload.

Participants in “Wheels for Work” are selected by the Job Center on an individual basis and must have secured employment and be unable to accept the employment solely because of a lack of transportation.

For privately donated vehicles, non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that are working with the Job Center will:

- ❖ Accept donated cars from the private sector;
- ❖ Issue charitable donation receipts (for donor’s income tax deduction);
- ❖ Work with the Job Center to transfer the vehicle to a selected “Wheels for Work” participant.

For County fleet vehicles:

- ❖ Vehicles will be standard (no frills-no electric windows/locks, etc...) four-door sedans, with more than 80,000 miles, which are ready to be surplused from the County's inventory.
- ❖ Participants will pay a portion of the costs of putting the vehicle on the road, including repairs, insurance, title, tags, etc.

"Wheels for Work" is administered by the Job Center at 80 West Street in Annapolis, and the Anne Arundel County Department of Central Services.

In addition to the "Wheels for Work" program, the Department has begun a new Project called "AdVANtage," in which cash assistance applicants and recipients are capitalized and trained to own individual van service companies, which the Department will then hire as its vendors to provide low-cost transportation for job search and commuting for low-income County residents.