

## Transportation

Updated November 2015

### Purpose

To define transportation services that can be authorized by DVR, at what point in the DVR process they can be authorized, and to provide a common understanding when considering transportation options for a DVR consumer.

### Rationale

Everyone needs transportation to get to work and people with disabilities are no different. Transportation means travel and related expenses, authorized by DVR, that are necessary to enable an applicant or eligible individual to participate in a vocational rehabilitation service. It includes expenses for training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems.

Transportation related expenses that DVR staff can authorize include:

- Mileage (using the current state turndown rate)
- Bus fare
- Taxi
- Van Service

DVR may pay only those transportation expenses that have been previously and specifically listed in the IPE and authorized by DVR at the lowest rate which adequately meets the consumer's needs to participate in the primary service.

***After all alternatives are assessed, the most cost effective alternative which meets the consumer's needs (to participate in the IPE) determines the maximum amount DVR can pay toward transportation.***

**Vehicle Modification** - Vehicle modification is considered rehabilitation technology not transportation - see related guidance - [Assistive Technology](#).

**Consumer informed choice** – Once this information has been shared with the consumer, including the maximum DVR participation toward transportation costs, ***the consumer can select whichever option the consumer feels is best provided it meets the consumer's IPE needs.***

### Service Providers

Transportation is not an included service component to the statewide service agreements with statewide service providers. DVR statewide service providers may NOT provide transportation. Preparation and emotional support for job interviews can be done ahead of the scheduled interview or at the time of the interview on-site.

DVR service providers who provide transportation without prior authorization are doing so at their own risk. Some service providers may be receiving transportation funding from another source; a county, MCO or IRIS for a common consumer. If transportation is being provided by another entity to support transportation for a common consumer, that is acceptable. That transportation is happening as part of another agreement, not with DVR or as part of the DVR service agreement.

DVR staff should work with consumers to identify options for travel that foster independence and long-term sustainability:

- Transportation options should be discussed and case noted prior to authorizing a service that would require the consumer to travel.
- DVR staff are strongly encouraged to discuss and provide transportation to consumers via existing options and resources at the time a statewide service is authorized.
- This discussion should also include option for short notice transportation events (interviews, stoppage or primary transportation option, etc.)
- Consumers are encouraged to use their own resources when possible for travel to DVR related appointments.
- DVR staff are NOT ALLOWED to transport consumers.
- DVR staff are strongly encouraged to discuss and provide transportation to consumers via existing options and resources at the time a service is authorized.
- DVR staff should work to identify local resources for transportation and provide this information to consumers.
- Payments should never be made for transportation after the fact.
- Discussions regarding plans for transportation should be case noted.