Transportation Coordination

Coordination Plans
ODOT will support development and updating of local Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plans.

Regional Coordination Plans
ODOT will pilot the development of Regional Coordination Plans that recognize inter-county transportation needs and priorities.

Technology-enhanced scheduling and dispatching systems will be funded for 35 rural transportation providers. These web based, shared license systems will allow use by both public and social service transportation providers. Broadband improvements in remote areas will insure functionality.

Statewide Policy Alignment to Enable Coordination & Enhance Mobility

14 State Agencies are working to align policies that will make transportation coordination possible.

- Driver Standards
- Vehicle Standards
- Eligibility & Usage Policies
- Costing Standards

Transportation Prioritization

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
Ohio Medicaid spends about $71 million per year on county-administered non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid customers. Currently services are delivered differently in each of Ohio’s 88 counties.

Goals

- Make it easier to match people with the transportation services they need.
- Improve the health of Ohioans by ensuring that they have transportation to needed medical appointments and services.
- Use transportation resources more efficiently and consistently throughout the state.
- Reduce redundancy and fill gaps where service is needed.

In FY 2019, Ohio Medicaid will implement statewide coordination of NEMT service by establishing a brokerage system to provide person-centered NEMT transportation services for Medicaid clients.
How Will Transportation Coordination Enhance Mobility?
Transportation services in Ohio are operated by hundreds of public and human services agencies. Some services are open to the general public, while others serve only seniors, persons with disabilities or other specific population segments. All of these services are necessary to meet the diverse transportation needs of Ohioans, but without coordination they can become siloed and inefficient. This results in redundant services in some areas and gaps in service in others.

ODOT’s multi-faceted efforts to improve local and regional coordination of public and human services transportation seeks to insure that everyone’s transportation needs are addressed and that available resources are used in the most efficient way possible.

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Why is Statewide Policy Alignment Needed?
Within Ohio, 14 state agencies are involved in delivering or contracting for transportation services. Each of these agencies has its own policies and standards relating to driver screening and training, vehicle requirements, customer eligibility and usage and costs. The differing policies often make coordination of services impossible. For example, one agency's clients can't ride on another agency's vehicles, even though they are going where the individual needs to go, because of differing policies.

The objective of this effort is to establish standards that can be adopted by agencies statewide. This will enhance mobility for human services clients, Medicaid customers and all Ohio residents by cutting red tape and making transportation coordination possible when it makes sense.

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What Will and Won’t Change?
Medicaid is involved in funding a variety of transportation services. One of these is the county-administered Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) for Medicaid customers. Currently, this service is operated through the Job and Family Services (JFS) agency in each county. In order to more fairly and consistently provide services throughout the state, Medicaid will be elevating the NEMT funds and establishing brokerages to match customers with the best transportation service for their needs.

This initiative will impact only the county-administered Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation. Medicaid waiver transportation programs and other types of transportation will not change.

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