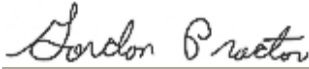


Approved:

Policy No.: 25-010(P)

Effective: August 15, 2006

Responsible Division: Local Programs



Gordon Proctor

Director

ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

This policy establishes funding participation and qualifying activities for the development of an Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program (E & D Program) to provide financial assistance to public transportation systems who offer reduced fares to the elderly and people with disabilities. In the event adequate funding is not available to fully reimburse all transit systems, rural and small urban transit systems will be reimbursed first. The remaining funds will be allocated to the large urban transit systems. ODOT will reimburse transit systems up to fifty percent of the lowest regular adult fare for each trip taken by the elderly and people with disabilities.

E & D Program eligible public transportation systems must 1) receive an allocation from ODOT's Urban Transit Program or Rural Transit Program and 2) provide a reduced fare, which is no greater than one-half (1/2) the regular adult fare, to the elderly and people with a disability.

The Program funding level is established by the Ohio General Assembly in the biennial state budget and is administered by the ODOT Office of Transit.

SCOPE:

This policy is applicable to all Regional Transit Authorities, County Transit Boards, Municipalities, Board of County Commissioners, and Private Non-Profit Organizations who are designated by a Board of County Commissioners to provide public transit service. Eligible recipients of E & D funds must offer a reduced fare to the elderly and people with disabilities

AUTHORITY:

Section 5501.07(B) of the Ohio Revised Code.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

The E&D Program was established in 1975. The program originally was established to allow reduced fares for the elderly. Reduced fares for people with a disability were

incorporated into the program in 1978. The original formula allocation was based on the elderly and disabled population within the county. In SFY 2004, the allocation formula was changed to a process using actual ridership data to calculate farebox lost. This change supported the intent of the program which was to offset the farebox loss incurred by each Ohio public transportation system offering a reduced fare to the elderly and people with a disability.

The state funding for the E & D Program is \$7 million in FY 2007.

DEFINITIONS:

County Transit Board: as defined by chapter 306 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disability: a mental or physical impairment limiting one or more major life functions as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Act) 49 CFR Part 37.

Elderly: 65 years of age or older.

Municipalities: Cities or villages as defined by Title 7 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Private Non-Profit Organization: an Ohio not-for-profit corporation as defined in Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code and is designated by a Board of County Commissioners to provide public transit service.

Public Transportation System: a publicly owned or operated transportation system using buses, rail vehicles or other surface conveyances to provide transportation service to the general public on a regular and continuing basis and receive State or Federal funding through ODOT's Rural Transit Program or the Urban Transit Program.

Reduced Fare: a fare offered by the Public Transportation System for elderly and people with disabilities which is no greater than one-half (1/2) regular adult fare.

Regional Transit Authority: as defined in chapter 306 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Regular Adult Fare: for the purpose of this policy, the lowest fare for a one way trip that has a one-half (1/2) fare option for persons who are elderly or for persons who have a disability.

Rural Transit System: a transit system operated in a non-urbanized area.

Small Urban Transit System: a transit system operating in an urbanized area with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.

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Large Urban Transit System: a transit system operated in an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000.

TRAINING:

Training will be conducted by the Office of Transit.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Minimal training costs will be incurred.