**To:** Nonprofit Organizations Submitting an Application for Transportation Funding

**From:** Grants and Programs Committee of The Dayton Foundation

**Date:** May 2, 2024

**Re:** Policy for Vehicle Purchases

At its meeting on May 2, 2024, the Grants and Programs Committee of The Dayton Foundation updated the policy for nonprofit organizations that submit an application for the purchase of vans, buses and vehicles.

The Committee requests that organizations applying for vans, buses or other vehicles should demonstrate in their applications, or as an addendum, that they have thoroughly researched and exhausted all other existing community transportation options for their clients.

Possible community resources may include, but are not limited to, the following.

**Greater Dayton RTA**

1. Travel Training Program for riders who may be unfamiliar with navigating bus transportation. RTA also offers a brochure in Spanish about using the RTA system.
2. [Paratransit Program](https://www.iriderta.org/ride/other-transportation-services/paratransit-service) offers door-to-door service to certified customers with disabilities who are unable to use regular fixed routes.
3. [Connect On-Demand](https://www.iriderta.org/ride/other-transportation-services/demand) offers door-to-door service within certain areas of the Miami Valley where fixed-route service is either unavailable or limited.
4. [5310 Program](https://www.iriderta.org/5310Program) is a door-to-door service for seniors age 65 and older and persons with disabilities traveling to/from medical appointments, the pharmacy or grocery store within Montgomery County.
5. [Overload Tripper](https://www.iriderta.org/ride/other-transportation-services/transportation-service-requests) service is designed to serve large groups (30 or more) that cannot be served by regular fixed-route service due to capacity issues. This is not a charter service but an extension of existing fixed-route services.

**Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission**

1. **Active**participation in the [Greater Region Mobility Council](https://www.mvrpc.org/our-members/mvrpc-committees/greater-region-mobility-council) to request and potentially receive Section 5310 funding and other benefits.
2. MVRPC provides technical support for nonprofit organizations applying for grants through [Section 5310 Specialized Transportation Program](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mvrpc.org%2Ftransportation%2Fgreater-regional-mobility-initiative-grmi%2Fsection-5310-funding-information&data=05%7C02%7CTArseculeratne%40daytonfoundation.org%7C94e08f0455ff4920e91908dc226205d5%7Caedee082872a433bae59c910e1dbe4b4%7C1%7C0%7C638423051631209592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nl%2FA%2FLLQ%2F1fKq2cfvIvSnnAZDO0YrmPJ1ySiyq2iv1c%3D&reserved=0). Section 5310 is designed to enhance mobility options for older adults and persons with disabilities by removing transportation barriers. This could include, but are not limited to, purchasing accessible vans and buses, preventative maintenance, operation support, purchasing equipment and supporting mobility management.  
   * Organizations can learn more by visiting the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Transit at [Specialized Transportation Program (Section 5310)](https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/transit/transit-funding-resources/transit-specialized-transportation-program) or by contacting Serena Anderson, regional transit programs manager, at [sanderson@mvrpc.org](mailto:sanderson@mvrpc.org) or (937) 531-6524.
3. Other benefits of participating in the Greater Region Mobility Council include networking with other organizations involved in specialized transportation, having ongoing input into the coordination planning process, identifying potential coordination or contracting opportunities, receiving updates on innovative transportation efforts and being made aware of resources and training opportunities regarding specialized transportation.

In the application, please describe in detail the resources or transportation options explored by your organization along with the rationale for the proposed transportation project. For additional information or questions, please contact Tania Arseculeratne, senior Community Engagement officer, at tarseculeratne@daytonfoundation.org or (937) 225-9966.

5/20/2024 last updated