

“Getting There” Worksheet

Prior to talking to an older driver about limiting or stopping driving, thought should be given to ways the driver can remain engaged in life’s activities. No single method of transportation is likely to meet all needs. This worksheet is designed to help you identify available transportation alternatives in your area.

FAMILY/FRIENDS

Family and friends are the top alternative to driving for older adults. This mode of transportation may seem more familiar, comfortable and social to many older adults. That said, there may be conflicting feelings of burdening or inconveniencing others. Some older adults may want to do something in exchange for the ride.

Questions to Ask

1. Are people available to provide rides at the times required?
2. To what extent are family or friends able or willing to provide rides.
3. Do people provide the rides willingly or do they resent having to adjust their schedules?
4. Is there something the older adult can “trade” for a ride (making dinner, taking the driver to lunch, paying for gas)?

Notes:

LOCAL PROGRAMS THAT OFFER RIDES

These are locally developed programs, often sponsored by faith-based or non-profit organizations, which provide rides for older adults. They may charge nominal fees or accept donations and often operate with the help of volunteer drivers.

Questions to Ask

1. What programs are available in my area?
2. Is there a cost?
3. What hours and days of the week does the service run?
4. What are the routes or areas of service?
5. Are there limits to the number of rides in a given time period?
6. Is there any assistance available to people with physical or other health constraints?
7. Is there assistance for people with bags, etc.?
8. Is pre-registration with the service required?
9. Are wheelchair lifts available?

Notes:

DEMAND-RESPONSIVE SERVICES OR PARATRANSIT

Often referred to as the Dial-a-Ride or Elderly and Disabled Transportation Service, these programs are almost always subsidized by government funds and provide door-to-door service and offer rides by appointment. Fees or donations are common. Many use vans and offer accessible services for riders with special needs.

Questions to Ask

1. Is there a minimum age or other physical or cognitive criteria for using the service?
2. How much does it cost?
3. Can an account be set up in advance with the service?
4. How far in advance do reservations need to be made?

continued

“Getting There” Worksheet (cont.)

PRIVATE PROGRAM SERVICES

Services such as adult day centers, housing programs, stores, malls, or other businesses may offer transportation for program participants or customers.

Questions to Ask

1. What ride destinations are provided?
2. Is there a cost?
3. What hours does the service run?
4. What are the routes?
5. Is there any assistance available to people with physical or other health constraints?
6. Is there assistance for people with bags, etc.?
7. Is pre-registration with the service required?
8. Are wheelchair lifts available?

Notes:

TAXI/CAR SERVICE

These private services offer flexible scheduling and charge a fee. Many older adults may perceive these services as “expensive” or “a luxury” but they can cost much less than owning and maintaining a car. Some taxi/car services may be willing to set up accounts that allow other family members to pay for services.

Questions to Ask

1. How much does it cost?
2. How is the cost calculated?
3. How long in advance should I call for a ride?
4. Do you offer any guarantee on response time?
5. Are there geographic limits to where you provide service?
6. Can an account be set up in advance with the service?

7. How are tips handled with an account system?
8. Will drivers provide assistance with bags, packages, etc.?
9. Can the service accommodate wheelchairs?

Notes:

MASS TRANSIT

Public transportation, where available, can be an affordable option for some older adults.

Questions to Ask

1. How much does it cost?
2. Are there discounts for older/disabled people?
3. Can an account be set up in advance with the service? Or are there monthly passes?
4. What hours does the service run?
5. What geographic area does the service cover?
6. Will drivers provide assistance with bags, packages, etc.?
7. Can companions accompany the person on the service?
8. Are wheelchair lifts available?
9. Does the older adult have cognitive or physical limitations that prevent him or her from using this mode of transportation?

Notes:
