# **Transportation Services**

## for the Elderly

ave you ever thought about what would happen if the transportation you use is no longer an option? How would you continue to maintain your independence so that you could continue with your daily routines? Who would you turn to for assistance? People often look to friends or relatives to assist with transportation – this may be a good option for you, but it is not always the most convenient for you or for them.

Transportation for aging adults is crucial to ensure access to essential services such as medical care and grocery shopping. The availability of adequate transportation enables older persons to live independently in their communities, helps to prevent isolation and the possible need for long-term care placement. Many older people, who do not drive, must rely on family and friends to provide much of their needed transportation. Yet still, for others, it is necessary to find community resources to provide transportation, as this vital support service may be their only connection to the outside world.

Various alternative transportation services are available throughout the state and the options vary depending upon where you live. Whether you are looking for yourself, a family member or a friend, consider what type of service would best meet your needs. The types of transportation that may be available for the elderly include individual door- to- door services, fixed route with scheduled services, or ridesharing with volunteer drivers. A good place to start your search for transportation is your local Council on Aging. In some communities the Council on Aging arranges, monitors, and supports programs that provide transportation for the elderly. Even if your local agency does not provide transportation services directly, they should be able to give assistance with finding services in your area.

#### **Door- to-Door Service**

Door -to-door service refers to transportation from one specific location to another. Most providers require advanced notice of intent to ride. This type of service is based upon demand and allows the most flexibility.

#### **Fixed Route**

Fixed route with scheduled services transports riders along a pre- established route of predetermined stops at designated locations. Although this service provides less flexibility and fees may be charged on a per-ride basis (fees may be discounted or nonexistent for seniors), advanced reservations are not required.

### Ridesharing

Ridesharing programs generally arrange for older persons needing rides to be transported to specific destinations such as senior centers, adult day care, and health-related appointments with volunteer drivers.

Click here to view the <u>Louisiana Transit Providers Guide</u> or select a parish below to view available transportation options.

Acadia Allen Ascension Assumption Avoyelles Beauregard Bienville Bossier Caddo Calcasieu Caldwell Cameron Catahoula Claiborne Concordia DeSoto East Baton Rouge East Carroll East Feliciana Evangeline Franklin Grant\*\* Iberia Iberville Jackson Jefferson Jefferson Davis Lafayette Lafourche LaSalle Lincoln Livingston Madison Morehouse\*\* Natchitoches Orleans Ouachita Plaquemines Pointe Coupee Rapides Red River Richland Sabine St. Bernard St. Charles St. Helena St. James St. John the Baptist St. Landry St. Martin St. Mary St. Tammany Tangipahoa Tensas\*\* Terrebonne Union Vermilion Vernon Washington Webster West Baton Rouge West Carroll West Feliciana Winn

- \*\*Grant parish transportation services are provided by the Winn Parish Council on Aging
- \*\*Morehouse parish transportation services are independently owned and operated by Morehouse Council on Aging. Services include transportation to nutrition sites, bill pay centers, shopping and other transportation needs. (Medical transport is excluded)

  Contact Morehouse Council on Aging at 1-800-256-3006 or (318)283-0845 for more information.
- \*\*Tensas parish transportation services are provided by the Tensas Council on Aging Contact Tensas Council on Aging at (318)766-3770 for more information.