



SOU'WEST NOVA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

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Serving the Communities of Shelburne County

May 1, 2017

Introducing the *Transportation Referral and Partnership Fund!* Through funding from the Department of Seniors Age Friendly Communities Grant program, Sou'West Nova Transit is offering a chance for *free or discounted transportation* for organizations and service providers serving seniors!

Transportation is not simply about getting someone from point-A to point-B, but about the benefits riders receive from connecting with services, opportunities, and each other. Through offering accessible transportation options to all residents of Shelburne County, Sou'West Nova Transit seeks to support the great work of local governments, businesses and organizations by helping people access them and the services they refer to.

We are pleased to announce that we have been granted funds through the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors' Age-Friendly Communities Grant program to work with our community partners and network on a new level: by offsetting travel costs for initiatives and referrals that demonstrate building connections with and meeting immediate, critical needs of seniors with transportation barriers. **See the next page for details about the two types of project funds available!**

Accepting applications now!

VISIT www.souwestnovatransit.ca/TRPFund

(PAPER COPIES OF APPLICATION ARE ALSO AVAILABLE – CALL TO REQUEST)

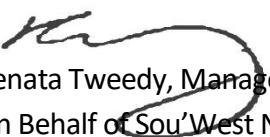
First round:

- Accepting applications from May 1st to May 26th for travel from May to September
- Organizations can apply for a maximum of \$300 of subsidy for the first round; Organizations that are approved for the first round will also be considered for the second round if applicable

Second round:

- Accepting applications from September 1 to September 22nd for travel from October to February
- Organizations can apply for a maximum of \$300 of subsidy for the second round, and may be awarded additional subsidy if required and money remains in the fund

We hope to hear from you soon about how we can partner to serve Shelburne County seniors!


Renata Tweedy, Manager
On Behalf of Sou'West Nova Transit

- TWO TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE -

Meeting immediate needs – Transportation funding for senior riders referred by **service providers**

When a representative from a service like Mental Health, Continuing Care, Senior Services, local grass-roots support efforts, or a health care centre is trying to assist a senior by getting them home from the hospital, to a vital mental or physical health appointment, or to find another essential ride, rather than having to fight – and often fail – to find funding to cover the fares for those trips, the Transportation Referral and Partnership Fund is there to assist. *This fund is meant to assist for a single trip or defined short series of trips, giving time for other funding solutions to be put into place.* For representatives of organizations trying to meet the immediate, urgent need of a senior (not including emergency medical travel, which should be referred to an ambulance): Call or email by noon the day before the trip – no application necessary.

Who can request assistance: Organizations and service providers serving Shelburne County residents, including seniors, in areas related to health, housing, care, etc.

Who can benefit: Senior Shelburne County residents who are not immediately eligible for travel funding through existing programs (BTO, Continuing Care, Veterans Affairs, etc.), with priority given to riders who have not accessed SWNT services before. Riders requiring assistance to enter/exit a vehicle or at an appointment site (including if they will be under sedation for a procedure) must travel with an attendant; attendants always ride free with Sou'West Nova Transit!

Supporting connection initiatives – Transportation funding for **organizations** involving seniors

Shelburne County is the home of many wonderful organizations and services that can help provide richer, more fulfilled lives for seniors by connecting them to their communities and to each other. However, lack of transportation can mean that those who would most benefit will never have the opportunity to participate. The Transportation Referral and Partnership Fund allows services and organizations (who are able to demonstrate that they are prioritizing the inclusion of new and isolated seniors) to request fare subsidy to bring individuals and groups to social, recreational, and community-building events and activities using Sou'West Nova Transit's 14 passenger accessible bus or smaller vehicles.

Who can apply: Any organization in Shelburne County! Registered non-profits and charities can use their assigned subsidy to cover up to 100% of their travel cost, and other organizations up to 75% of their travel costs.

Who can benefit: Applying organizations need to be able to demonstrate through the application what is being done to target or involve new or isolated older adults, and priority will be given to projects demonstrating efforts to involve NEW seniors --- reaching out to those not currently involved.

Potential projects:

- o Request travel vouchers to allow a senior without access to transportation an opportunity to volunteer with your organization, either for a single project/event or over a longer period of time
- o Apply to cover the cost of travel for seniors to a program or event hosted by your organization

Visit www.souwestnovatransit.ca/TRPFund to apply online!