



Strategies to Address Transportation-Related Barriers to Health Care

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Study Purpose

- Describe transportation barriers to health care in Virginia, the factors that contribute to those barriers, and the populations impacted
- Evaluate interventions and programs that address transportation barriers to health care in Virginia
- Identify strategies Virginia could implement to address transportation barriers
- Recommend policy options to reduce transportation barriers to health care for patients in Virginia

Findings in brief

- The Virginia NEMT Program has improved in recent years, but data collection could be enhanced
- Fixed funding hinders expansion of transportation services for Section 5310 Program recipients
- Transportation services in Virginia are siloed, limiting access and making coordination across programs difficult
- Rural areas of Virginia need additional transportation options and resources

NEMT = Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Policy Option 1

The JCHC could direct DMAS to amend contracts with Medicaid MCOs to require the MCOs to adopt performance metrics for NEMT brokers consistent with performance metrics implemented for the FFS NEMT program and to report annually to DMAS regarding the performance of the NEMT brokers on such metrics.

Support: Virginia Poverty Law Center

DMAS = Department for Medical Assistance Services; MCO = Managed Care Organization; FFS = Fee-for-Service

Policy Option 2

The JCHC could direct DMAS to develop guidance for Medicaid MCOs regarding NEMT mileage prior authorization requirements. DMAS should develop a recommended mileage amount under which prior authorization is not allowable.

Support: Virginia Poverty Law Center

Policy Option 3

The JCHC could introduce a budget amendment to increase the portion of the CMTF dedicated to supporting human service transportation programs to 0.0045% of the total amount included in the CMTF.

CMTF = Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund

Policy Option 4

The JCHC could introduce a budget amendment to add \$500,000 per year to the CMTF for DRPT to provide technical assistance on program financial management to Section 5310 Program recipients, including guidance on braiding of federal funds and how to establish themselves as NEMT providers.

DRPT = Department of Rail and Public Transit

Policy Option 5

The JCHC could introduce a budget amendment to provide up to \$8 million per year for the DRPT to establish a competitive grant program for private, non-profit organizations and state or local government agencies to plan, establish, and sustain mobility management services or regional transportation hubs that include mobility management services. The budget amendment should require DRPT to report annually by November 1 to the Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriation Committee, and the JCHC regarding the grant program.

Policy Option 6

The JCHC could introduce a budget amendment to provide up to \$5 million per year to the DRPT to establish a competitive grant program to provide funding to localities to plan, establish, and sustain microtransit services in rural areas of Virginia. The budget amendment should require DRPT to report annually by November 1 to the Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriation Committee, and the JCHC regarding the grant program.

Member Discussion and Voting

Voting

| Policy Option | Description of Option |
|-----------------|---|
| Policy Option 1 | Direct DMAS to amend contracts with Medicaid MCOs to require the MCOs to adopt performance metrics for NEMT brokers consistent with performance metrics implemented for the FFS NEMT program |
| Policy Option 2 | Direct DMAS to develop guidance for Medicaid MCOs regarding NEMT mileage prior authorization requirements |
| Policy Option 3 | Increase the portion of the CMTF dedicated to supporting human service transportation programs to 0.0045% of the total amount included in the CMTF |
| Policy Option 4 | Add \$500,000 per year to the CMTF for DRPT to provide technical assistance on program financial management to Section 5310 Program recipients |
| Policy Option 5 | Provide up to \$8 million per year for the DRPT to establish a competitive grant program to plan, establish, and sustain mobility management services or regional transportation hubs |
| Policy Option 6 | Provide up to \$5 million per year to the DRPT to establish a competitive grant program to provide funding to localities to plan, establish, and sustain microtransit services in rural areas of Virginia |