Responses to Question about Rural Area Transportation

Indiana -

1. Church Vans
2. Group Home Vans
3. School Mini Bus/Van
4. Discounted County Transit
5. Van Rentals-some car rental places will give you a discount if you’re non-profit
6. Grant Writing-to purchase a van
7. Partnering with other organizations that have transportation

Alabama -

In some areas, as transportation has been a barrier, some of our school systems have been very innovative in partnering with VR in providing student led enterprises within the school. These student led enterprises, allow students to participate while at school through learning job specific tasks without leaving their school environment. A couple examples we currently have are on campus coffee shops and clothing closets. These students are responsible for clocking in and out, taking orders, preparing beverages, taking payment, delivering purchased items, providing appropriate customer service, clean up, completing inventory of supplies and replenishing as needed as well as balancing revenue. In regards to the clothing closet project, in addition to the task of employment such as clocking in and out, and providing customer service, these students have an opportunity to take in inventory as well as document outgoing inventory through donations of clothing items and distribution to those requesting items. Students sort per size and item, upkeep of the cleanliness of the store, fold and hang etc. In having these WBL on campus, it removes the transportation barrier while ensuring that students are receiving job specific skills training.

For those areas that do not have student led enterprises on campus or would benefit more from WBL in the community, we have been provided information of transportation initiatives to further assist with transportation barriers for individuals with disabilities. The Federal Transportation Administration has funding opportunities for individuals with disabilities in assisting in transporting to programs, childcare etc. These funds are based on population in relation to amount of individuals in that area with a disability. Although the primary focus is for rural areas, there are instances where urban areas may also be eligible. This funding aids in modifications and trainings however a large portion of this initiative is for the acquisition of transportation services through buses and vans and/or under a contact, lease or other arrangements. The link for more detailed information is provided below. Also, on this page there is a prerecorded webinar that speaks of the specifications of the grant and the application process.
Maine -

- Partnering with schools so that Extended School Year schedule matches summer work experience program schedule allowing buses to be used for getting students to school and community-based work sites.
- Creating summer residential programs at universities (where work sites are developed) to reduce transportation need while also building college readiness.
- VR has rented a state-owned van for the length of the summer program to facilitate transportation. Parents give permission for students to be transported with DVR staff.

New Jersey -

Some districts have begun utilizing Lyft, Uber, and contacting with local cab companies.

Nevada -

Really, in the rural communities it is very hard. There is a medical transport for appointments, but it is limited.

Recently I went to a meeting of N4 (see attached) it is a "volunteer village" and time-exchange that is gaining some traction here in Northern Nevada. I'm not sure if they are in the rural communities yet. I also saw a presentation by the developers of the smart phone app called MUVE, which is similar to N4, but bigger and they say it works in rural communities. I'd suggest they check MUVE out. I've attached their presentation.

Ohio -

Ohio’s Employment First Taskforce is working on a Transportation Matrix that will include guiding questions for all local partners to work through various resources available to students. Our hope is to make this tool broad enough to be applied in any local area across the state – dense urban areas with robust public transportation and rural areas with limited transportation options. We hope this tool can be used for IEP teams, VR planning teams, and any other teams looking to coordinate transportation for youth seeking employment.