



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,  
AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES**



**NEW FREEDOM: VOLUNTEER DRIVER MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (VDMR)  
FACT SHEET  
August 2017**

### **Background**

The need for specialized transportation has increased significantly as a result of the aging of the baby boomer generation. New Freedom Programs target the coordination and provision of non-fixed route transportation services to disabled adults and very frail elderly that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These programs are intended to improve quality of life, by helping residents age in the community more effectively, while increasing their community engagement. In addition, the New Freedom Programs address the service gaps and barriers between fixed-route and demand-response service. New Freedom Programs provide mobility management services within each of the five Supervisorial Districts. WDACS received New Freedom grant funds from the U.S Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and is administered by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA). Limited funding is available.

### **Program Description**

- The VDMR Program is a Client-centered transportation program that gives participants the opportunity and responsibility to select and recruit one (1) or more Volunteer Drivers for their transportation needs.
- Volunteer Drivers can be selected from a wide range of individuals including family, friends, and neighbors.
- Volunteer Drivers utilize their personal vehicles when providing transportation to Clients, as mutually agreed upon and arranged between the Client and the Volunteer Driver. The County does not assume any responsibility for the Client's choice of a Volunteer Driver.
- The Program complements public transportation by compensating Clients who are unable to access public transportation due to disability and/or geographical location, by designating and reimbursing Volunteer Drivers to transport them.
- The Program has no limit on the number of monthly trips, but provides Clients with total mileage of 150 miles per month or less, at a rate of 34 cents per mile.

### **Program Eligibility**

- Services are available to the general public, however, priority of service is reserved for Clients who meet the following criteria:
  - Age – 60 years of age or older; or
  - Dependent adult- persons between the ages of 18 and 59, who have physical or mental limitations that restrict his or her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.
- Applicants will be asked to provide documentation verifying age and/or disability.
- Program acceptance will be made on a first come first serve basis.

### **Contact**

If you are interested in receiving VDMR services or would like additional program information, please contact us at 888-863-7411 or send an email to [newfreedom@wdacs.lacounty.gov](mailto:newfreedom@wdacs.lacounty.gov). You may also visit our website at <http://newfreedom.lacounty.gov>.