

Needham Community Council Transportation of Last Resort Program

We would like to update you on some of the recent changes to the Needham Community Council's Transportation Program. The Council Board of Directors has approved the following expansion to our existing program to increase the availability of transportation for Needham residents beyond the limit of medical appointments; when no other appropriate transportation opportunities are available and based on the qualifications described below:

1. Rider must be 18 years or older or, if younger, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Maximum number of riders per car is 3.
2. No intermediate stops may be made...curb to curb only, independent mobility is required, transportation is not handicapped accessible.
3. Maximum distance is 5 miles outside Needham [eg. includes Newton-Wellesley Hospital; Elliot, Riverside & Newton Highlands T Stations; JCC, etc.] We are not able to provide transportation into Boston or Brookline.
4. Rides must be requested at least 24 hours in advance by calling 781-444-2415 and will be approved and scheduled by the Council's Transportation Coordinator. No requests will be processed on weekends or holidays when the Council office is closed. Office hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Below are some possible situations that may qualify for this program [if in doubt, contact the Council]:

1. Provide parents with rides to Needham Public School appointments and/or teacher conferences when alternative transportation is not available.
2. Medical destinations include: rides to AA meetings, Physical Therapy sessions, transfusions, ambulatory discharge from BID-Needham, pre-op screenings, blood tests, etc.
3. Emergency needs include: e.g. pick up prescriptions, meetings with Town Health Department Officials
4. Visiting a spouse or direct family member at BID-Needham Hospital or Needham nursing home
5. Food Pantry customers with bundles returning home from the Food Pantry
6. Special requests as approved by the Council.

This program is not income based; each rider may request **a maximum of 10 rides per month [5 round trips]** including medical appointments, unless pre-approved by the Council Executive Director. Volunteer drivers will always be scheduled, when they are available, but an alternative transportation service [eg. Lyft] may also be used to provide this service.

All rides provided by a Lyft driver (fee-based service) will be paid for with Community Council funds; tipping is not necessary; riders will receive a monthly letter outlining the cost of their individual fee-based rides; tax-deductible donations are always greatly appreciated, but not required, to support our programs.

Please feel free to contact the Council office at 781-444-2415 for more information or with any questions you may have.

We hope you will share the news of this program with your friends, family and neighbors. As always, the Council's mission is to provide support to Needham residents. Visit our website at www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org

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