

Roadmap to Success: Rural Transportation Connections

Safe and reliable transportation is important for everyone and can be especially challenging to secure for low-income and rural populations, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Safe, consistently available transportation ensures that students can attend classes and that employees can get to work on time, every time.

Common Roadblocks

- Rural communities lack of transportation infrastructure
- Cost of public transportation
- Cost of owning/maintaining a vehicle
- Long travel distances and/or time constraint associated with public transportation

Effective Strategies

NFJP grantees help individuals overcome common roadblocks by:

- Providing free or subsidized bus passes
- Building transportation into their service delivery model
- Leveraging supportive service funds for car repairs and/or gas cards
- Operating bus rider training programs
- Providing online courses to increase participation of individuals who experience transportation challenges
- Utilizing local resources like Social Services vouchers, or Head Start and other city programs. For example, work with Head Start to arrange pick-up/drop-off for program participants' children so that participants are able to attend training programs
- Relying on Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker partnerships with others like the Migrant Education Program and leveraging resources to create transportation solutions
- Introducing students to peers to increase ride sharing and coordinated carpools
- Providing connections to free or discounted transportation for special populations such as seniors, students, and individuals with disabilities

Safety

According to [2017 U.S. Department of Labor & Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) report the leading causes of fatal workplace injuries among crop production workers were transportation incidents. Safety of farmworkers is at the forefront, as outlined in [Fact Sheet #50: Transportation under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act](#). Safety Information from OSHA can be found at their [Trucking Industry Safety Information](#) and [OHSA Transportation Publications](#) pages.

Here are key ways to ensure transportation safety:

- Drivers are properly licensed and insured
- Drivers comply with all safety obligations imposed by the State in which it operates
- Vehicle meets federal and state safety standards
- Use of seat belts where already required under Federal or State law
- Vehicles must comply with either the DOL standards at 29 CFR § 500.104 or the Department of Transportation (DOT) standards incorporated at 29 CFR § 500.105

For more information please see:

- Federal resources from DOT: [Rural Public Transportation Systems](#); [Formula Grants for Rural Areas](#); [Rural Transportation Assistance Program](#)
- Federal resources from other DOL programs: [SCSEP Rider Guides for Older Workers](#); [Disability Resource: One Stop Centers and Employment Transportation](#); [Youth Build](#)
- Examples of state and local resources such as Rider Guides, transportation subsidies, and grant programs: [Rural Health Information Hub: Rural Transportation Toolkit](#); [Transit Planning 4 All](#); [Salinas, CA Riders Guide](#); [California Vanpool Authority](#); Find your [state's Department of Transportation](#) to learn about available resources



Learn more about the National Farmworker Jobs Program at <https://www.doleta.gov/Farmworker/> and join us at Agriculture Connection at <https://farmworker.workforcegps.org/>