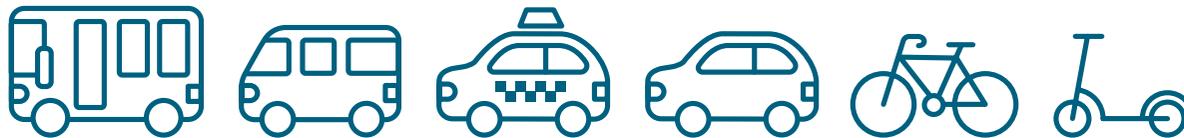




## On the Go in Ohio

Transportation Services Available Through Level 1, I/O and SELF Waivers

Ensuring that Ohioans with disabilities have access to safe, reliable and accessible transportation is a key focus for DODD. In response to input from the Blueprint Work Group and stakeholders across the state, additional transportation service options will become available in Summer 2022.



### ➤ What's Changing? What's Staying the Same?

The two most commonly used waiver transportation services – **Transportation** and **Non-Medical Transportation (NMT)** – are not changing at this time. Transportation is a service that people usually receive from an HPC (homemaker personal care) provider to help them run errands, get to appointments and participate in social activities. NMT is commonly used to help people get to and from work, volunteer activities and day program sites.

**Self-Directed Transportation** is a **new** service that will be available beginning July 1, 2022. This service can be used to access many different types of locations and activities. It includes options for a variety of transportation types to accommodate both scheduled and spontaneous transportation needs.

All three transportation types are available to individuals receiving services through a Level 1, Individual Options or SELF waiver.

## Let's look at the differences between each of these services.

	<b>Self-Directed Transportation</b>	<b>Non-Medical Transportation (NMT)</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>What types of locations are covered?</b>	This type of transportation can be used for all types of community locations that are consistent with the individual's service plan.	NMT can be used to go to, from or between a person's workplace, post-secondary education sites and volunteer activities. It can also be used for internship or practicum sites and places where adult day, vocational or employment services are provided. The service can also be provided to transport a person to or from a drop-off or transfer location for one of the places mentioned above.	This type of transportation can be used for all types of community locations that are consistent with the individual's service plan.
<b>What kind of vehicle?</b>	<p>Any type of ground transportation available to the general public. Fare for taxis, Uber, Lyft, buses and light rail is covered under this service.</p> <p>Reimbursement is also available to drivers who meet minimum requirements under the service rule and who have a written agreement for providing transportation to the individual receiving services.</p>	This service is usually provided in a car, van or similar vehicle. Modified vehicles, such as wheelchair accessible vans or vehicles that have been structurally modified to meet other physical or behavioral needs of an individual, are available. Some public and commercial transportation companies may also provide this service.	This service is usually provided in a car, van or similar vehicle. Modified vehicles, such as wheelchair accessible vans or vehicles that have been structurally modified to meet other physical or behavioral needs of an individual, are available.

	<b>Self-Directed Transportation</b>	<b>Non-Medical Transportation (NMT)</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>Who drives and what are the driver requirements?</b>	<p>For all types of public or commercial transportation, drivers/operators are screened and selected by the company providing the service.</p> <p>If someone the individual knows (such as a neighbor or coworker) is providing the service for reimbursement, they will need to complete an application and a background check, and have a valid Ohio driver's license and proof of auto insurance. Drivers must have fewer than six points on their driving record. The Financial Management Service (FMS) conducts the application and approval process.</p>	<p>The driver must be or work for a certified Medicaid provider. They must have a driver's license, auto insurance and fewer than six points on their driving record.</p> <p>Unless they are employed by a commercial transportation company, all drivers must complete DODD required training and be certified in CPR and First Aid.</p>	<p>The driver must be or work for a certified Medicaid provider. They must have a driver's license, auto insurance and fewer than six points on their driving record.</p> <p>Drivers must complete DODD required training and be certified in CPR and First Aid.</p>
<b>Who can accompany the person using the service?</b>	<p>Individuals receiving this service can choose who rides with them. Other riders will generally need to pay for their own fare.</p>	<p>Generally only other people who are receiving NMT transportation and/or staff providing services will be allowed in the vehicle. This may vary if the service is provided by a public or commercial transportation company.</p>	<p>Generally only other people who are receiving Transportation and/or staff providing services will be allowed in the vehicle.</p>
<b>Will the person need to schedule trips in advance?</b>	<p>The need to schedule in advance will depend on which type of transportation is used. Many types of transportation under this service are available without needing to schedule in advance.</p>	<p>Usually yes. In the case of this service being used to transport a person between day or vocational activities, the service might be provided more spontaneously.</p>	<p>Maybe. Since this service is usually provided by the person's HPC provider, their availability and scheduling requirements will need to be discussed with them.</p>

	<b>Self-Directed Transportation</b>	<b>Non-Medical Transportation (NMT)</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>How does the person use this service?</b>	<p>The individual chooses which types of transportation they want to use. For public or commercial transportation, the FMS will provide prepaid vouchers, cards or passes that they can use to pay the fare.</p> <p>If the person chooses to receive transportation from someone they know in their vehicle, they will make arrangements directly with the driver, and the driver will keep a record to receive payment for their services.</p>	<p>This is a 'door to door' service. Most trips will be scheduled in advance with the person's service provider. They will pick the individual up from and drop them off at the locations identified in the service plan. Individuals may also use this service to go between sites as part of their participation in vocational, day and employment services.</p>	<p>This is a 'door to door' service. The provider picks the person up from and drops them off at the locations they choose (and as outlined in the service plan).</p>
<b>How do I authorize this service?</b>	<p>This service is authorized to the FMS as a dollar amount. The FMS manages fare purchases and reimbursement to approved drivers.</p>	<p>This service is authorized to the selected service provider. Authorization to agency or independent providers can be made per mile or per trip. If the provider is a public or commercial company, the authorization is made as a dollar amount.</p>	<p>This service is authorized in mile units to the selected service provider.</p>

**David uses a motorized wheelchair and he needs transportation services to go to the museum where he volunteers and to his weekly appointments with his job developer.**

He also needs transportation to go swimming at the rec center several times per week and he is thinking about taking some classes at the community college next semester. David decides to use the Non-Medical Transportation service for his volunteer work and job developer appointments. These trips are scheduled for the same days and times each week, and there are several NMT providers in David's area that have wheelchair accessible vehicles. He decides that he will probably choose NMT for his transportation to his college classes too. He chooses to use the Self-Directed Transportation service to purchase passes to take the rapid train to the rec center. His home and the rec center are both close to stations, and the train and stations are wheelchair accessible. He likes the flexibility of not having to schedule his rec center trips in advance, and also likes that he can choose to take the train to stop at a restaurant or at a store on his way home if he wants to.

## FAQs

### Can a person choose more than one of these transportation services?

Yes. Each person can choose the combination of services that will best meet their needs.

### Are individuals required to use the least expensive transportation option available to them?

No. Each person can choose the services that will best meet their needs within their waiver budget. The team will need to plan for all services for which the person has an assessed need, and assist the individual to prioritize those within their entire waiver budget.

### How can I help individuals choose which service or combination of services will work best for them?

There are some key questions you can ask that will help you better understand each person's preferences and needs:

### Maria needs transportation services to go to her job at the local supermarket.

She also needs transportation to go shopping, out with friends, and for salon appointments. She thinks about her options and decides to ask her coworker Sasha if she could give her a ride to work on the days that they have the same shifts. She tells Sasha about how she can be paid for each ride through the Self-Directed Transportation service, and Sasha tells Maria that she would be able to take her to work on most days. Maria decides to also purchase a monthly bus pass through the Self-Directed Transportation service to use on the days that Sasha can't take her to work. She also plans to use the bus pass to go shopping and for some of her social activities with friends. She knows that some of the places that she and her friends like to go aren't on the bus line, and her salon isn't either, so she decides to use the Transportation service for those trips since she can schedule in advance with her HPC provider.

	Things to Consider
<b>Where do you need and want to go? Are there public or commercial transportation options in these areas?</b>	Keep in mind that NMT only covers trips to, from and between certain types of locations. Transportation and Self Directed Transportation cover all locations in the community.
<b>When do you need transportation? What days and times? How often?</b>	Many transportation providers only offer services during certain 'peak' times. If a person needs services early in the morning, late at night or on weekends, public or commercial companies may be available at times when agency or independent providers are not.
<b>Who do you want or need to go with you? Do you know anyone who could provide rides in their vehicle?</b>	Self Directed Transportation is the most flexible option for individuals who want or need to have companions travel with them. It also includes the option for drivers to be reimbursed without having to become a fully DODD certified Medicaid provider.
<b>What trips could you schedule in advance? When do you need transportation "on-demand"?</b>	NMT providers generally require trips to be scheduled in advance, while some Transportation providers may be more flexible. Public and commercial companies typically offer the most flexibility, with many requiring no advance scheduling.

## Things to Consider

### What kinds of vehicles do you need or prefer?

Consider all characteristics that are important to and for the person. In addition to physical accessibility, make sure to also think about environmental and other concerns such as noise, proximity to other passengers, overall time required for trip, routines or interactions associated with the transportation type, etc.

### Are there certain supports that you need while...

...waiting for your ride to arrive?

...boarding the vehicle?

...riding in the vehicle?

...exiting the vehicle?

...arriving at your destination?

If so, who could provide these supports?

Think about the person's unique needs and consider options for natural supports such as family, friends or coworkers. If natural supports are not available, choosing a service that can be combined with staffing (NMT or Transportation) may be the best option.

### What types of transportation do you know how to use? Do you need support to learn how to use any of the types that interest you?

Not knowing how to use a particular type of transportation should not prevent a person from considering it as an option. Many resources are available to help people learn how to use the transportation methods that interest them. Online resources such as the [Community Life Guide Speak Up Stay Safe](#) modules can provide fundamental instruction regarding safety and pedestrian skills. Most regional transit authorities in Ohio offer travel training to help individuals with disabilities learn how to use buses and trains. Some county boards also offer travel training resources and classes to help individuals learn how to use various types of transportation in their community.

### Andre is retired and needs transportation to go out with friends and to activities at the senior center.

He has seizures several times per week and is concerned about being alone in case he needs help. He has been receiving Transportation services from his HPC provider for a long time and he would like to continue to do that, but he is also thinking about how he would sometimes like more flexibility to do things with his friends without having to make arrangements in advance. He decides to use the Self-Directed Transportation service so that he can use Uber and Lyft for some of his activities with friends. He likes that he doesn't have to schedule rides in advance and he feels safe when he rides with his friends who know how to help him if he has a seizure.