

New website to steer Ottawa County residents to transportation options

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The Ottawa County Transit Coalition has launched a website designed to help county residents find public, private, medical and social service transportation options.

The website — www.lakeshoreridelink.org — lists more than two dozen transportation agencies serving the county that offer rides to work, school, social service agencies and medical appointments for youth, adults, seniors and persons with disabilities.

"This website provides a wealth of information to persons looking for a ride somewhere for whatever reason," said Tiffany Bowman of Pioneer Resources, which serves as project manager for the website. "Visitors can search the list of providers by type of service, area served, handicap accessibility, days/hours of operation and contact information."

A link also is provided to most of the transportation providers' websites.

The mission of the Ottawa County Transit Coalition is to increase vital access to transportation resources through education, advocacy and collaboration of resources to ensure the quality of life for county residents. Coalition members include Pioneer Resources Inc. of Muskegon, Macatawa Area Transportation Authority of Holland, Harbor Transit of Grand Haven, Hope Network of Grand Rapids, Disability Network/Lakeshore of Holland and North Ottawa County Council on Aging.

The new website was funded by a \$12,500 New Freedom grant from the Federal Transportation Administration that was awarded to Pioneer Resources. Another FTA New Freedom grant was awarded to the MAX Transportation Authority to produce a printed directory of Ottawa County transportation providers and develop a process for information sharing among providers to gain efficiencies.

For more information, call Tiffany Bowman or Amy Brown at Pioneer Resources at (616) 355-3219.

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