



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
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Aug. 21, 2009

County Will Offer Rides to Rural Residents

FAYETTEVILLE – Starting Sept. 1, citizens in rural parts of Cumberland County will be able to schedule a ride to carry them to medical appointments, shopping centers, schools, places of employment and other locations for a small fee.

Thanks to a \$154,965 Rural Operating Assistance Program grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the county's Community Transportation Program has contracted with B&W Transporting Inc. to provide the service weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Riders will be charged \$2.05 per one-way trip. The collected fares will go toward the grant's required 10 percent match.

"This service is needed," said Kristine Wagner, Transportation Program Coordinator. "The rural areas of our county do not have available public transportation, with the exception of taxi service. The local bus system only operates within the city limits, inside the urban area boundary."

Wagner said the program used data from the 2000 Census to determine what constitutes a rural area. Residents located outside of the Census Urban Area Boundary will be able to call the Community Transportation Program office at 910-678-7675 and schedule transportation with a minimum of 24 hours notice. Residents inside Fayetteville, Spring Lake and Hope Mills are not covered under this program.

When a client calls the number to book a ride, the transportation office will verify that the person is a rural resident and that the trip requested is an allowable expense with grant funds.

For more information, call the Community Transportation Program at 910-678-7675.

The Community Transportation Program also operates a service that carries elderly and disabled citizens of Cumberland County to their medical appointments.

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