

(1) A county shall use all amounts distributed to it under this section only for the acquisition or replacement of equipment or for the operating costs of the county's transportation service;

(2) A county, in consultation with the local area agency on aging, shall determine the most effective means of serving the transportation needs of its elderly and handicapped residents;

(3) Each county shall cooperate with the others to best serve the transportation needs of the State's elderly and handicapped residents; and

(4) A county administering a transportation service that receives funds under this section:

(i) Shall provide trips for any purpose;

(ii) Shall serve the elderly and handicapped citizens within the service areas identified in its application;

(iii) May not restrict its transportation service to clients of social service agencies;

(iv) May establish reasonable fares; and

(v) May permit persons other than the elderly and handicapped to use or benefit from its transportation service to the extent capacity is available.

(h) The Secretary in consultation with the Maryland Office on Aging and the Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals shall monitor the use of funds provided under this section.

(i) A county that receives funds under this section may not use such funds to replace any moneys it receives from other sources for transportation service for the elderly and handicapped.

(j) Federal funds provided to the State for use in connection with the provision of transportation service to the elderly and handicapped may not be diverted to other uses by the State.

(k) The Secretary shall encourage each county to:

(1) Continue to maximize use of existing funding programs for elderly and handicapped transportation service; and

(2) Enter into cooperative agreements with other local or State resource providers.