

(2) "JOB ACCESS PROJECT" MEANS A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE REASONABLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO EMPLOYMENT OR JOB-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-INCOME WORKERS THAT:

(I) FACILITATES TRIPS TO AND FROM JOBS AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHILD CARE, JOB SKILLS ENHANCEMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT SEEKING ACTIVITIES; AND

(II) SERVES LOW-INCOME WORKERS WITHIN A SERVICE AREA THAT IS SPECIFIED BY A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER.

(3) "LOW-INCOME WORKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT MEETS THE POVERTY THRESHOLD THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

(4) "TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY THAT PROVIDES TRANSIT SERVICE TO MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL.

(B) (1) THERE IS A JOB ACCESS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS FOR JOB ACCESS PROJECTS.

(2) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET, THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT:

(I) OPERATES A JOB ACCESS PROJECT THAT:

1. TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME WORKERS WITHIN THE AREA OF SERVICE DEFINED BY THE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER; AND

2. IS NOT RESTRICTED TO CLIENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES;

(II) FILES A WRITTEN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN THE FORM AND DETAIL THE SECRETARY REQUIRES; AND

(III) RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY.

(3) BEFORE APPROVING AN APPLICATION FROM A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER, THE SECRETARY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

(4) WHEN ALLOCATING FUNDS UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM, THE SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO THE AREAS OF THE STATE THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES ARE MOST IN NEED OF A JOB ACCESS PROJECT.

(C) (1) A TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES FUNDS FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE UNDER THE JOB ACCESS PROGRAM SHALL EXPEND A MATCHING FUND OF AT LEAST 20% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.