

(B) "DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION" MEANS PROVIDING, THROUGH PREARRANGED APPOINTMENT, SAFE ESCORT FROM A DEPARTURE POINT, INTO AND OUT OF A TRANSPORT VEHICLE AND TO THE DOOR OF THE DESTINATION.

(C) "LOW-INCOME TO MODERATE-INCOME" MEANS THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF AN INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT EXCEED 400% OF THE POVERTY THRESHOLD THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF STATISTICS FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

(D) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND SENIOR RIDES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) "PROGRAM APPLICANT" MEANS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, NONPROFIT ENTITY, OR FAITH-BASED AGENCY THAT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501 (C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

(F) "PROGRAM PARTICIPANT" MEANS A PROGRAM APPLICANT THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM.

(G) "SENIOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL AGE 60 OR OLDER.

7-1002.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND SENIOR RIDES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION FOR LOW-INCOME TO MODERATE-INCOME SENIORS.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL AWARD ~~A GRANT~~ GRANTS TO QUALIFIED PROGRAM APPLICANTS, AS PROVIDED IN § 7-1003 OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR THE OPERATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

(D) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER § 7-1003 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PROGRAM APPLICANT SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION FOR LOW-INCOME TO MODERATE-INCOME SENIORS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING OR USING OTHER EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS;

(2) USE PRIMARILY VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WHO DRIVE THEIR OWN VEHICLES;

(3) USE A DISPATCHER SYSTEM TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO REQUESTS FROM LOW-INCOME TO MODERATE-INCOME SENIORS FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION ~~TO AND FROM APPOINTMENTS~~; AND

(4) DEFINE A GEOGRAPHIC AREA FOR WHICH DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED.