

COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

CHAPTER 41-1 COORDINATED COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- 41-1.001 Purpose. (Repealed)
- 41-1.002 Definitions. (Repealed)
- 41-1.003 Planning. (Repealed)
- 41-1.004 Coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged Plans and Programs. (Repealed)
- 41-1.005 Agency Responsibilities. (Repealed)
- 41-1.006 Coordinated Community Transportation Provider. (Repealed)
- 41-1.007 Coordinated Transportation Service Financing. (Repealed)
- 41-1.008 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Accountability. (Repealed)

CHAPTER 41-2 COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

41-2.001	Purpose.
41-2.002	Definitions.
41-2.003	Commission Organization and Personnel.
41-2.004	Notice and Frequency of Commission Meetings and Workshops; Agenda of Meetings and Workshops; Emergency Meetings. (Repealed)
41-2.005	Member Department Responsibilities.
41-2.006	Insurance, Safety Requirements and Standards.
41-2.007	Reporting Requirements.
41-2.008	Contractual Arrangements.
41-2.009	Designated Official Planning Agency.
41-2.010	Selection of Community Transportation Coordinator.
41-2.011	Community Transportation Coordinator Powers and Duties.
41-2.012	Coordinating Board Structure and Duties.
41-2.013	Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.
41-2.014	Grants Program.
41-2.015	Expenditure of Local Government, State, and Federal Funds for the Transportation Disadvantaged.
41-2.016	Accessibility.
41-2.0161	Program Monitoring of Performance.
41-2.0162	Chronological Listing of Report Dates.
41-2.017	Complete Phase-In Date. (Repealed)

41-2.001 Purpose.

The purpose of this rule chapter is to implement the provisions of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, which establishes the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged with the assigned responsibility to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged through the Florida Coordinated Transportation System (FCTS), and to administer the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 120.53(1), 427.011-427.017 FS. History—New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-11-95.

41-2.002 Definitions.

For purposes of this rule chapter, the following definitions will apply:

(1) “Americans with Disabilities Act” is a federal law, P.L. 101-336, signed by the President of the United States on July 26, 1990.

(2) “Annual Budget Estimate” means a budget estimate of funding resources available for providing transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged, and which is prepared annually to cover a period of one state fiscal year. The estimate shall identify local, state, and federal government transportation disadvantaged funds available from all agencies and local and federal transportation disadvantaged funds from the Official Planning Agency.

(3) “Coordination Contract” means a written contract between the Community Transportation Coordinator and an agency who receives transportation disadvantaged funds and performs some, if not all, of its own transportation services, as well as transportation services to others, when shown to be more effective and more efficient from a total system perspective. The contract reflects the specific terms and conditions that will apply to those agencies who perform their own transportation, as well as joint utilization and cost provisions for transportation services to and from the community transportation coordinator.

(4) “Designated Official Planning Agency” means the official body or agency designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions of transportation disadvantaged planning in areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall serve as the designated official planning agency in areas covered by such organizations.

(5) “Designated Service Area” means a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Commission, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

(6) “Emergency” means any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural or caused by man, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial denial of transportation services to a designated service area for the transportation disadvantaged population.

(7) “Emergency Fund” means transportation disadvantaged trust fund monies set aside to address emergency situations and which can be utilized by direct contract, without competitive bidding, between the Commission and an entity to handle transportation services during a time of emergency.

(8) “Florida Coordinated Transportation System” (FCTS) means a transportation system responsible for coordination and service provisions for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

(9) "Local Government" means an elected and/or appointed public body existing to coordinate, govern, plan, fund and administer public services within a designated, limited geographic area within the state.

(10) "Local Government Comprehensive Plan" means a plan that meets the requirements of Sections 163.3177 and 163.3178, Florida Statutes.

(11) "Memorandum of Agreement" is the state contract for transportation disadvantaged services purchased with federal, state or local government transportation disadvantaged funds. This agreement is between the Commission and the Community Transportation Coordinator and recognizes the Community Transportation Coordinator as being responsible for the arrangement of the provision of transportation disadvantaged services for a designated service area.

(12) "Public Transit" means the transporting of people by conveyances or systems of conveyances, traveling on land or water, local or regional in nature, and available for use by the public. Public transit systems may be governmentally or privately owned. Public transit specifically includes those forms of transportation commonly known as "paratransit".

(13) "Regional Planning Council (RPC)" means the organization created under the provisions of Section 186.504, Florida Statutes.

(14) "Reserve Fund" means transportation disadvantaged trust fund monies set aside each budget year to insure adequate cash is available for incoming reimbursement requests when estimated revenues do not materialize.

(15) "State Fiscal Year" means the period from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

(16) "Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan" means an annually updated plan jointly developed by the designated official planning agency and the Community Transportation Coordinator which contains a development plan, service plan, and quality assurance components. The plan shall be approved and used by the local Coordinating Board to evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator.

(17) "Transportation Operator" means one or more public, private for profit or private nonprofit entities engaged by the community transportation coordinator to provide service to transportation disadvantaged persons pursuant to a coordinated transportation development plan.

(18) "Transportation Operator Contract" means a written contract between the Community Transportation Coordinator and the Transportation Operators, as approved by the Commission, that outlines the terms and conditions for any services to be performed.

(19) "Trust Fund" means the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund authorized in Section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, and administered by the Commission.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.011-427.017 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 1-4-94, 7-11-95, 5-1-96, 10-1-96, 3-10-98.

41-2.003 Commission Organization and Personnel.

(1) The Commission will monitor the duties of the Executive Director and shall, from time to time, assign or amend duties as necessary. Annual evaluations and other personnel actions, excluding the hiring and termination of the Executive Director, will be delegated and performed by a standing personnel committee of the Commission. The Personnel Committee shall be reappointed annually and shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and one other member. Evaluations and other personnel actions relating to the staff of the Commission, excluding the Executive Director, shall be delegated to the Executive Director with input, as needed, by the Commission.

(2) The Commission will develop and update such policies or procedures as necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

(3) All documents referenced in this rule chapter are obtainable from the Commission at its office address at 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.012 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 3-10-98.

41-2.005 Member Department Responsibilities.

(1) Each member department shall affirm its good faith compliance in carrying out the provisions of Section 427.0135, Florida Statutes.

(2) No member department may be selected as a Community Transportation Coordinator.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.0135 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 6-15-93, 7-11-95, 3-10-98.

41-2.006 Insurance, Safety Requirements and Standards.

(1) The Community Transportation Coordinator, shall ensure compliance with the minimum liability insurance requirement of \$100,000 per person and \$200,000 per incident, which are comparable to Section 768.28(5), Florida Statutes, limits, for all transportation services purchased or provided for the transportation disadvantaged through the Community Transportation Coordinator. The Community Transportation Coordinator will indemnify and hold harmless the Local, State, and Federal governments and their entities, departments, and the Commission from any liabilities arising out of or due to an accident or negligence on the part of the Community Transportation Coordinator and all Transportation Operators under contract to them.

(2) Each Community Transportation Coordinator, and any Transportation Operators from whom transportation service is purchased with local government, state or federal transportation disadvantaged funds, shall ensure the purchaser that their operations and services are in compliance with the safety requirements as specified in Section 341.061(2)(a), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 14-90, F.A.C.

(3) Each Community Transportation Coordinator, and any Transportation Operators from whom service is purchased or funded by local government, state or federal transportation disadvantaged funds shall assure the purchaser of their continuing compliance with the applicable state or federal laws relating to drug testing (specifically, Section 112.0455, Florida Statutes; Rule 14-17.012 and Chapters 59A-24 and 60L-19, F.A.C.; and 41 U.S.C. 701; 49 C.F.R., Parts 29 and 382; and 46 C.F.R., Parts 4, 5, 14, and 16).

(4) The Community Transportation Coordinator and any Transportation Operator from whom service is purchased or arranged by the Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to Commission approved standards. These standards include:

(a) Drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive job positions within the coordinated system regarding pre-employment, randomization, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion as required by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration;

(b) An escort of a passenger and dependent children are to be transported as locally negotiated and identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(c) Use of child restraint devices shall be determined locally as to their responsibility, and cost of such device in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(d) Passenger property that can be carried by the passenger and/or driver in one trip and can safely be stowed on the vehicle, shall be allowed to be transported with the passenger at no additional charge. Additional requirements may be negotiated for carrying and loading rider property beyond this amount. Passenger property does not include wheelchairs, child seats, stretchers, secured oxygen, personal assistive devices, or intravenous devices;

(e) Vehicle transfer points shall provide shelter, security, and safety of passengers;

(f) A local toll free phone number for complaints or grievances shall be posted inside the vehicle. The TD Helpline phone number (1(800) 983-2435) shall also be posted inside all vehicles of the coordinated system. The local complaint process shall be outlined as a section in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan including, advising the dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program as a step within the process as approved by the local Coordinating Board. All rider information/materials (brochures, user's guides, etc.) will include the TD Helpline phone number;

(g) Out of service area trips shall be provided when determined locally and approved by the local Coordinating Board, except in instances where local ordinances prohibit such trips;

(h) Interior of all vehicles shall be free from dirt, grime, oil, trash, torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, protruding metal or other objects or materials which could soil items placed in the vehicle or provide discomfort for the passenger;

(i) Billing requirements of the Community Transportation Coordinator to subcontractors shall be determined locally by the local Coordinating Board and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. All bills shall be paid within 7 working days to subcontractors, after receipt of said payment by the Community Transportation Coordinator, in accordance with Section 287.0585, Florida Statutes;

(j) Passenger/trip data base must be maintained or accessible by the Community Transportation Coordinator on each rider being transported within the system;

(k) Adequate seating for paratransit services shall be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time. For transit services provided by transit vehicles, adequate seating or standing space will be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating or standing capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time;

(l) Drivers for paratransit services, including coordination contractors, shall be required to announce and identify themselves by name and company in a manner that is conducive to communications with the specific passenger, upon pickup of each rider, group of riders, or representative, guardian, or associate of the rider, except in situations where the driver regularly transports the rider on a recurring basis. Each driver must have photo identification that is in view of the passenger. Name patches, inscriptions or badges that affix to driver clothing are acceptable. For transit services, the driver photo identification shall be in a conspicuous location in the vehicle;

(m) The paratransit driver shall provide the passenger with boarding assistance, if necessary or requested, to the seating portion of the vehicle. The boarding assistance shall include opening the vehicle door, fastening the seat belt or utilization of wheel chair securement devices, storage of mobility assistive devices, and closing the vehicle door. In the door-through-door paratransit service category, the driver shall be required to open and close doors to buildings, except in situations in which assistance in opening/closing building doors would not be safe for passengers remaining on the vehicle. Assisted access must be in a dignified manner. Drivers may not assist wheelchair up or down more than one step, unless it can be performed safely as determined by the passenger, guardian, and driver;

(n) Smoking is prohibited in any vehicle. Requirements for drinking and eating on board the vehicle will be addressed in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(o) The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board shall jointly develop a policy on passenger no-shows. Assessing fines to passengers for no-shows is acceptable but such policy and process shall be identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(p) All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system, shall be equipped with two-way communications in good working order and audible to the driver at all times to the base;

(q) All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system, shall have working air conditioners and heaters in each vehicle. Vehicles that do not have a working air conditioner or heater will be scheduled for repair or replacement as soon as possible;

(r) First Aid policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(s) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(t) Driver background screening shall be determined locally, dependent upon purchasing agencies' requirements, and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan;

(u) In areas where fixed route transportation is available, the Community Transportation Coordinator should jointly establish with the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) a percentage of total trips that will be placed on the fixed route system;

(v) The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address the passenger pick-up windows in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This policy should also be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers;

(w) The Community Transportation Coordinator and the LCB should jointly establish and address the percentage of trips that will be on-time in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This performance measure should be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies, and passengers. This measure should also be included as a part of the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of its contracted operators, and the LCB's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator;

(x) The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan a minimum 24 hour advanced notification time to obtain services. This policy should be communicated to contracted operators, purchasing agencies and passengers;

(y) The Community Transportation Coordinator and the LCB should jointly establish and address in the service plan a performance measure to evaluate the safety of the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the LCB's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator;

(z) The Community Transportation Coordinator and the LCB should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the reliability of the vehicles utilized in the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the LCB's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator;

(aa) This performance measure can be used to address the accessibility of the service. The Community Transportation Coordinator and the LCB should jointly determine if a standard for a call hold time is needed in the coordinated system and address this in the local service plan. If determined to be necessary, this standard should be included in the LCB's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator;

(bb) The Community Transportation Coordinator and the LCB should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the quality of service provided within the coordinated system. The measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the LCB's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 287.0585, 427.011(11), 427.013, 427.0155, 427.0157, 768.28 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 5-1-96, 10-1-96, 3-10-98, 6-3-01, 7-3-03.

41-2.007 Reporting Requirements.

(1) Each state agency shall provide to the Commission prior to each state fiscal year, an estimate of all transportation disadvantaged funds anticipated to be available to each state agency's state fiscal year budget. The estimate shall include the following information identified by county:

(a) A brief description of the project or program;

(b) The dollar amount of transportation disadvantaged funds reported by categories of Coordinated, Non-Coordinated, Transportation Alternatives, or Other; and

(c) The estimated number of one-way passenger trips to be provided by categories of Coordinated, Transportation Alternatives, or Other.

(2) Each state agency shall, by September 15 of each year, provide the Commission with an accounting of the actual amount of funds expended and the total number of trips purchased during the previous fiscal year.

(3) Each Designated Official Planning Agency shall provide to the Commission prior to each state fiscal year, an estimate of all transportation disadvantaged funds anticipated to be available for the upcoming state fiscal year budget. The estimate shall include the following information:

(a) Each local government agency within jurisdiction of the Official Planning Agency shall report an estimate of the direct federal funds and local government transportation disadvantaged funds anticipated to be available through the coordinated system for the upcoming state fiscal year to the Official Planning Agency, and

(b) The Official Planning Agency shall request from each federal government agency within its jurisdiction, an estimate of the direct federal transportation disadvantaged funds anticipated to be available through the coordinated system for the upcoming state fiscal year.

(4) The estimate mentioned in (3) above shall include the following information identified by county:

(a) A brief description of the project or program;

(b) The dollar amount of transportation disadvantaged funds reported by categories of Coordinated, Non-Coordinated, Transportation Alternatives, or Other if applicable; and

(c) The estimated number of one-way passenger trips to be provided reported by categories of Coordinated, Non-Coordinated, Transportation Alternatives, or Other if applicable.

(5) Each Metropolitan Planning Organization or designated official planning agency shall annually compile a report accounting for all local government and direct federal funds for transportation for the disadvantaged expended in its jurisdiction, and forward this report by September 15 to the Commission.

(6) Upon receipt of the state agency and Official Planning Agency combined annual budget estimates, the Commission shall develop and distribute a statewide report outlining the expected expenditures for all transportation disadvantaged services through the coordinated system for the state fiscal year.

(7) Each Community Transportation Coordinator shall by September 15 of each year report required operating statistics to the Commission. The operational statistics will be compiled into a report by the Commission and utilized as a part of the analysis of the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance evaluation and the trip and equipment grant distribution. The Community Transportation Coordinator's report shall be reviewed by the Coordinating Board with a copy provided to the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency.

(8) Each Community Transportation Coordinator shall utilize the Chart of Accounts defined in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Inc., Comprehensive Financial Management Guidelines For Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Providers, dated September 1992, incorporated herein by reference, for its financial management. Community Transportation Coordinators with existing and equivalent accounting systems will not be required to adopt this Chart of Accounts but will be required to prepare all reports, invoices, and fiscal documents relating to the transportation disadvantaged functions and activities using the chart of accounts and accounting definitions as outlined in the above referenced manual.

(9) The Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each year. The report will contain a summary of the Commission's accomplishments for the preceding state fiscal year, the most current operational statistics for transportation disadvantaged services, identified unmet needs and a financial status of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. Copies of the report will also be made available to member departments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Designated Official Planning Agencies and Community Transportation Coordinators, and others upon request.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.012(8), 427.013(3), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (16), 427.0135(1), 427.015(1) FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 11-17-92, 1-4-94, 7-11-95, 5-1-96, 3-10-98.

41-2.008 Contractual Arrangements.

The following contractual arrangements will be required of the Community Transportation Coordinator:

(1) A Memorandum of Agreement will be required and shall be a binding contract between the Commission and a Community Transportation Coordinator. It shall be utilized as the contract recognizing the Community Transportation Coordinator as a State contract vendor for a designated service area. The format of the Memorandum of Agreement will contain the Commission's minimum requirements and shall be utilized by the Community Transportation Coordinator. The Coordinating Board shall approve the Memorandum of Agreement prior to submittal to the Commission.

(2) Transportation Operator Contract. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall enter into a standard contract, as approved by the Commission, with each Transportation Operator as to specific terms and conditions that apply to each Transportation Operator for services to be performed. The contract shall include the minimum requirements contained in the Memorandum of Agreement and other local requirements for local service delivery. The Community Transportation Coordinator will be responsible for monitoring the terms of the contract.

(3) Coordination Contract. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall enter into a Coordination Contract to show the specific terms and conditions, as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement with those agencies who receive transportation disadvantaged funds and who, from a total system approach, can perform more effectively and more efficiently their own transportation under those conditions not covered in Rule 41-2.015, F.A.C., herein. The contract shall include the requirements of reporting, insurance, safety, and other terms that apply equally to any transportation operator. The contract also shall include any

relative information regarding joint utilization and cost arrangements for the provision of transportation services to and from the coordinator. The Community Transportation Coordinator will be responsible for monitoring the terms of the contract. The contract shall be approved by the Coordinating Board and shall be reviewed annually to determine whether the continuation of said contract arrangement is the most cost effective and efficient utilization that is possible.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013(10), (15), 427.015(2), 427.0155(7), 427.0157(1) FS. History—New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-11-95, 10-1-96, 3-10-98.

41-2.009 Designated Official Planning Agency.

(1) Metropolitan Planning Organizations shall serve as the designated official planning agency in urbanized areas. In areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization, agencies eligible for selection as Designated Official Planning Agencies include County or City governments, Regional Planning Councils, Metropolitan Planning Organizations from other areas, or Local Planning Organizations who are currently performing planning activities in designated service areas. Eligibility for continued designation by the Commission will be conditioned on the agency's resources, capabilities and actual performance in implementing the responsibilities and requirements of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

(2) Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Designated Official Planning Agencies shall include a Transportation Disadvantaged element in their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Such element shall include a project and program description, the planned costs and anticipated revenues for the services, identification of the year the project or services are to be undertaken and implemented, and assurances that there has been coordination with local public transit and local government comprehensive planning bodies, including input into the mass transit or other elements of local and regional comprehensive planning activities. Areas not required to develop a federally-required TIP shall report equivalent information in the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

(3) Each Designated Official Planning Agency shall provide each Coordinating Board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Coordinating Board to fulfill its responsibilities. In areas where a Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency serves as the Community Transportation Coordinator and desires to utilize the same staff for the Coordinating Board, such agency shall abstain from any official actions that represent a conflict of interest, specifically in the evaluation process of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

(4) In consultation with the Community Transportation Coordinator and Coordinating Board, each Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency shall develop and annually update, a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan shall be developed in a manner which assures that local planning agencies, responsible for preparing comprehensive plans, have the opportunity to review and comment on it, and shall not be inconsistent with applicable local government comprehensive plans, MPO long range comprehensive plans, transit development plans, and other local, regional, and state transportation plans. The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan shall be reviewed for final disposition by the Coordinating Board and the Commission.

(5) Consolidate the annual budget estimates of local and directly funded federal government transportation disadvantaged funds and forward to the Commission no later than the beginning of each state fiscal year.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013(21), 427.015 FS. History—New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 1-4-94, 3-10-98.

41-2.010 Selection of Community Transportation Coordinator.

(1) Designation, selection, or revocation of designation of any Community Transportation Coordinator shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.

(2) Selection of agencies as Community Transportation Coordinators or Transportation Operators may be negotiated without competitive acquisition, upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency that it is in the best interest of the transportation disadvantaged. This includes circumstances such as emergencies, or insufficient competition availability.

(3) Selection of the Community Transportation Coordinator will be accomplished through public competitive bidding or proposals in accordance with applicable laws and rules.

(4) In cases where selection is accomplished by a request for proposal (RFP), the RFP shall, at a minimum, identify the following information:

(a) The scope and nature of the services and coordination required, and a request for the proposer's plan to provide same.

(b) A request that the proposer identify the resources, and accounting system techniques to be used in their audit trail for all services.

(c) A request that the proposer identify their organizational structure and key personnel, their financial capacity, equipment resources, and experience and qualifications, including the most recent financial audit by a certified public accountant in accordance with Section 216.349, Florida Statutes.

(d) A request that the proposer demonstrate the ability to coordinate a multitude of funding and service provisions, in addition to serving the needs of the general public or other transportation disadvantaged.

(e) A request that the proposer identify specific means by which it plans to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, P.L. 101-336, Chapter 760, Florida Statutes, and any applicable local regulations governing disabled accessibility requirements, access to transportation, and discrimination.

(f) A demonstration by the proposer of plans for the provision of the most economically cost effective, quality services to the transportation disadvantaged, and plans which demonstrate coordination with the public school system, local public transit systems, private sector operators and other governmental agencies that provide services to the transportation disadvantaged within the designated service area.

(g) A demonstration by the proposer of plans to comply with safety requirements as specified in Section 341.061, Florida Statutes.

(h) An indication by the proposer of plans to comply with any state, federal, or local laws relating to drug testing.

(i) A sample Memorandum of Agreement for review by the respondent.

(j) A statement advising proposers of any local resources that exist or are planned that should be recognized in the bidders proposal.

(5) The announcement of the request for proposal shall be published in at least the largest general circulation newspaper in the designated service area and in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The advertised announcement shall include the time, date and place of a public meeting to provide information and answer questions about the request for proposal.

(6) Upon evaluation of the proposals, each Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency, upon consultation with the Coordinating Board, shall recommend to the Commission a Community Transportation Coordinator.

(7) Upon resignation or termination of any Community Transportation Coordinator, the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency shall complete the recommendation process for a new Community Transportation Coordinator within 90 days after termination date for non-bid Community Transportation Coordinators and within 150 days after termination date for bid/RFP Community Transportation Coordinators. In the absence of these circumstances, the requirements of subsection 41-2.010(8), F.A.C., below shall apply.

(8) In cases of termination of the Community Transportation Coordinator, or in unforeseen emergencies, the Commission shall work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency and the Coordinating Board in an expeditious manner to provide for the continuation of services to the transportation disadvantaged in the designated service area, by providing or arranging the necessary technical assistance.

(9) The utilization of firms defined as minority business enterprises shall be encouraged to the extent possible utilizing the most recent certified minority business listing published by the Florida Department of Management Services.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013(10), (15), 427.015(2), 427.0155(7), 427.0157 FS. History—New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-11-95, 10-1-96, 3-10-98, 4-8-01.

41-2.011 Community Transportation Coordinator Powers and Duties.

(1) Each Community Transportation Coordinator shall be responsible for the short-range operational planning, administration, monitoring, coordination, arrangement, and delivery of transportation disadvantaged services originating within their designated service area on a full-time basis. Local management personnel with day-to-day decision making authority must be physically located in each designated service area, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

(2) Where cost effective and efficient, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall subcontract or broker transportation services to Transportation Operators. The Coordinating Board is authorized to recommend approval or disapproval of such contracts to the Community Transportation Coordinator, providing the basis for its recommendation. Within 30 days of its receipt of the Coordinating Board's recommendation, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall accept or reject the recommendation, providing written reasons for its rejection. All Transportation Operator contracts shall be reviewed annually by the Community Transportation Coordinator and the Coordinating Board as to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Transportation Operator or the renewal of any Coordination Contracts previously approved. Each Community Transportation Coordinator will ensure the terms set forth for monitoring said Transportation Operators and Coordination Contractors are in compliance with standards pursuant to Rule 41-2.006, F.A.C.

(3) Pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall develop, implement, and monitor an approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This plan shall be approved by the Coordinating Board and forwarded to the Commission for review and final disposition.

(4) Each Community Transportation Coordinator shall submit a report on operational statistics by September 15, each year to the Commission. A copy should also be provided to the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency.

(5) The Community Transportation Coordinator shall maximize the utilization of school bus and public transit services in accordance with Section 427.0158, Florida Statutes. Any utilization data shall be included in operational statistics provided to the coordinated system.

(6) In cooperation with the local Coordinating Board, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall review all applications for local government, federal and state transportation disadvantaged funds submitted from or planned for use in their designated service area. If funds are recommended for approval, the Community Transportation Coordinator, in cooperation with the Coordinating Board, will develop and implement cost-effective coordination strategies for their use and integration into the coordinated system.

(7) Funding to support the Community Transportation Coordinator's functions associated with documented coordination activities may be obtained from a coordination fee as part of each trip arranged, from subsidies received or both and upon approval by the Coordinating Board.

(8) Each Community Transportation Coordinator shall be aware of all of the transportation disadvantaged resources available or planned in their designated service area in order to plan, coordinate, and implement the most cost effective transportation disadvantaged transportation system possible under the conditions that exist in the designated service area.

(9) Contractual administration of Community Transportation Coordinators shall be accomplished through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and the Community Transportation Coordinator in accordance with the procedures of the Commission. Transportation services purchased from or arranged by the Community Transportation Coordinator will be billed to purchasing agencies by the Community Transportation Coordinator at the rates identified in the approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan or Coordination Contract and recognize any special conditions as specified by the purchasing agency. Payment for services will be made directly to the Community Transportation Coordinator unless otherwise agreed upon, in writing, by the purchaser and the Community Transportation Coordinator. Other contractual arrangements shall be followed as specified in this rule chapter.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.0155 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 6-15-93, 7-11-95, 5-1-96, 10-1-96, 3-10-98.

41-2.012 Coordinating Board Structure and Duties.

The purpose of the Coordinating Board is to identify local service needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged through the Florida Coordinated Transportation System (FCTS). Each Coordinating Board is recognized as an advisory body to the Commission in its service area. The members of the Coordinating Board shall be appointed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization or the Designated Official Planning Agency. A Coordinating Board shall be appointed in each county. However, when agreed upon in writing, by all Boards of County Commissions in each county to be covered in the service area, multi-county Coordinating Boards may be appointed. The structure and duties of the Coordinating Board shall be as follows:

(1) The Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency shall appoint one elected official to serve as the official chairperson for all Coordinating Board meetings. The appointed chairperson shall be an elected official from the county that the Coordinating Board serves. For a multi-county Coordinating Board, the elected official appointed to serve as Chairperson shall be from one of the counties involved.

(2) The Coordinating Board shall hold an organizational meeting each year for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the members of the Coordinating Board present and voting at the organizational meeting. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve a term of one year starting with the next meeting. In the event of the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson and conduct the meeting.

(3) In addition to the Chairperson, except for multi-county Coordinating Boards which shall have as a representative an elected official from each county, including the Chairperson, one of whom shall be elected Vice-Chairperson, the following agencies or groups shall be represented on the Coordinating Board, in every county as voting members:

(a) A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation;

(b) A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services;

(c) A local representative of the Public Education Community which could include, but not be limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office, or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible;

(d) In areas where they exist, a local representative of the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education;

(e) A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office representing the veterans of the county;

(f) A person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action (President), representing the economically disadvantaged in the county;

(g) A person over sixty representing the elderly in the county;

(h) A person with a disability representing the disabled in the county;

(i) Two citizen advocate representatives in the county; one who must be a person who uses the transportation service(s) of the system as their primary means of transportation;

(j) A local representative for children at risk;

(k) In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local Mass Transit or Public Transit System's Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator;

- (l) A local representative of the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs;
 - (m) An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry. In areas where such representative is not available, a local private non-profit representative will be appointed, except where said representative is also the Community Transportation Coordinator;
 - (n) A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration;
 - (o) A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, Florida Statutes; and
 - (p) A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but not be limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community based services, etc.
- (4) Except for the Chairperson, the non-agency members of the Board shall be appointed for three year staggered terms with initial membership being appointed equally for one, two, and three years. The Chairperson shall serve until elected term of office has expired or otherwise replaced by the Designated Official Planning Agency. No employee of a community transportation coordinator shall serve as a voting member of the coordinating board in an area where the community transportation coordinator serves. However, community transportation coordinators and their employees are not prohibited from serving on a coordinating board in an area where they are not the coordinator. However, an elected official serving as Chairperson of the coordinating board, or other governmental employees that are not employed for the purpose of making provisions for transportation and are not directly supervised by the community transportation coordinator shall not be precluded from serving as voting members of the coordinating board.
- (5) The Board shall meet at least quarterly and shall perform the following duties in addition to those duties specifically listed in Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes:
- (a) Maintain official meeting minutes, including an attendance roster, reflecting official actions and provide a copy of same to the Commission and the Chairperson of the designated official planning agency.
 - (b) Annually, provide the Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency with an evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance in general and relative to Commission and local standards as referenced in Rule 41-2.006, F.A.C., and the performance results of the most recent Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. As part of the Coordinator's performance, the local Coordinating Board shall also set an annual percentage goal increase for the number of trips provided within the system for ridership on public transit, where applicable. In areas where the public transit is not being utilized, the local Coordinating Board shall set an annual percentage of the number of trips to be provided on public transit. The Commission shall provide evaluation criteria for the local Coordinating Board to use relative to the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator. This evaluation will be submitted to the Commission upon approval by the local coordinating board.
 - (c) Appoint a Grievance Committee to process and investigate complaints, from agencies, users, transportation operators, potential users of the system and the Community Transportation Coordinator in the designated service area, and make recommendations to the Coordinating Board or to the Commission, when local resolution cannot be found, for improvement of service. The Coordinating Board shall establish a process and procedures to provide regular opportunities for issues to be brought before such committee and to address them in a timely manner. Rider brochures or other documents provided to users or potential users of the system shall provide information about the complaint and grievance process including the publishing of the Commission's TD Helpline service when local resolution has not occurred. All materials shall be made available in accessible format, upon request by the citizen. Members appointed to the committee shall be voting members of the Coordinating Board.
 - (d) All coordinating board members should be trained on and comply with the requirements of Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, concerning voting conflicts of interest.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.0157 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 11-16-93, 1-4-94, 7-11-95, 5-1-96, 10-1-96, 3-10-98, 4-8-01, 12-17-02, 7-3-03.

41-2.013 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

The Commission shall annually evaluate and determine each year's distribution of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. Funds available through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund for non-sponsored transportation services and planning activities shall be applied only after all other potential funding sources have been used and eliminated. Grant funds shall not be used to supplant or replace funding of transportation disadvantaged services which are currently funded to a recipient by any federal, state, or local governmental agency. Monitoring of this mandate will be accomplished as needed by the Commission and all agencies funding transportation disadvantaged services. The use of minority-owned businesses is encouraged, utilizing the most recent certified companies published by the Department of Management Services. Funds deposited and appropriated into the Trust Fund will be utilized for:

- (1) Commission administrative and operating expenses, including financial assistance, through a grant agreement, to designated official planning agencies to assist the Commission in implementing the program in each local area. The Commission shall request budget authority to establish a reserve fund to be used when estimated revenues are not collected and for an emergency fund to be used for transportation disadvantaged services in times of natural disasters, discontinuance of services or as otherwise directed by Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged "Emergency Fund" Directives, dated July 1997 incorporated herein by reference.
- (2) A Grants Program to provide for the funding of non-sponsored trips, including the purchase of capital equipment.

41-2.014 Grants Program.

(1) Eligible Applicants. Grant funds will be allocated annually to the following entities:

- (a) Community Transportation Coordinators who have an executed Memorandum of Agreement.
- (b) Metropolitan Planning Organizations or Designated Official Planning Agencies approved by the Commission.

(2) Types of Grants.

(a) Trip and Equipment Related. Trip and equipment related grant funds may be used for the provision of non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged services and for the purchase of capital equipment to be used for services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. Capital equipment expenditures will be limited to no more than 25% of the Commission participation and the required match.

(b) Planning Related. Planning related grant funds may be used by an eligible Metropolitan Planning Organization or Designated Official Planning Agency to assist the Commission in their responsibilities at the local level as identified in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, including support to the local Coordinating Board.

(3) Match Requirement. Eligible grant recipients for the trip and equipment grants only, must provide at least 10% of the total project cost as a local match. The match must be cash generated from local sources. Voluntary dollar collections do not require a match.

(4) Distribution of Grant Funds. On or about December 15 of each year, the Commission shall allocate a portion identified as the Grants Program of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund in the following manner:

(a) An annual amount of \$1,372,060 of the Grants Program shall be designated for planning grants to assist the Commission with implementation and maintenance of the program at the local level. Beginning with the 2002/2003 grant cycle, the annual cap will be adjusted by the same percentage increase equivalent to state employees as set by the Legislature.

(b) The voluntary dollar collections will be returned to the county where said funds were collected. The voluntary dollar collections shall be designated for additional trips at the local level.

(c) The remaining portion of funds, except as specified in paragraph 41-2.014(4)(b), F.A.C., will be appropriated for the Grants Program and designated for trip and equipment related grants, subject to limitations of paragraphs 41-2.014(1)(a) and (2)(a), F.A.C.

(5) Distribution of Trip and Equipment Related Grant Funds. Each eligible applicant's allocation will be determined for the county or counties within the designated service area for which the applicant provides coordinated transportation disadvantaged services.

(a) In order to maintain system and service stability, the Commission's Fiscal Year 99/00 Allocation of Trip and Equipment Grant Funds, dated 02/99, incorporated herein by reference, shall be the base allocation for each subsequent year's distribution for trip and equipment related grant funds. No county shall receive less than the base allocation unless the Commission's five year cash-flow forecast falls below the Fiscal Year 99/00 levels allocated to the trip and equipment grant related program.

(b) If the level of funding available for distribution to the trip and equipment grant program falls below the base as stated in paragraph 41-2.014(5)(a), F.A.C., a proportionate adjustment to the base allocation will be made. Such adjustment will be based on the five year cash-flow forecast of the Commission, and each county's share of the Fiscal Year 99/00 trip and equipment related grant allocation.

(c) Allocation of additional trip and equipment grant funds above the amount used in the base allocation will be allocated to eligible applicants based on a comparative ranking of all eligible applicants in each of the following four categories:

- 1. The applicant's total county area in square miles as a percentage of the total square miles of all eligible applicants.
- 2. Total system passenger trips provided as a percentage of all eligible applicant trips reported.
- 3. Total system vehicle miles traveled as a percentage of all eligible applicants vehicle miles traveled and reported.
- 4. Total county population as a percentage of the total population of all eligible applicants.

(d) Each category will represent one fourth of the trip related grant funds.

(e) The latest required operational statistics report which is submitted by September 15 of each year will be used for obtaining the applicant's coordinated vehicle miles and coordinated passenger trips data. For purpose of this section, coordinated vehicle miles or passenger trips shall not include those services provided through an approved transportation alternative.

(6) Distribution of Planning Related Grants. Planning related grant funds will be apportioned for distribution to the planning agencies as follows:

(a) 25% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the percentage of population each county has relative to the total state population, with each planning agency receiving a share for each county within its jurisdiction;

(b) 75% of the planning allocation shall be divided into shares equal to the number of counties throughout the state, with each planning agency receiving no more than one share for each county within its jurisdiction. Eligible applicants not requiring the total amount of funding available may recommend to the Coordinating Board that any excess funds be allocated to the Community Transportation Coordinator for additional non-sponsored trip needs. The Commission shall reallocate any eligible excess funds to that particular county or service area's normal allocation. A local cash match of at least 10% shall be required to obtain this additional allocation.

(7) All grant applicants will provide their request for funds to the Commission no later than October 1 each year, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

(8) Prioritization of Non-sponsored Transportation Services. The Community Transportation Coordinator, with approval of the Coordinating Board, shall have the authority to prioritize trips for non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged services which are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds. Any prioritization of trips or eligibility criteria which is developed shall consider all of the following criteria:

- (a) Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency.
- (b) Purpose of Trip.
- (c) Unmet Needs.
- (d) Available Resources.

Specific Authority 427.013(9), 427.013(10) FS. Law Implemented 427.013, 427.0159, 427.016 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-21-93, 6-26-94, 10-1-96, 3-10-98, Amended 1-13-04.

41-2.015 Expenditure of Local Government, State, and Federal Funds for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

(1) Any agency purchasing transportation services or providing transportation funding for the transportation disadvantaged with transportation disadvantaged funds shall expend all transportation disadvantaged funds through a contractual arrangement with the community transportation coordinator or an approved coordination provider except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) below.

(2) When it is better suited to the unique and diverse needs of a transportation disadvantaged person, the sponsoring agency may purchase or provide transportation by utilizing the following alternatives:

- (a) Privately owned vehicle of an agency volunteer or employee;
- (b) State owned vehicles;
- (c) Privately owned vehicle of a family member or custodian;
- (d) Common carriers, such as commercial airlines or bus; and
- (e) Emergency medical vehicles.

(3) The sponsoring agency may utilize other modes of transportation when the community transportation coordinator determines it is unable to provide or arrange the required service. Information pertaining to these denials for service shall be reported by the community transportation coordinator on a quarterly basis or more frequently as specified by the local coordinating board.

(4) All agency applications for transportation disadvantaged operating and capital assistance funds beyond those identified in the normal state legislative budget process shall be made available to the Coordinating Board for such review.

(5) The Commission shall request all funding requests containing a transportation disadvantaged fund component from the Florida State Clearinghouse. Said funding request shall be reviewed by the Commission. The Commission will respond when there are funding requests that conflict with the intent and provisions of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and the rules thereof.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013(16), 427.016 FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92, 7-11-95, 3-10-98.

41-2.016 Accessibility.

The Commission shall monitor and aggressively pursue the elimination of transportation barriers prohibiting accessibility and promote compliance with any state, federal, or local government regulations relating to transportation accessibility.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013(4) FS. History--New 5-2-90, Amended 6-17-92.

41-2.0161 Program Monitoring of Performance.

(1) The Commission shall develop and update annually performance goals to accomplish the intent of the legislation and rule.

(2) The Commission will utilize approved performance goals and standards to monitor and evaluate program results including, but not limited to, coordination, costs of services, and accessibility. Such standards are referenced in Rule 41-2.006, F.A.C.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013 FS. History--New 6-17-92, Amended 5-1-96.

41-2.0162 Chronological Listing of Report Dates.

The following reports are listed in chronological order by due date and the recipient of the report:

- (1) January 1 – Commission Annual Report due to Governor and Legislature.
- (2) June 30 – Annual Budget Estimates due from State Agencies and Official Planning Agencies.
- (3) September 15 – Annual Operating Report of Community Transportation Coordinator due to Commission.
- (4) September 15 – Transportation Improvement Programs in urbanized areas due to Commission.
- (5) September 15 – Annual report of the actual amount of funds expended and trips purchased due from each state agency.
- (6) September 15 – Annual report accounting for all local government and direct federal funds for transportation for the disadvantaged expended in its jurisdiction due from each designated official planning agency or metropolitan planning organization.

Specific Authority 427.013(9) FS. Law Implemented 427.013 FS. History--New 6-17-92, Amended 6-15-93, 1-4-94, 7-11-95, 5-1-96, 3-10-98.