



NEWS

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CONTACT: RICK JAGER/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2707/922-2700
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MTA BOARD APPROVES FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

The MTA Board of Directors has approved the continuation of a series of funding agreements with specialized transportation service providers that will provide programs serving people with disabilities, the elderly, welfare participants, and others with immediate transportation needs.

The action authorizes the Office of the CEO to execute funding agreements for a maximum period of five years. Future year funding of these programs will be subject to the availability of funds and approval of the Board of Directors through the budget process.

Nearly \$6 million will be allocated this year, with \$2.5 million going to the First African Methodist Episcopal Church to administer the Immediate Needs Transportation Program (INTP).

The INTP program began in 1992 following urban unrest. The Board selected the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) to administer and broker the program. In 1993 the Board expanded the program to provide service countywide.

In addition, \$2.5 million is allocated to the International Institute of Los Angeles. In total, these two brokers work with 600 agencies to distribute taxi vouchers and bus tokens to persons with immediate transportation needs and limited other transportation resources.

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The INTP program was recently included in a Transportation Research Board analysis entitled "Using Public Transportation to Reduce Economic, Social and Human Costs of Personal Immobility." The study concluded that the INTP program provides \$2.60 of benefit for every \$1 spent and reinforces the role of the MTA as a mobility manager, not just a transit operator.

The Board also granted \$700,000 to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for their general relief token program and \$350,000 to Shelter Partnership, Inc. for the Support for Homeless Re-Entry (SHORE) program.

SHORE is specifically designed to aid homeless persons in central Los Angeles in becoming self-sufficient through access to such service as schooling, employment, healthcare, and social services. SHORE recipients receive MTA tokens.

The Los Angeles County Token Program for the Indigent, administered by the Department of Public Works provides transportation subsidies to employable General Relief recipients. MTA's annual subsidy of \$700,000 is approximately 15 percent of the total funding for the project.

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