

Michigan's Centers for Independent Living Position Statement: Transportation Policy for People with Disabilities

Summary:

Michigan residents should have access to means of transportation in order to access work, family, healthcare, and community. Limits to transportation create limits to quality of life and an ability to contribute to the community at large. We support a fully inclusive transportation system that includes inner city and cross-counties travel, rails, trails, waterways, and roads.

Issues:

- Transportation systems designed to meet the transit needs of people with disabilities in fact meet the needs of all transit users.
- Accessible transportation includes seamless systems, services, vehicles, routes, stops, transfers, programs and all other aspects of transportation that meet or exceed the minimum requirements in the American with Disabilities Act.
- Lack of accessible transportation limits access to employment, education, healthcare and community resources. It limits opportunities for individuals with disabilities to contribute to society to the extent they are able to.

Recommendations:

- All public transportation should be accessible to ALL users, ALL the time.
- Equitable funding must be provided. All investments in transit services need to be accountably accessible to all users, regardless of program or area of the country.
- Assure developments, such as the use of autonomous vehicles and local transportation initiatives include options that are accessible to all users.
- Reorient state and federal funds for innovative private and public sector models that address unavailable and/or insufficient rural transportation.
- Provide tax incentives to encourage acquisition of accessible vehicles by any organization not covered under the ADA (taxies, livery service, etc.)

Closing:

Public transportation systems impact all Michigan residents, regardless of where they live, what they do, their ability or disability, or how much money they earn. A stronger public transportation system is a step toward a stronger Michigan.