



Extended Hours Service Transportation Program Renewed for Another Year

The Extended Hours Transportation Service (EHS), a League of Human Dignity program that provides night, weekend and holiday transportation for Lincoln residents with disabilities, will operate for another year, thanks to funding from the federal New Freedom Program, administered by the city of Lincoln's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The service's new program year starts Oct. 1, 2008. The League is seeking additional funding to help pay for the project. Prospective donors can contact League CEO Mike Schafer.

The service began Sept. 17, 2007, as a one-year pilot program. It is designed to meet the needs of people eligible for the StarTran Handi-Van service and people with permanent disabilities who use fixed-route buses or other assisted transportation. People who have valid drivers licenses and can drive their own vehicles are not eligible for the program.

An outgrowth of efforts by several Lincoln organizations to coordinate transit options for people with disabilities, EHS was funded during its first year by the Lincoln Community Foundation, Cooper Foundation, Woods Charitable Trust and the League

Demand over the past year has been consistent, said League officials.

"The EHS program has been a success over this past year," said Melanie Wellman, Transportation and Barrier Removal Advisor at the League office in Lincoln. "We are glad that we are able to continue to help provide this transportation option."

EHS provides 70 one-way trips per week, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and on six holidays. Transport Plus is under contract to the League and provides the transportation. Trips are \$2 each way. Rides are on a first-come, first-served basis and may not be used for medical appointment transportation. Riders already using the Handi-Van just need to show the EHS driver their Handi-Van I.D. card to ride.

Call the League of Human Dignity at 402-441-7871 for detailed eligibility requirements.

The League of Human Dignity is a consumer based nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the full integration of people with disabilities into society. To that end, the League advocates the needs and rights of people with disabilities, while providing quality service to assist them in becoming and remaining independent citizens. The League now serves consumers in 62 counties in Nebraska and Southwest Iowa.

WHAT:

Transportation for disabled Lincoln residents who rely on fixed-route buses or other assisted transportation.

WHEN:

5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and legal holidays

HOW MUCH:

\$2 each way

WHERE TO CALL:

For EHS van reservations, call 730-7303; For trip cancellations, call 610-7304; For information, eligibility and registration, call the League of Human Dignity at 441-7871