



AdVANtage Van Service Entrepreneurs

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The **Community Transportation Association of America**, through funding provided by the **U.S. Department of Transportation**, contracted with the **Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services** to operate the *AdVANtage* Van Service Entrepreneurs project.

The goal of the project was to capitalize and incorporate cash assistance applicants or recipients as van company owners in Anne Arundel County and develop a manual to help other jurisdictions replicate the program. The cost per trainee of the program was about \$15,000 (\$11,000 of which was for capitalization costs).

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services subcontracted with the **YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County** and the **YWCA of the Greater Baltimore Area, Inc.** to provide business training, assistance with incorporation, certification as a passenger carrier, and follow-up/networking for the van company owners. The YWCA continued to work with the entrepreneurs during the year after capitalization in order to ensure that their businesses can be self-sufficient.

Four *AdVANtage* companies "hit the streets" in December 1997. Another three were planned for 1999.

Customers of the County's two Job Centers, which are operated by the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, use the *AdVANtage* vans for their job search and commuting needs.

If you would like more information about the project, including details about ordering the "How to" Manual and Training Curriculum, please contact: Vesta Kimble, Deputy Director, Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, 80 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 Telephone (410) 269-4603; Facsimile (410) 974-8566.