



**Transportation Roundtable**  
**January 27-28, 2009**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**

**Rural Roundtable Background** – Technical assistance roundtables will feature practitioners and recognized academics in the fields of rural transportation, workforce, and economic development, Tribal TANF, and other topics identified by the Rural Communities Initiative Technical Assistance (TA) sites as critical to serving rural TANF participants. These sessions will provide TA sites with a hands-on, interactive opportunity to work with expert faculty to learn more about a content area, introduce replicable models and tools, and facilitate the sharing of information between TA sites.

<b>Title</b>	Highlighting Opportunities and Challenges for Serving the Transportation Needs of Rural TANF Participants
<b>Timeline</b>	January 27-28, 2009
<b>Location</b>	Charleston, West Virginia
<b>Background</b>	During the Rural Communities Academy, the challenges of providing reliable and cost effective transportation was identified as one of the most critical issues facing rural organizations serving TANF participants. As part of their TA plans, sites expressed interest in learning more about additional programs in the field of rural transportation, resources on forming partnerships with local transportation stakeholders, and funding for these types of projects.
<b>Content Faculty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carolyn Hayden from Opportunity Cars;</li> <li>▪ Marty Schwartz from Vehicles for Change;</li> <li>▪ Peter Kilde from West CAP;</li> <li>▪ Nichole Goldsmith, Executive Director, Rural Transit Assistance Program;</li> <li>▪ Rob Tassinari, Senior Technical Manager, Rural Transit Assistance Program;</li> <li>▪ Reginald Knowlton, Coordination and United We Ride Ambassador for the Federal Transit Administration Region III;</li> <li>▪ ICF staff persons; and</li> <li>▪ OFA/Federal representatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Audience</b>	Two representatives from the following seven (7) Rural Communities TA sites: Arkansas; Florida; Maine; Pennsylvania; South Carolina; Texas; and West Virginia.
<b>Activities</b>	Content faculty will help frame the issues surrounding designing and funding rural transportation projects. Faculty will have allotted time for presentations on lessons learned from current rural transportation models and time to guide action planning that develops programmatic and funding solutions to rural transportation challenges. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Good News Mountaineer Garage, see their service delivery model, and meet with staff for a question and answer session.
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	TA sites will be provided with tools, replicable program models, and additional guidance on designing and funding rural transportation programs that support TANF participants becoming more self-sufficient.



## Rural Transportation Roundtable AGENDA

### January 26, 2009

All Day                      **Participants arrive at Hampton Inn from across the country**

### January 27, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.      **Registration**

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*James Butler, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance*  
*Eileen Friedman, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region III*  
*Dan Hartwell, West Virginia TANF Director*

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.      **Participant and Content Faculty Introductions**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.    **Setting the Context on Rural Transportation Successes and Challenges for Rural Initiative Sites**

This session will allow each of the eight rural sites to provide a brief overview of the rural transportation successes and challenges in their area. This will provide their peer Rural Communities Initiative sites with updates, initiatives, and lessons learned since the Rural Communities Academy in September 2008. This session will provide the content faculty with the context of the rural communities they will be sharing in dialogue with during the next session.

*Facilitators: James Butler, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance*  
*Louisa Fuller, ICF International*

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.    **Break**



**10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Highlighting Rural Transportation Programs**

This session will highlight some of the programs, tools, successes, and lessons learned from other rural communities who have implemented rural transportation programs for TANF participants in their communities and states. This session will allow participants to actively interact with the content faculty, and ask questions of the faculty, who have implemented innovative rural transportation programs in their areas.

*Carolyn Hayden from Opportunity Cars*  
*Marty Schwartz from Vehicles for Change*  
*Peter Kilde from West CAP*  
*Moderator: Alison Hathaway, ICF International*

**12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch** (on your own)

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. A Look at Rural Transportation Programs and Funding/Leveraging Mechanisms**

This session will highlight how rural transportation programs have secured or sought funding streams from Federal, state, local, or nonprofit sources. Participants will hear about how some rural communities have leveraged funding from various agencies to implement programs and create regional transportation solutions in rural communities.

*Reginald Knowlton, Coordination and United We Ride Ambassador for the Federal Transit Administration Region III*  
*Nichole Goldsmith, Executive Director, Rural Transit Assistance Program*  
*Rob Tassinari, Senior Technical Manager, Rural Transit Assistance Program*  
*Moderator: Patrick Heiman, ICF International*

**2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Site Visit: Good News Mountaineer Garage**

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a site tour of the Good News Mountaineer Garage. Participants will be provided with an overview of the history, background, and implementation of the Garage.

*Barbara Bayes, Good News Mountaineer Garage*

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Reception for all Participants**

Location: Good News Mountaineer Garage

*Hosted by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*



January 28, 2009

8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Round the Table: Peer-to-Peer Dialogue and Respondent Panel Feedback**

This session will provide participants an opportunity to review the strategies, tools, resources, etc., discussed on Day One of the Roundtable with their fellow participants and Roundtable content faculty. Participants will discuss what ideas presented the day before could be successfully replicated in their area, and which strategies they felt may have challenges implementing in their communities. A respondent panel composed of content faculty will assist the sites to think through perceived challenges and add value to their ideas on project replication.

*Moderators: Dr. Jeanette Hercik and Louisa Fuller, ICF International*

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Break**

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Capturing the Learning**

Participants will work in small teams through a facilitated session in order to reach a consensus on the challenges, opportunities, and resources that exist around the implementation of rural transportation projects in their areas. Participants will use an Action Plan to identify key stakeholders and plan concrete next steps for implementing their transportation project.

11:45 a.m. – Noon

**Wrap-Up and Evaluation**

*James Butler, Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance*