

Transportation: How Will We Get There?

Quick Tips for Transportation Strategies

We all know the challenge—the youth group has some super ideas for their next meeting/activity, BUT how do we get them there? Transportation remains one of the most challenging barriers for effective youth groups. There is no one answer that fits all youth, groups, or situations. Figuring out strategies that work can be engaging, rewarding, and most importantly, help the youth further develop self-advocacy opportunities.

Explore the Travel Options with the Group

Youth need to see themselves as part of the solution. It is not just the responsibility of the Youth Coordinator! Ask each youth how they generally get places besides school? To see friends? To go to the movies or a fun park? Church activities? Concerts? To see relatives? Sports events like high school football, soccer, etc.?

- Is public transportation available? What are the benefits and limitations?
- Ask the families. What can they provide? Transportation for their student? Car-pooling with and for other students?
- Ask other agencies that provide transportation if they have busses or vans available. Senior centers; churches, synagogues, or mosques; group homes; parks and recreation programs; vocational rehabilitation; other human service providers; etc. may be able to assist.

Why the meeting may be less important than the journey.

Transportation will always be a concern for a youth with a disability, just as it is for any youths or adults. Perhaps it is not the adults figuring out what will work to get the group together, but it is the youth themselves learning the skills and gaining the confidence to be more independent. Consider discussing how to use the following transportation options as a group. If there is a young person who has experience, ask them to be the expert and lead with your support.

- Using public transportation as independently as possible
- Trains, subways
- Taxis, ride sharing (Uber, Lyft)
- Getting a driver's license and accessing accommodations to study for, take the test, and modify their vehicles if needed
- Biking
- How to ask for a ride from a friend or family member
- Signing up for and arranging paratransit

Having a travel trainer work individually with group members and/or to provide support to the group as a whole is always an asset. ***View the Travel Training factsheet to***

learn more. Also, in many areas, public transportation will provide individual training for riders.

Location of the activity.

Whether the travel is within the city or in more rural settings, these questions are important to consider. Is it convenient, accessible, and easily located? Selecting the right location is critical. Think outside the usual places. Are there sites that are open to public groups? Does your community have places where small groups are welcome, like a recreation center; park; churches, synagogues, or mosques; universities or local community colleges; schools; etc.? Although the CIL may be the easiest to reserve and you are most comfortable there, it may not be the best location for the group. Expand your thinking. Where do youth already go? Ask some of your community partners where they have groups meet. Just because someone from your organization said that five years ago a community partner wouldn't let a group of people with disabilities meet there, don't assume that it can't happen now. Life changes!

Additional resources on transportation for youth can be found on [APRIL's website](#).



A publication of Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU), developed in collaboration with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) and Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities, with input from CIL youth program staff and consumers. Support for development of this report was provided by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201 under grant number 90ILTA0001. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

For additional information please contact ILRU at ilru@ilru.org.