

Transportation User's Guide

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CENTER
www.sdrc.org



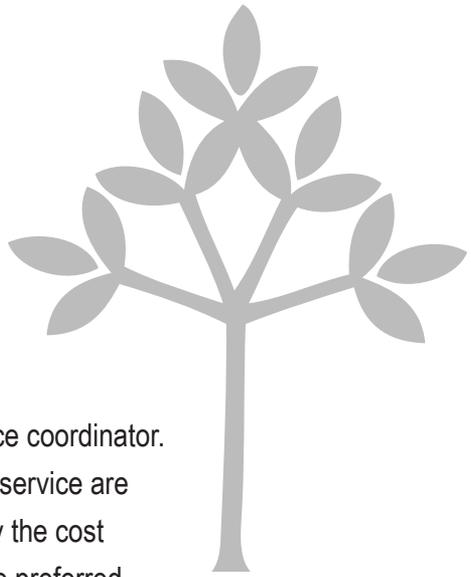
*Serving Individuals with Developmental
Disabilities in San Diego and Imperial Counties*

The San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) coordinates several types of transportation services for eligible clients.

All transportation services are initiated and coordinated at the request of the client's SDRC service coordinator.

Clients who require transportation service are encouraged to arrange for and pay the cost of such service when possible. The preferred method of transportation shall be the least restrictive, most normalizing and cost effective.

Transportation services are normally provided to clients in order to attend work, day programs and/or community integrated programs. The different types of transportation services coordinated by SDRC are detailed in this booklet.



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BUS PASSES

SDRC may fund a reduced fare bus pass for clients who are capable of utilizing the public bus systems. The reduced fare bus pass is a monthly bus pass which may be utilized on the public bus system.

Three different agencies operate the bus systems in San Diego and Imperial counties. These agencies are the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) which covers metropolitan San Diego, the North County Transit District (NCTD) which serves the north inland and north coastal areas of San Diego County, and Imperial County Transit.

Within the MTS service area, in order to use a reduced fare bus pass, the user must possess:

- A Metropolitan Transit System Photo (MTS) ID card, or
- A California DMV Senior/Disabled ID Card, or
- A Medicare Card.

The MTS ID card can be purchased from the Transit Store, located at 102 Broadway at 1st Avenue, San Diego (619-234-1060). Photo ID and proof of disability is required when purchasing a Transit MTS ID card. Proof of disability can be provided by using the Reduced Rate Bus Pass form (SDRC Form 3007), which may be obtained by contacting your SDRC service coordinator. Information about MTS, including an on-line trip planner, can be found at www.sdcommute.com.

Within the NCTD service area, in order to use the Senior/Disabled Ready Pass, the user must possess:

- Either an MTS ID card or NCTD ID card, or
- A California DMV Senior/Disabled ID card, or
- A Medicare card.

To obtain a NCTD ID card, it is best to call 760-966-6525 for information. The person seeking a NCTD ID card will need to provide proof of disability. Proof of disability can be provided by using the Reduced Rate Bus Pass form (SDRC Form 3007), which may be obtained by contacting your SDRC service coordinator. Information about NCTD can be found on-line at www.gonctd.com.

Within Imperial County transit area, monthly punch cards can be purchased at any City Hall. Punch cards can be used for travel within a single zone (city) or multi-zone (to cross from one city to another). Imperial County Transit can be reached at 760-355-1160.

**Please note that bus schedules vary. You must call the bus company or see the current route guide for detailed route information. The buses on all systems are equipped with wheelchair lifts.*

In 2009, MTS and NCTD began to transition from paper bus passes to an electronic Compass Card system. Information about the Compass Card system can be found at www.sdcommute.com.

MOBILITY TRAINING

SDRC coordinates training for clients who require specialized, individual instruction to learn how to safely use public transit systems. Mobility training is strongly encouraged for all clients who have the potential to travel on the public bus systems.

The training includes:

- Proper bus riding behavior
- Dealing with strangers
- Recognizing the correct bus and stops
- Handling change and bus passes
- Personal identification
- What to do if confused, etc.

**A client will not pass the training if the individual is determined to be unsafe to travel independently. If a client does not have access to a public bus route or does not successfully complete mobility training, ADA paratransit service may be considered. In some cases, transportation may be arranged to move a client to and from a public bus stop.*

VOUCHERS

SDRC has a reimbursement program in effect where a client, authorized representative, care provider, or residential/day program provider may be paid to provide transportation according to a Standard Rate Schedule. The recipient of the reimbursement may use these funds to provide and/or obtain transportation service. SDRC does not dictate how clients use their voucher amount. They may use the funds to assist in:

- Ride sharing
- Paying for family automobile expenses
- Reimbursing a job coach
- Using the ADA paratransit service

**We recommend whatever source they use that the driver and vehicle be properly licensed and insured under the laws of California.*

ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service is designed to give persons with disabilities access to the community equivalent to that which nondisabled persons receive from public bus systems. The user must be certified for ADA service and be picked up and dropped off within the ADA service area and operating times.

In order to receive ADA paratransit service, a person must meet certain eligibility criteria (i.e. unable to tell time, recognize landmarks, count change, etc.) to be certified to use the service. From receipt of the application, it may take up to 21 days for the certification to be approved. All SDRC clients who are not able to utilize the public bus system should become certified for ADA paratransit service. Call the phone number below in the area where you live for information about ADA certification.

ADA Paratransit Certification:

- San Diego County 877-232-7433
- Imperial County 760-339-4462

Vehicles provide transportation service from the curb of the pick up point to the curb of the drop off point. Users may be required to call to schedule pick up times and ADA fares can be up to twice that of an equivalent trip on a public bus. A personal care attendant can escort the client for free. If there is room, a friend (disabled or not) can pay the ADA fare and ride along.

ADA Paratransit Operations (schedule ride):

- MTS Access 888-517-9627
 Central San Diego
 South Bay
 East County
 Poway
- LIFT 760-726-1111
 North County

CONTRACT SERVICE

SDRC also contracts with transportation providers to provide service to clients who do not reside within ADA paratransit service areas, or are not appropriate for ADA paratransit services. Many day programs provide contract services for clients attending their program. Ask about transportation services when interviewing day programs. Wheelchair accessible vehicles provide services from the curb of the pick up point to the curb of the drop off point.

Headquarters

4355 Ruffin Road
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Imperial County

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Imperial CA 92251
760-355-8383

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619-336-6600

East San Diego County

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