

Service Summary

Goal: To teach seniors and individuals with mobility impairments how to independently use fixed-route buses, thereby increasing their freedom and access to community opportunities, and to provide outreach and education concerning the public bus system to agencies serving seniors and people with mobility impairments.

Services Provided:

- Pre-mobility training assessment
- Personalized, one-on-one travel training
- Street crossing safety and stranger awareness instruction
- Follow-up services after program completion
- Educational outreach and bus orientation for agencies serving seniors and people with mobility impairments

Populations Served:

- Developmental Limitations
- Mental Health Diagnoses
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Physical Impairments
- Acquired Brain Injuries
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Communication Disorders
- High School Students with Mobility Impairments
- Seniors (ages 60+)
- Visual Impairments (*not diagnosed as legally blind*)

Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ Meet agency admission criteria
- ✓ Be able to get to and from a bus stop
- ✓ Be 13 years-of-age or older
- ✓ Be able to be left unattended
- ✓ Be motivated to learn to travel independently
- ✓ Have an awareness of personal space
- ✓ Be aware of their environment
- ✓ Have a residence and destination on or near a bus route
- ✓ Be able to recognize and respond to danger
- ✓ Successfully complete a pre-mobility training assessment

Program Completion Criteria: Trainees receiving one-on-one services should be able to travel to and from their destination and do the following 100% of the time (utilizing a Travel Skill Evaluation checklist):

- Arrive on time and safely at the bus stop
- Pay fares, via cash or pass, and request a transfer (if applicable)
- Identify, board, and disembark from the bus
- Use ID card appropriately
- Understand how to gather information
- Manage an unexpected situation
- Cross streets independently and safely

Outcomes:

- ❖ To increase the number of seniors and individuals with mobility impairments who can travel independently using the public bus system
- ❖ To increase freedom and community access

Contact: PVTA's Travel Trainer
2808 Main St. Springfield, MA 01107
Phone: 413.732.6248 ext. 2235
E-mail: MobilityTrainer@pvta.com