



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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## REGIONAL RIDES PROGRAM

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You asked for a brief overview of the Regional Rides Program. You wanted to know the rules and procedures determining where a transit district may pick up and drop off a passenger and whether these rules vary depending on the age or ability of the passenger (elderly or disabled). Specifically, you were interested in a person taking an “out of district” ride.

### SUMMARY

The Regional Rides Program (RRP) provides transportation assistance to individuals over age 60 and those with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Individuals must be residents of Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge. Rides must be within the boundaries of these towns and are curb-to-curb. The age or ability of a passenger does not affect these rules.

### REGIONAL RIDES PROGRAM

Greater New Haven Transit District (GNHTD) provides public transportation services in South Central Connecticut for several programs, including RRP. The RRP service is offered in Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge. Rides must be within the boundaries of these 12 towns.

According to GNHTD, effective December 24, 2010 through July 1, 2011, rides are available everyday from 5:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., although service hours are based on funding availability. Riders may book rides one to seven days in advance. There is no same day service. Calls to reserve rides are taken seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The current cost per one-way trip is \$2.50, which can be made in cash or GNHTD vouchers.

### ***Eligibility***

Eligibility for RRP is limited to residents of the above towns who are either over age 60 or have a disability. An application can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, and on the GNHTD website. Once the application is completed, a face-to-face interview is conducted. It can take up to 21 days for GNHTD to approve an applicant.

### ***Supplement to ADA Service***

According to GNHTD, RRP supplements the ADA paratransit service. The ADA requires transit agencies in all states to provide paratransit services in areas along their fixed-route bus services for people of any age who cannot use the local bus system because of their disability. The paratransit service is available to individuals with qualifying disabilities traveling within a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile radius of a fixed-route bus service during the same days and times the fixed-route service operates. RRP offers curb-to-curb transportation service beyond the ADA coverage area.

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

Further information about this service is available by contacting GNHTD at (203)-288-6282 or online at <http://www.gnhtd.org/services.htm>.

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