



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

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Mary Tomolonius

Date: February 22, 2013
To: The Appropriations Committee
RE: **Governor Malloy's Proposed Cut to TEIP Funding in the DSS Budget**
From: Mary Tomolonius, CACT Executive Director
Email: appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) urges you to appropriate the funds needed for public transportation services across the state that provide affordable rides to jobs, job interviews, and job training for Connecticut's urban and rural residents. The Department of Social Services proposed budget ("Transportation For Employment Independence" Budget -In-Detail, pg. 348) eliminates funding in fiscal year 2014- \$3,187,240 and fiscal year 2015- \$3,187,240. This will have an immediate and significant impact on our most vulnerable citizens. For example, the potential elimination of:

- Northwest Region: Childcare reservation project in Waterbury; JobsLinks (whose riders could be in jeopardy of losing their employment because of transportation);
- South Central Region: Job Starter program; some CTTransit Bus Routes
- Hartford/New Britain: late evening and weekend service in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford; service along the Berlin Turnpike corridor in Hartford
- Housatonic Area: two of the three evening/Sunday/holiday bus routes are partially funded through this program
- Southwestern Connecticut (New Haven Counties and parts of Fairfield): Coastal Link: A reduction in service hours, frequency and service span
- Eastern Region (a rural area with limited bus service): taxi service, bus tickets, car based solutions & mileage reimbursement; funding for a portion of a fixed route service.

The bus service reduction disproportionately affects those very people who rely on public transportation. The reductions in service further erode an individual's ability to get to their job. Let's not leave our most vulnerable citizens stranded with no options.

We need to invest in public transportation by making it more accessible, not less.

If CACT may be of assistance to you, please contact me at (860) 693-0368. CACT's email address is mary.cact@yahoo.com. Thank you.