

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 10, 2008**



OKI Awards More Than \$1.7 Million for Public Transit Funds Will Assist Those Most in Need of Transportation Options

Cincinnati, Ohio – The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) announced today that more than \$1.7 million will be awarded to various public transit projects throughout the region. These projects will improve transportation access to employment for welfare recipients, low-income individuals and the disabled.

“Providing transportation alternatives to those who would otherwise have no options builds morale, strengthens our economy and promotes inclusion,” said Christine Maticic, OKI board president. “This funding will positively impact the lives and well-being of many citizens in the OKI region.”

A total of seven projects will receive federal funding totaling \$1,757,514:

Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC): \$193,718 to fund a fixed route shuttle connecting the Milford area with Goshen.

Everybody Rides Metro: \$718,350 for a voucher reimbursement program allowing low income persons to reach employment related activities.

Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority: \$158,659 to connect central city youth with a major employment site, Kings Island.

Butler County Regional Transit Authority: \$168,600 to coordinate with the Transit Alliance of Butler County to provide medical shuttle services.

CTC: \$86,400 for the purchase of vehicles designed to accommodate mobility aids greater than the American with Disabilities Act regulations.

Community Cab: \$397,190 for the purchase and operation of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Wesley Community Services: \$34,597 to provide door to door transportation for disabled persons to employment sites.

Funding was made available through two federal programs: Section 5316 Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and Section 5317 New Freedom. The goal of JARC is to improve transportation access to employment and related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals. The goal of New Freedom is provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.

OKI is a council of local governments, business organizations and community groups committed to developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs to improve the quality of life and the economic development potential of the Tri-State.

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