

The Resource

Published by The Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program

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MARTAP CONCLUDES THE 2010 HELPING HAND MINI GRANT PROGRAM AWARDING OVER \$21,000 TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF AGENCIES TO BETTER IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

The Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MArtap), on behalf of the MassDOT, is pleased to announce the results of the 2010 Helping Hand Mini Grant Award Program. This program is offered each year with an award amount of up to \$750 for equipment or projects designed to update and enhance transit services in rural and small urban services. This year, more than 45 agencies were awarded a grant under this program.

The grant is designed to improve delivery of transportation services for Massachusetts regional transit authorities, non-profit transportation providers and councils on aging. Priority will be given to transportation providers that serve rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Computer hardware and software, both new and upgrades; fax machines, driver recruitment campaigns and marketing and promoting materials including internet web design and set up are just some of the eligible uses. Other eligible uses include:

- Travel training for customers
- Community surveys on transportation needs
- Tools that enhance passenger security
- Accessory equipment for vehicles (wheelchairs, gps, tires)

The program has concluded for this year but if you are in need of items (such as computers, office equipment, tools and accessory equipment), MArtap encourages you to visit www.comm-pass.com. If you need help on this website, please contact MArtap. Visit www.martap.org for complete information or contact Carol Tally at 877-627-8271.



Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program

MARTAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE '10

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Tina Cote
Franklin Regional Transit Authority



About MArtap

The Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MArtap) is a federally funded, state-administered program that offers training, education and technical assistance programs with special emphasis on rural services. MArtap offers programs to paratransit services—public, private nonprofit and private profit agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts based on funding.

In addition, the MArtap program offers opportunities for scholarships to conferences, meetings and other events, along with a mini-grant program to agencies for necessary equipment. MArtap just concluded this year's Helping Hand Mini Grant program awarding over \$21,000 to over 47 agencies. Fiscal Year 2011 program information will be available soon at www.martap.org.

MArtap is a program of the MassDOT contracted through the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA). MArtap is funded through the Federal Transit Administration, an agency of the U.S Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

MArtap Programs

- **Driver Training** on-site training classes and materials,
 - Wheelchair Lift & Securement*
 - Coaching the Van Driver*
 - Safe Transportation of the Public under the ADA*
 Monthly training schedule is posted on www.martap.org;
 Form and guidelines to request training at your agency is also on www.martap.org;
 Most of the training is offered at no charge.
- **Helping Hand Mini Grant**
 Offered yearly to help meet the needs of agencies to help improve their transportation services. Items awarded include but not limited to computers, fax/printers, marketing and promotional materials, website design, accessory equipment, etc.
- **Scholarship Award**
 Scholarships to assist with cost of attending workshops and various transit training sessions;
 Limit two \$750 scholarship per agency per fiscal year 2010;
 Most scholarships provide 90 percent of the cost of tuition and expenses for conferences/training, but may cover the full cost up to \$750;
 Scholarship are available for all conferences/training related to transportation, not just MArtap sponsored events.
- **Lend and Learn** library of training and resource material,
 Training materials available, free of charge, for a two-week rental period
- **Website**
www.martap.org
- depending on funding, programs such as Train the Trainer, and dissemination of information regarding training opportunities and other issues of interest to transit providers.

For complete MArtap programs, visit www.martap.org or contact Carol Tally at 877-MArtap (627-8271).

MArtap welcomes Tina Cote, Franklin Regional Transit Authority Administrator in Greenfield to the MArtap Advisory Committee. Tina has been with the FRTA since 2002 and serves on the National RTAP Board of Directors and has recently been appointed to the Greenfield Advisory Board of the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Welcome Tina!

For complete program information, visit www.martap.org

MARTAP TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

MArtap scholarships are still available through October 31, 2010. The funding for this fiscal year is \$11,000.

Eligible Agencies:

Private non-profit organizations and Councils on Aging that provide transportation

Limit: Two \$750 scholarships to be used by October 31, 2010. Reimbursed at 100% up to \$750 per scholarship.

Regional Transit Authorities and their Operating Companies

Limit: Two \$750 scholarships to be used by October 31, 2010. Reimbursed at 90%, matched with a 10% local contribution.

Scholarships apply to one-day and multi-day conference and community-based training opportunities. Programs do not

need to be sponsored by MArtap but must be related to transportation.

To Apply for a MArtap Scholarship:

Visit www.martap.org, link to MArtap Scholarships. Link to Application and Expense Reimbursement Form. Complete the estimate and e-mail to MArtap. MArtap will acknowledge each request by return e-mail within 48 hours.

Scholarship requests must be submitted to MArtap no later than 30 days before the start of the conference.

Reimbursement requests must be submitted to MArtap, along with receipts, within 30 days after the start of the conference.

Questions on any MArtap program?
Contact Carol Tally
Program Coordinator
at 877-MArtap (627-8271)
MArtap · PO Box 155
Foxboro · MA 02035
info@martap.org

WEBSITE FEATURES:
DRIVER TRAINING
SCHEDULE,
SCHOLARSHIP
GUIDELINES, LEND
AND LEARN LIBRARY
AND MORE
WWW.MARTAP.ORG

MArtap is accepting advertising in *The Resource*. If you have a product or service to market or have a position to fill and want to access more than 450 transit members, then this is a special opportunity for you.

Advertising in this publication gives you an opportunity to send your company's message to transit agencies such as RTAs and their operating companies, private non-profit providers, for profit organizations and Councils on Aging.

Advertising rates listed on www.martap.org under THE RESOURCE link.

COMMUNITY UPDATES - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Resource is printed throughout the year by the Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MArtap) with funds provided to the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) by MassDOT and the Federal Transit Administration.

Send us your Press Releases! We are interested in what's happening at your agency. If you have a success story or a personnel announcement to share, or a new policy that is working well, please share the news in *The Resource*. Direct editorials to Carol Tally, MArtap, PO Box 155, Foxboro, MA 02035 (p) 877-MArtap1 (627-8271), (f) 508-698-2002, email: info@martap.org.

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Email: info@martap.org
www.martap.org



MARTap Driver Training

MassDOT has mandated that all vehicle acceptance recipients under the Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) agree to ensure all vehicle drivers receive proper training; therefore, the following training courses are required.

These training courses, most offered free of charge to all MAP recipients through the MARTap program. *Training requests must receive prior approval from MARTap.*

To schedule a training at your location or to sign up for a class already scheduled, visit the Driver Training sign up form link on www.martap.org. Sign up does not guarantee approval. Be sure to receive prior approval from MARTap before attending the course.

Or contact MARTap directly at info@martap.org or call 877-MARTap1 (627-8271).

Please allow 14 days for your request to be processed. All requests will be confirmed by e-mail.

All training requests must be submitted to and approved by MARTap prior to scheduling. Agency will be responsible for training cost if training class is held without prior authorization from Carol Tally at MARTap.

Required Training Courses:

Coaching the Van Driver - Edition 3 (training requirement: yearly)

Wheelchair Lift & Securement Training (training requirement: yearly)

Passenger Assistance Techniques: Safe Transportation of the Public under the ADA (training requirement for one or the other training: every three (3) years)

In addition to the required courses, MARTap offers:

Emergency and Accident Handling Procedures

Coaching the Transit Bus Driver

Get an 'A' in Customer Service

Also required but not offered through the MARTap program:

CPR (certification must be renewed each year)

First Aid (certification must be renewed every two (2) years)

Drug & Alcohol training (1 time per year for each employee)

All training above, *with the exception of CPR, First Aid and Drug & Alcohol training*, are provided FREE OF CHARGE, depending on funding availability, to all MAP recipients through the MARTap program.

For complete training course description, visit www.martap.org