

## **Analysis on Demand Response Transportation Service for the City of Gainesville and Alachua County**

**Americans with Disability Act (ADA):** Federally mandated laws that require transportation is provided to disabled citizens who can not access the fixed route transportation system. Citizens living within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of a fixed route are eligible for ADA service. Former Gainesville City Manager expanded the service area to include all disabled residents of the City of Gainesville; therefore, as long as a person lives within the Gainesville City limits and qualifies under the ADA, he/she is eligible for transportation as an ADA patron. Individuals are required to go through a certification process to verify their disability affects their ability to access the fixed route. Accessibility of bus stops can affect a disabled person ability to access the fixed route and have to be taken into consideration when determining eligibility. Since the City of Gainesville provides fixed route service, the City is required by Federal regulations to provide ADA complementary paratransit service.

**Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC):** The CTC has full responsibility for the delivery of transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged. The CTC executes uniform contracts for service using a standard contract to include performance standards for operators, collects annual operating data for submittal to the State Transportation Disadvantaged Commission, and reviews all transportation operator contracts annually.

**Transportation Disadvantaged (TD):** TD is for those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in s.411.202. Funds are provided by the state. Taxpayers have the option when renewing automobile tags of contributing a dollar to the Transportation Disadvantaged fund. These funds are then distributed by the state to the counties to provide transportation to financially disadvantaged individuals.

**Foster Grand Parents (FGP):** FGP is a County funded program administered by Social Services that places older citizen volunteers in classrooms to aid teachers with students.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities (DS):** Medicaid Wavier funds are used to partially fund transportation for developmentally disabled adults; usually from group homes (located within the city limits) to the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) center. These individuals qualify under the ADA and are ADA certified. The city subsidizes the remaining cost of the trip for DS clients residing and traveling within the Gainesville City limits.