

**Ending the Epidemic Task Force
Committee Recommendation
CR16**

Recommendation Title: Strategies for Overcoming Transportation Barriers

- 1. For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? 1, 2 and 3**

- 2. Proposed Recommendation:** In many rural communities, the healthcare system is not organized to promote prevention, monitor and coordinate services, provide primary care etc. and people are forced to travel long distances for appropriate medical care, especially those people who need access to specialist services. For communities of color, low income communities and youth, the problem is even more compounded. Providing a stipend or reimbursement for travel allows people the opportunity to access medical care without sacrificing other essential needs such as paying rent, utilities and other items for personal care. Many service providers in upstate New York currently provide transportation assistance with grant funding and fundraising so there are currently systems in place to replicate.

Persons living in the New York Metro area, where there is more accessible public transportation, should be provided transportation assistance via metro cards or stipends to ensure they can also access and adhere to medical care. This can be accomplished through enhanced funding to community and medical providers to assist persons receiving services or as a travel stipend for persons who are eligible to purchase a discounted monthly card based on disability. Many New York City providers currently do not receive adequate funding to provide transportation assistance when requested or necessary to ensure appointment adherence.

Simply providing a gas card, metro card or travel stipend for a patient, or a patient's family member, to assist in the cost of their travel, will immediately provide for an increase in both access to and retention in health care.

List of key individuals, stakeholders, or populations who would benefit from this recommendation

- Consumers living outside areas easily traversed with public transport will immediately benefit from the linkage to care, as well as anyone attempting to access PrEP
- Service providers will benefit from better access to patients providing for better health outcomes

List of measures that would assist in monitoring impact

- Impact could easily be monitored by allowing for a prompt in an electronic medical record showing that someone received reimbursement for travel, it could be as easy as checking a box



Footnotes or References

Gerber, B.S., Sharp, L.K., Syed, S.T. (2013) Traveling Towards Disease: Transportation Barriers to Health Care Access

3. **Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?** Permitted under current law.
4. **Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?** Within the next year.
5. **Please list the TF numbers of the original recommendations that contributed to this current version:** TF46, TF221.

