

Transportation Accessible to Residents of Heath

“Rides for Health”: LifePath

There is a pamphlet for this program.

Only for LifePath ‘State Home Care’ clients.

Service area includes Heath.

Eligibility: Refer to LifePath ICRC department to be approved (773-5555) and ask for the Information and Caregiver Resource Center. Eligibility is looking at the person’s needs, assistances needed, impairments (such as needing assistance with bathing and dressing), may schedule a care manager to visit for an assessment. They may need to talk with a caregiver if there is one, to review needs. Referral is by a case manager, but trips can depend on driver availability.

Relies on volunteer drivers, and that can be a challenge. Connects people with volunteers for safe transportation and physical assistance – can help with devices such as canes, walker. Trips are for health-related activities, such as medical visits, pharmacy, YMCA/health classes. Doesn’t do grocery shopping and social events.

Up to 4 round trips a month.

For return trips, sometimes the volunteer driver may wait in the medical office, or if called, will return. More info from LifePath about this.

Cost of services will be based on income.

Franklin Regional Transit Authority, FRTA

www.frta.org

774-2262

Three Programs: (If have MassHealth, this transit authority doesn’t provide for that – have to contact another entity) There are pamphlets for each of these programs.

1) Access Program:

Bus transit/pickup and drop off, from two points locally, none in Heath – Arms Academy in SF, and Charlemont Park and Ride. Sort of like a taxi, but is public transportation, so can have others aboard. Times can be 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. M-F, and 9:30-5:30, S/S.

Can schedule pick up time online (set up account with username and password) or call FRTA directly 774-2262, or for Dispatch, call 413-773-8090, extension 103.

Cost, within the Zone is \$3 one way, between zones \$4. Currently, pay directly exact amount to the driver, or if give them more, they will give a card back with the balance to count toward next trip. If lose card, no other record of that. SF is within Zone 3, Greenfield is Zone 1. Currently not charging through June 2022.

Can purchase a Transportation Access Pass, reduced fares. Must fill out application. Veterans pay half – have a separate application.

2) Demand Response:

Van can come directly to Heath for pickup and drop off.

Must complete an Application – either send to FRTA in Greenfield or to SF Senior Center.

Handled by Shelburne Falls COA/Senior Center 625-2502. Must contact them to schedule pick up and drop off times. 48 hour advanced notice to schedule a time/day/location.

Focused on medical appointment drives, but can do others and have times scheduled for others – see below.

Person must be able to get to van themselves. The van has a lift, but driver cannot assist person from the house.

For scheduling:

- Appointments must be scheduled between 9 am and 2 pm.
- Must contact SF Senior Center to schedule at least 48 hours prior to appointed time to be picked up.
- Information needed to give to SF includes, the time of appointment, day, location. They can drive people within the area, and as far away as Cooley Dickenson.
- SF Senior Center will call back with the time for pick up.
- If a medical appointment, tell that office about ride and time will be picked up, so they can have you ready to go.
- Flier says costs range from \$1 to 2.25.

Other things they provide:

- Wednesdays: Can pick up and deliver to Shelburne Falls, so can go to bank, grocery, pharmacy, etc.
- Tuesdays: Trip to Big Y. No charge, as paid for by Big Y. About 1/1/2 hours there.
- Once monthly, trip to Walmart in Hadley.

3) Medical Rides

Can pick up and drop off in Heath, maximum of 2 trips a week.

Only deliver people to medical appointments outside of Franklin County, and inside of the state of MA.

Volunteers use their cars for these trips. Can only assist into and out of vehicle, and not help with wheelchairs etc. If need more help, can bring along an assistant to help, at no additional cost.

No application needed. Call FRTA to schedule: 774-2262, M-F 8 am-3 pm, and press '0' to be directed to Medical Rides. Schedule at least 3 days ahead of appointment. Will need to be ambulatory and over the age of 60, give them your name and address. Also provides rides for Veterans. Will provide up to two trips per week.

Cost is based on mileage (40 cents a mile), and person will be billed through the mail.