



Transportation Works: Assess and Deliver is a continuation and expansion of the 2-year pilot Transportation Works project. Its scope has been expanded to explore transportation gaps in service to rural and small urban areas in Texas in order to address any transportation mobility and accessibility issues that may exist for individuals with disabilities and senior populations. In an effort to find out more about the needs of the disability community, the Texas SILC is participating in events and holding several town hall meetings across the state. The results will be presented in a Summit next year.

The Transportation Works: Assess & Deliver research will investigate the transit experiences and needs of people with disabilities, public transportation riders, and the senior population using public transportation. The investigation focuses on identifying service, infrastructure, and other possible barriers to existing public transportation by:

- Soliciting participation of the public through surveys, public meetings, and work groups to identify service gaps
- Raising awareness of transportation providers on initiatives to assist people with disabilities.
- Addressing any current gaps or difficulties associated with existing transportation.
- Promoting collaboration between transportation providers and Centers for Independent Living to create reliable transportation for people with disabilities living in rural and small urban areas.

Did you know that people with disabilities are more likely to live in rural and low populated urban areas due to reduced housing and living costs but accessible transportation in those areas can oftentimes be limited in availability? With limited access to public transportation in these areas being a possibility, it may become increasingly difficult for individuals with disabilities to get to work, go to job interviews, participate in work related training, or even get to and from school in a timely manner. As of August 2014 people with disabilities make up 19.8% of the work force, and the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities was 12.8%.

Those interested in additional information regarding this new initiative should contact the Texas SILC at 512-371-7353 or visit our website, [http:// transportationworks.txsilc.org](http://transportationworks.txsilc.org).

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY AND ENTER TO WIN \$500*!



https://surveymonkey.com/s/TxSILC_TransportSurvey

*Drawing to be held on Monday March 16, 2015. Winner will be notified via email.



FACT SHEET

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Transportation Works: Assess & Deliver focuses on employment-related transportation options for people with disabilities living in rural counties and small urban areas across Texas.

The lack of adequate, available, affordable, and accessible transportation options for individuals with disabilities continues to be a barrier to independence for those in rural and small urban communities. One option to affordable, accessible transit is voucher programs. Several Texas Centers for Independent Living currently offer such a program.

Enhancing transportation opportunities for rural and small urban communities can improve economic growth and community development that will ensure quality of life for residents in rural and small urban environments.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of Americans with disabilities is:

- 21% are 15 years of age or older
- 19.8% are in the labor force
- 12.8% are unemployed

In 2011 the percent of workers commuting by mode:

- Car, truck, van—76.4% of U.S. workers drove to work alone.
- Car, truck, van—9.7% of U.S. workers carpooled.
- Public transportation—5% of U.S. workers took public transit (excludes taxis).
- Other means—\$4.3% of U.S. workers used other means of getting to work.

NEEDS & ASSESSMENT

Access and use of accessible transportation services by individuals with disabilities continues to be a high-priority topic statewide.

1. Participation and Involvement
 - a. Surveys, public meetings, and work groups
 - b. Educate and provide technical training to CIL leadership and regional transportation providers to improve employment opportunities
2. Transportation Works Town Hall Meetings
 - a. Informative sessions
 - b. Workshops
 - c. Community Input
3. Needs Assessment Survey
 - a. Input and feedback from the public
 - b. Click on **GET INVOLVED** at <http://transportationworks.txsilc.org>
4. Publishing of Survey Findings
 - a. Report current gaps in transportation
 - b. Make recommendations
 - c. Collaboration