



East Valley RideChoice Program

East Valley RideChoice provides three services:

- **Coupons for Cabs**

Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, and Tempe seniors and/or individuals with disabilities can purchase cab coupon booklets for nominal co-pay per booklet. Up to 10 booklets, valued at \$10.00 each can be purchased monthly. Coupons can then be applied to the fare and tip for participating taxi companies.

- **Taxi Voucher Program**

Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, and Tempe individuals with disabilities are eligible to apply for fully-subsidized vouchers to use for transportation to and from recurring medical appointments such as dialysis.

- **Mesa Mileage Reimbursement**

Mesa seniors and individuals with disabilities are eligible to apply for mileage reimbursement to reimburse their volunteer driver(s). Participation in this program allows reimbursement for up to 300 miles monthly.

The EVRC program has been around a long time; however, it wasn't the first taxi-subsidy program in this area. In 1984, Phoenix started a voucher program for individuals with disabilities for work trips. In 1999, Phoenix added a voucher program for dialysis trips. Both programs continue today. Most recently Phoenix added the Senior Cab Program and there are also taxi subsidy programs in Scottsdale, Glendale, and Avondale.

The EVRC program began in 1999 when the City of Mesa partnered with the East Valley Senior Services to create an alternative transportation program called ET – Enabling Transportation. ET provided a mileage reimbursement for volunteers who used their own cars to provide seniors and individuals with disabilities with essential transportation. The mileage reimbursement program was modeled after the Riverside, California mileage reimbursement program which has been copied throughout the United States.

Two years later the City of Mesa added the Coupons for Cabs programs which allowed seniors and individuals with disabilities to purchase a limited number of subsidized coupons each month. The coupons could be used for trips on local taxi companies participating in the program. In 2006 Mesa asked Valley Metro to take over the program and also in 2006, Chandler, Gilbert, and Tempe joined in so their seniors and citizens with disabilities could purchase subsidized cab coupons for trips.

In July 2007, RideChoice added a taxi voucher program for essential recurring medical trips in Mesa which was expanded to the other cities the following year.

Since 2006, the EVRC program is under contract and provided by Veolia Transportation. Listed below is specific information regarding each RideChoice program.

- Coupons for Cabs – participants can order \$100 of coupons for 25% co-pay in Chandler, Gilbert, and Tempe and 30% co-pay in Mesa each month. The coupons can be applied toward the fare and tip of participating taxi companies.
- East Valley Voucher Program – residents of Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, and Tempe can order vouchers to use for recurring medical trips such as dialysis. The vouchers are to be used to cover the fare and tip for trips using participating taxi companies. No co-pay is required.
- Mesa Mileage Reimbursement – Mesa seniors 65 and over and individuals with disabilities are eligible to participate. The passenger recruits a driver who does not live with them and the participant is eligible to be reimbursed for up to 300 miles per month at the current IRS reimbursement rate. The participant is responsible for providing their driver or drivers with the reimbursement.