



Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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YUMA COUNTY AREA TRANSIT RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS TO START LIFELINE TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

YUMA, AZ (February 15, 2014) - The Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) received funding from the Yuma Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,250 and from the San Luis Community Fund, \$750 to start a new lifeline transit pass program. It is envisioned that those who may need access to social services would be able to obtain a discounted 31-Day YCATPass at the rate of \$30.00 instead of paying \$60.00. For those who are students (ages 5 through 18), seniors (age 65 and older), persons with disabilities and Medicare card holders would be able to obtain the lifeline 31-Day YCATPass for \$15.00 instead of \$30.00.

These passes would be issued potentially by YCIPTA directly or in partnership with the Western Arizona Council of Governments as they provide assistance through their helpline for those that are low income already. The guidelines that would be followed for determining eligibility would be the Federal standard for poverty established by the United States Health and Human Services. If passengers interested in the discount bus passes meet the criteria below, then they would be determined eligible:

2013 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,020 for each additional person.	
1	\$11,490
2	15,510
3	19,530

Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority Board Of Directors
Robert L. Pickles, Chairman - Yuma County, Greg Wilkinson, Vice Chairman - City of Yuma
Dr. Larry Gould - Northern Arizona University, Dr. Glenn Mayle – Arizona Western College,
Ralph Velez - City of San Luis, Brian Golding, Sr – Quechan Indian Tribe, Paul Soto – Cocopah Indian Tribe,
Richard Watenpaugh – Town of Wellton, Bill Lee – City of Somerton

John Andoh, Transit Director

**2013 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
4	23,550
5	27,570
6	31,590
7	35,610
8	39,630

In addition, a limited amount of 1-Day YCATPass will be available to non-profit organizations that provide assistance to low income residents upon filling out a request for donation form.

YCIPTA will be matching the funds provided by the Yuma Community Foundation and the San Luis Community Fund to provide this lifeline transit pass program in the amount of \$9,900.

Should the YCIPTA Board of Directors approve the implementation of this program and the acceptance of these grant funds, the program is anticipated to begin April 1, 2014 and would continue until the funds run out. YCIPTA hopes to apply for other funding sources to keep this program going on an ongoing basis.

"YCAT is a part of the community and for those that need transportation, but cannot afford it, now will be able to get to social services, jobs, schools and other quality of life destinations" said John Andoh, Transit Director. "This program was created because we have had caseworkers from Crossroads Mission and WACOG call asking for free or discounted bus passes for low income residents that could not afford the regular bus fare" added Andoh.

For YCAT transit information and YCAT OnCall reservations call 928-783-2235. Interested parties can also visit the YCAT online at www.ycat.az.gov.

About Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

YCIPTA is the public transportation provider for Yuma County, formed as an intergovernmental public transportation authority as defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, YCIPTA is governed by a nine member Board of Directors consisting of all of the municipalities, the County government, Indian tribes and higher educational institution in Yuma County. 381,000 passengers' trips were made on YCAT buses in FY 2013. YCIPTA operates, maintains and administers Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) fixed route, deviated fixed route, vanpool and paratransit services and contracts services to Transportation Concepts of Irvine, CA, vRide of Troy, MI and Enterprise Rideshare of Tempe, AZ. See where it takes you at www.ycat.az.gov or call 928.783.2235.

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