



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Urban Mass
Transportation
Administration

The Administrator

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAR 23 1990

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
Founder
American G.I. Forum
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Secretary Skinner has asked me to thank you and respond to your letter requesting Federal funding for specialized transportation for disabled veterans in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) is the agency of the Department of Transportation which provides funding to States and local public bodies to assist them with providing transportation in communities, nationwide. As part of its program of transit assistance, UMTA provides funding through its Section 16(b)(2) program to private nonprofit organizations to help them provide specialized transportation services for elderly and handicapped persons.

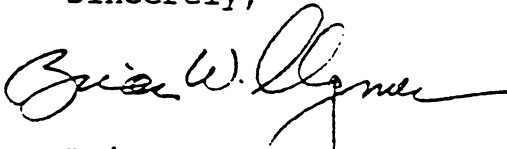
Section 16(b)(2) is strictly a capital assistance program, with UMTA providing 80 percent of the cost of vehicles and equipment and the local organization paying the remaining 20 percent. Although the Section 16(b)(2) program cannot provide financial assistance for operating these vehicles, the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging can be a source of operating funding through its programs.

Section 16(b)(2) funds are apportioned to each State and managed for UMTA at the State level by an agency designated by the Governor to accept, review, and select individual applications for funding before the State forwards its consolidated statewide application to UMTA for final approval. The State agency frequently is responsible for the procurement of vehicles and equipment. The agency also monitors the use of these vehicles and equipment in services provided by the individual organizations.

If you would like to have additional information about the Section 16(b)(2) program in your area, then you may contact Ms. Margot D. Massey, Manager, Grant Programs, Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Eleventh and Brazos, Austin, Texas 78701-2483, telephone number (512) 483-3662. Ms. Massey is the State contact person for the Section 16(b)(2) program in Texas. She will be able to provide you with any information that you may need.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Clymer