

CURRENT

PRIORITIZATION POLICY

Citrus Connection, the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Polk County, implements a Local Coordinating Board-approved Prioritization Policy in order to provide the most critical trips, with available funds. Since at least 2015, it has been established that Medical/ Medical Related services followed by Nutrition and Life Sustaining Activities will be funded as the top two priorities. If funding allows, the other trip purposes will be considered at the discretion of the CTC.

1. Medical/Medical Related - (Ex. Life sustaining medical—dialysis, chemotherapy, radiation, other medical appointments and treatment, mental health, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, etc.)
2. Nutrition and Life Sustaining Activities - (Ex. Grocery, medical records, hospital discharge, etc.)
3. Specific Education and Training Determined by the CTC to be for Critical Life Skills - (Ex. Sheltered workshop, specialized training for the disabled, etc.)
4. Employment - (Ex. Personal travel to employment)
5. Other Education and Training - (Ex. Personal education, training)
6. Social/Recreational and Other Activities - (Ex. Personal business, ex. Government office, bank, legal, shopping, social, recreation, etc.)

The CTC shall determine if funding is available to allow the requested trip using the above priorities established by the LCB.

Using Cost-Effective Transportation Services/Modes

The CTC in Polk County and the TD Trust Fund Program require that services be provided by the least costly mode and the most efficient means (e.g., maximizing the use of fixed-route transit and multi-loading of vehicles).

Leverage Non-Sponsored Trip Funds

A sliding scale is used to determine the ability to pay based on a client's verified disposable net income and liquid assets. The chart used in this eligibility assessment is based on the poverty guidelines issued in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services. The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes – for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Poverty guidelines are designated by the year in which they are issued. See **Table 24** on page 72.