Tennessee Vans is a social business enterprise whose mission is to design and develop strategies and resources to meet the mobility needs of the transportation disadvantaged in a financially sustainable manner. Tennessee Vans works in partnership with community agencies to meet the transportation needs of their clients, including the mobility needs of persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, low and moderate income workers, persons without vehicles, and persons who cannot or choose not to drive. The community agencies can purchase vehicles through Tennessee Vans to transport their clients on a variety of trips, including community events and activities, medical appointments, recovery treatment centers, shopping, employment and training, job interviews, school and after school activities, childcare, field trips, youth programs, and other community outreach services and activities that meet diverse client travel needs.

Tennessee Vans operates according to basic business principles to maintain financial sustainability and to ensure that resources are available to meet current as well as future transportation needs. Tennessee Vans provides the opportunity for qualified community agencies to purchase vehicles for transportation purposes through an affordable financing plan. The vehicle and operating expenses for Tennessee Vans are recovered from participating agencies through fees charged for the purchase of the vehicles. After expenses are paid, the remaining funds are then recycled and used to purchase additional vehicles to meet the future demand for transportation resources.

Vehicle Purchase Program for Community Agencies

“...Mobility and access to work, community activities, and services helps people to fully participate in societal life” - Tennessee Vans Social Goal
Key Features of the Vehicle Purchase Program

Program Participants include community agencies located in Tennessee and who express a desire and need to provide transportation services for their clients.

Vehicles are procured through competitive bidding procedures by the University of Tennessee and assigned to participating agencies through simple purchase contracts.

Vehicle financing is provided through an affordable payment option without interest charges or any cash down payment. The vehicle contract cost must be paid in full within six years of the vehicle assignment date. Payment fees include both vehicle costs and program operating expenses. Upon payment of these costs, the title of the vehicle is fully transferred to the participating agency.

Vehicle insurance and maintenance must be provided by the participating agency throughout the duration of the purchase contract period. Basic insurance coverage levels and routine vehicle maintenance procedures are outlined in the purchase contract.

Drivers operating vehicles purchased through the program are provided by the participating agency. Drivers are expected to possess an appropriate, valid Tennessee Operator’s License and to operate the vehicles in a safe manner in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Vehicle Purchase Program Monthly Payment Plan allows agencies to pay for the vehicle through fixed monthly payments. The total vehicle contract cost is amortized over 72 months. The agency agrees to pay monthly fees until the vehicle contract is paid in full. The total contract costs and payments for the available vehicles are included in the inserted vehicle information sheet.
AGENCY PURCHASE
Tennessee Vans Program

MINIVAN
PURCHASE COSTS
(1 driver, 6 riders)

The total cost for the minivan is $26,000 per vehicle with a fixed payment of $362.00 per month. The agency is responsible for fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs.*

SEDAN
PURCHASE COSTS
(1 driver, 4 riders)

The total cost for the sedan is $23,000 per vehicle with a fixed payment of $320.00 per month. The agency is responsible for fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs.*

FIFTEEN PASSenger VAN
PURCHASE COSTS
(1 driver, 14 riders)

The total cost for the fifteen passenger is $28,000 per vehicle with a fixed payment of $389.00 per month. The agency is responsible for fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs.*

* NOTE: Costs may change depending on vehicle bid results.
SAFETY INFORMATION

• All passengers must wear seatbelts. Seatbelt use is critical to keep everyone safe in the event of an accident.

• Tires should be properly inflated. Improper inflation can cause handling problems.

• Load vehicle from front to back. More weight on the rear axle could impair handling.

• Make a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle. Examine tires, mirrors, lights, and under the hood.

• Be mindful of speed and road conditions. Be attentive to wet or icy roads and drive cautiously on rural roads.

• Utilize qualified drivers. Experienced drivers help make each trip a safe one.
Tennessee Vans – A Social Business Enterprise

Tennessee Vans was initiated by the University of Tennessee Center for Transportation Research in February, 1990 as a transportation research and service development project to meet the growing mobility needs of residents in Tennessee. The program was designed as an experiment in providing community transportation resources in a manner that differed from traditional transportation service models. Tennessee Vans has transitioned from a grant supported research and service development project to a financially sustainable social business enterprise. Through its vehicle provision and financial service programs, Tennessee Vans has positively impacted the overall quality of life of individuals and groups by improving access to community services, events, and activities that enhance their participation in and contribution to societal life.

As a social business enterprise, Tennessee Vans is focused on addressing problems of human mobility, specifically the needs of the transportation disadvantaged. Tennessee Vans works in partnership with community agencies that provide services to persons with disabilities, workforce participants, the youth, seniors, recovery program participants, and community outreach programs. Through these partnerships, Tennessee Vans is able to maintain program sustainability and produce positive financial, social, and environmental outcomes and benefits to its program participants, investors, and communities in Tennessee.

How do Tennessee Vans participants use their vehicles?

Currently, over 100 Tennessee Vans program participants use a fleet of 200 vehicles to provide approximately 1.2 million trips per year for more than 2500 people. They use their vehicles to provide a range of trips for those they serve. The variety of program participants and the uses of their vehicles is illustrated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Group</th>
<th>Agency Type</th>
<th>Persons Served</th>
<th>Type of Trips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities Services</td>
<td>-Sheltered workshops</td>
<td>-Persons with developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities</td>
<td>-Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Group homes</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Supported employment programs</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Recreational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Services</td>
<td>-Vanpool groups</td>
<td>-Workers</td>
<td>-Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Employers</td>
<td>-Job trainees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Training programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services</td>
<td>-Day care centers</td>
<td>-Children</td>
<td>-School to home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Youth programs</td>
<td>-Teenagers</td>
<td>-After school activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Recreational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Services</td>
<td>-Addiction treatment centers</td>
<td>-Substance abusers</td>
<td>-Group meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Transitional housing services</td>
<td>-Ex-offenders</td>
<td>-Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Health departments</td>
<td>-Physical abuse victims</td>
<td>-Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Drug programs</td>
<td>-Homeless</td>
<td>-Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach Services</td>
<td>-Social service agencies</td>
<td>-Residents of all ages and genders</td>
<td>-Recreational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Churches</td>
<td>-Outreach target groups</td>
<td>-Cultural outings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Municipalities</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Recreational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Social services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-Community events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Services</td>
<td>-Senior centers</td>
<td>-Seniors</td>
<td>-Delivering meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Assisted living facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>-Medical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Participant Groups

You don’t see your agency represented in the table but you want to participate? Thats ok! Contact us and we will discuss your specific situation. Your agency may be the first one of a New Participant Group that can benefit from Tennessee Vans’ services.
What are program participants saying about Tennessee Vans?

“The cost and quality of Tennessee Vans couldn’t be matched anywhere else” - Wesley House

“Tennessee Vans’ system works well for us. The program is easy and the quality is good” - Sertoma Center

“Tennessee Vans provides an excellent service for community and nonprofit agencies” - Africa in April

“Able to get great value at a low price” - Great Smoky Mountains at Tremont

“Thank you for being there” - Skills Development Center

“Tennessee Vans is there if we need you” - Creative Life

We want to partner with you to achieve our mutual social, environmental, and financial goals. If you connect with any of the information presented here, or you know an agency who can benefit from our services, please contact us at the telephone numbers listed below or complete the accompanying application form and send to:

TENNESSEE VANS
UT Center for Transportation Research
309 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4133
Ph: 1-865-974-5255; 1-800-444-VANS (8267)
Fax: 1-865-974-3889
Web: http://ctr.utk.edu/programs/tnvans.html

Tennessee Vans is a statewide program of the University of Tennessee (UT) and is operated through its Center for Transportation Research.
Tennessee Vans Program Application

Please return completed application by mail or fax to Tennessee Vans, UT Center for Transportation Research, 309 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4133. Phone: (865) 974-5255  Fax: (865) 974-3889.

Date: ________________________________

Agency Name: ________________________________

Agency Address: ____________________________________________

________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

Agency Phone(s): ____________________________________________

Agency Website: ____________________________________________

Agency Email: ____________________________________________

Agency Federal I.D. or Employer I.D.: ________________________________

Director’s Name: ____________________________________________

1. Describe your agency and the population/persons served by your program and estimate approximate numbers served:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. Why does your agency need this vehicle? Explain. ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3. What kinds of trips are planned for the vehicle? Explain. ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

4. Number of years your agency has been in operation: ________________________________

5. Type of vehicle requested (check one):

☐ Passenger Van (1 driver, 14 riders)

☐ Minivan (1 driver, 6 riders)

☐ Sedan (1 driver, 4 riders)

(continued on the back)
6. Please list three program references including telephone numbers. Program references include persons who are familiar with your program and your need for vans.

   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

7. Please list three credit references. Credit references should be able to provide information indicating that your agency meets its financial obligations (i.e. pay accounts on time and account current).

   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

8. Name and phone number of chief financial officer for invoicing and accounting:

   Name: 
   Phone Number: 

9. What source(s) of revenue will you use to pay for the vehicle:

   - Rider Fares
   - Grant Funds
   - Donations
   - Other (please state below):

   __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________

10. Insurance Agent Name and Phone Number:

    Name: 
    Phone Number: 

11. Attach a copy of current Tennessee Sales Tax Exemption Certificate.

12. Attach a statement from your accountant, auditor, or other authorized person which indicates that your agency is in good financial standing and follows acceptable accounting and business practices.

13. Attach the list of corporate board members and officer phone numbers.

14. Attach a signed corporate board resolution approving application for vehicle.