REGIONAL GROWTH CONNECTION
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Regional Growth Connection Helps Low-Income Residents With Transportation-to-Work Options

"Next time you get into your car and head to work, think what it would be like getting to work without personal transportation." Says Michael Krauss, Director of the Regional Growth Connection (RGC). "Public transportation is limited, and economically out of reach for many low-income job seekers. Just getting transportation to work can be a person's biggest barrier to getting a job.

The Regional Growth Connection (RGC) provides two ways to get to work for employees who don't have transportation. First, eligible workers can receive a free bus pass for the first month of employment, giving them time to make longer-term, permanent arrangements; or a shuttle service is available to reach certain job sites not currently served by public transportation.

"We try to remove the cost of commuting from the equation when eligible low-income workers have a job opportunity." says Mr. Krauss. "With our help, they are able get past this obstacle by providing a free bus pass for the first month of employment. Eligible employees can also qualify for subsidized shuttle bus service to job locations, especially along the shoreline from New Haven to Old Saybrook."

"Individuals are often surprised with what RGC has to offer. We need to spread the word that funding is available to help many more eligible individuals." said William Villano, Executive Director, Workforce Alliance, which is a partner in RGC. "Eligibility requires

that participants be people who get Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or people who are TANF-eligible."

RGC can also assist eligible individuals who own a vehicle that they use for work but have financial issues. Through the Auto Emergency Fund, RGC can provide up to $600 for vehicle repair, vehicle registration fees, driver's license fees and insurance premium payments.

The Regional Growth Connection is a jobs-and-rides program serving 39 municipalities in South Central Connecticut, and funded by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The ride programs are in addition to existing benefits offered through agencies such as the Workforce Alliance, CTWorks Career Centers, The Connecticut Department of Labor, the City of New Haven's Welfare Office and the Connecticut Department of Social Services, in partnership with The Regional Growth Partnership and Rideworks. These benefits include job placement, career planning, on the job training, seminars and access to computers for resumes and job searches.

For more information, call Mike Krauss, 624-1493 ext. 245

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