

Transportation Choices for Vulnerable Populations



Who is Meant by “Vulnerable”?

- **“Transportation disadvantaged”**: Those who cannot obtain their own transportation due to a disability, age or income (or their dependents)
- **Other at-risk populations** who may have difficulty accessing transportation to medical care, education, jobs and other activities

Vulnerable Populations by the Numbers

- **Age**

- Numbers of senior citizens are rapidly increasing
- More than 20% of Americans over age 65 don't drive



- **Disability**

- About 37 million Americans have a disability
- Only 39% of disabled Americans are over age 65

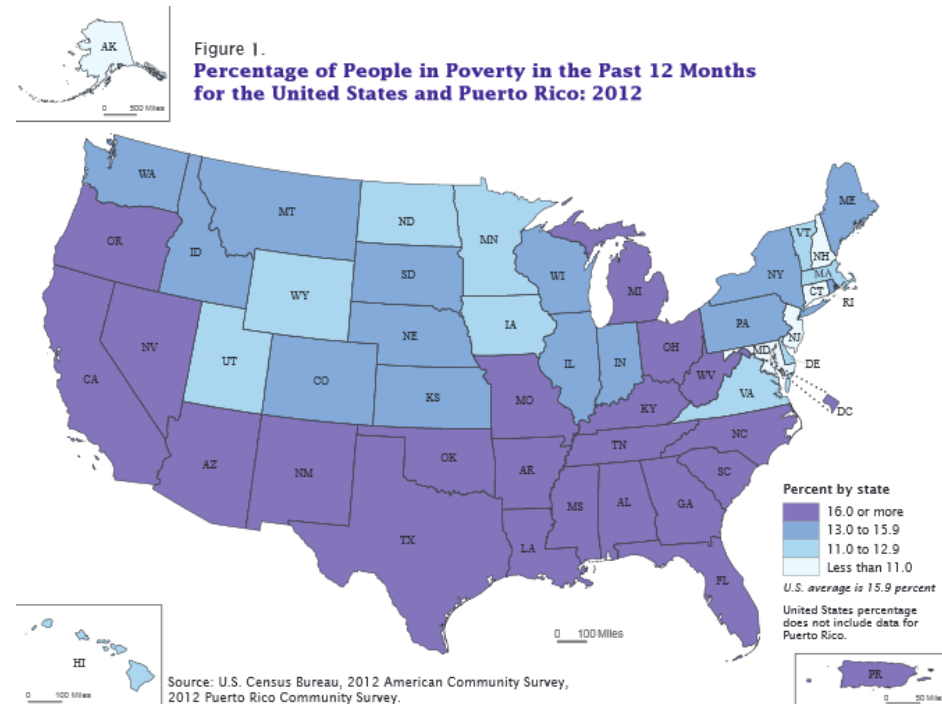
Vulnerable Populations by the Numbers

- **Income**

- 15.9% of Americans (48.8 million) live in poverty
- Suburban poor outnumber central-city poor

- **At-risk populations**

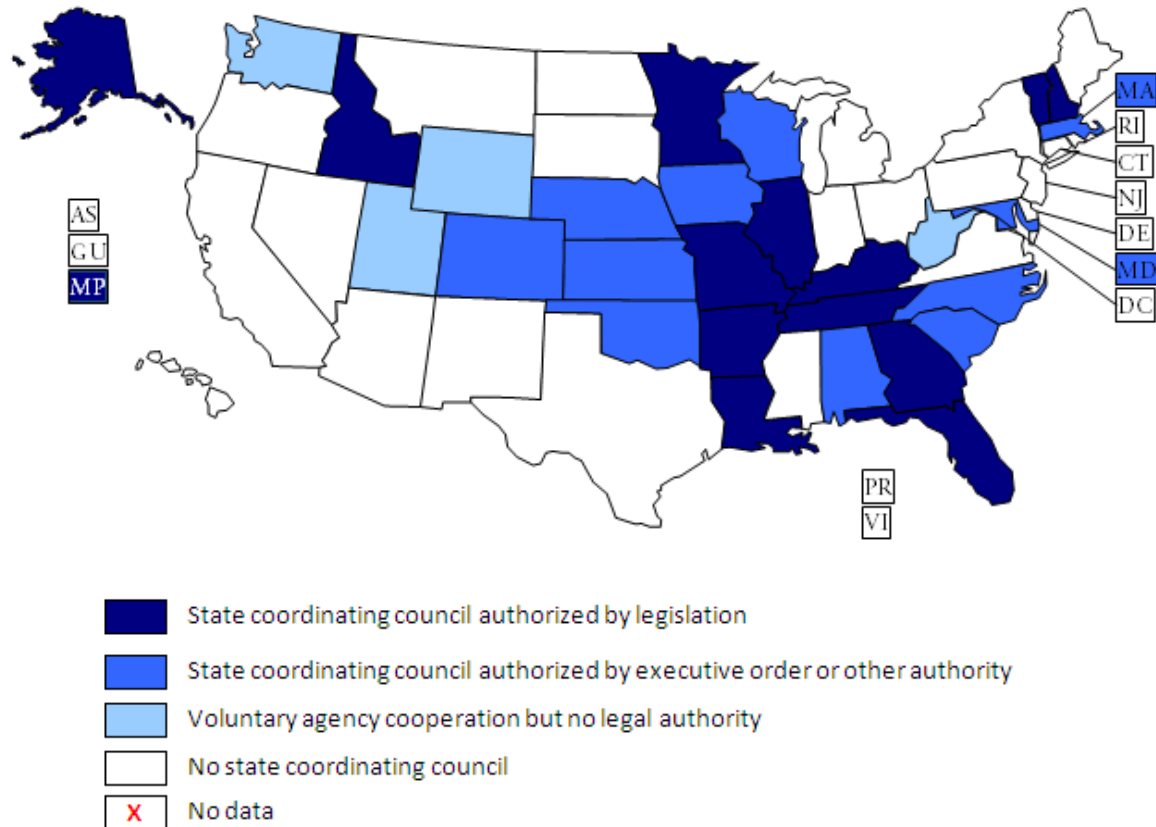
- Veterans
- Rural populations



State Policy Options

Interagency coordination

- Coordinating across agencies and providers to provide more efficient, easy-to-use transportation services that meet customers' needs



State Policy Options

- Population-related exemptions or reductions for fees, taxes, fares and tolls
- Veterans
 - Driver's license fees
 - Registration fees or taxes
 - License plate and disability placard fees
 - Vehicle taxes
 - Transit fares
 - Tolls

State Policy Options

- **Exemptions or reductions for other populations**
 - NY bills (pending) to cap paratransit fares; provide free transit and reduced tolls for senior citizens; and lower eligibility age for reduced transit fares from 65 to 62
 - Va. bills (not enacted) to establish a tax credit for full-time students and low-income persons who pay tolls
- **Current studies**
 - Md. study on fare vouchers for low-income individuals
 - Va. study on tolls and disadvantaged citizens

State Policy Options

- Removal of legal barriers for private solutions...





**Point A to Point B:
Serving Constituents
through Transportation
Access and Performance**

**NCSL Fall Forum
Dec. 4, 2013**

Continue the conversation on Twitter *#NSCLFallForum*

Contact Details and Resources

Jaime Rall and Doug Shinkle

National Conference of State Legislatures

303-364-7700

jaime.rall@ncsl.org / doug.shinkle@ncsl.org

On the Move 2012 Report

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=25044>

Access and Mobility Resources

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=27132>

NCSL is always seeking **public and private funding partners** for collaborative research and outreach initiatives that serve the needs of state legislatures.

We also offer **no-cost technical assistance to state legislative entities** upon invitation.

Please contact us if you're interested.