



# July Ecosystem Enrichment: Resources for a Recovering Economy

# Housekeeping Items

- The session is being recorded, the PowerPoint will be sent out after the session. Info from past Ecosystem Enrichments is available on the WorkOne Indy website!
- Everyone is muted upon entry. You will be able to unmute if you have a question you'd like to ask.
- You will be able to ask questions using the chat function

# Overview of the Session

- Many of our jobseekers faced barriers to employment before COVID-19, but now these are even more obvious.
  - The Indy Rental Assistance program had more than 10,000 applications in only 3 days, highlighting the need
- Today we will talk about some resources available for jobseekers with
  - Potential food insecurities
  - Lack of access to healthcare
  - Transportation issues

# Quick Poll:

What barriers are your jobseekers facing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?

*Comment in the Chat Box*



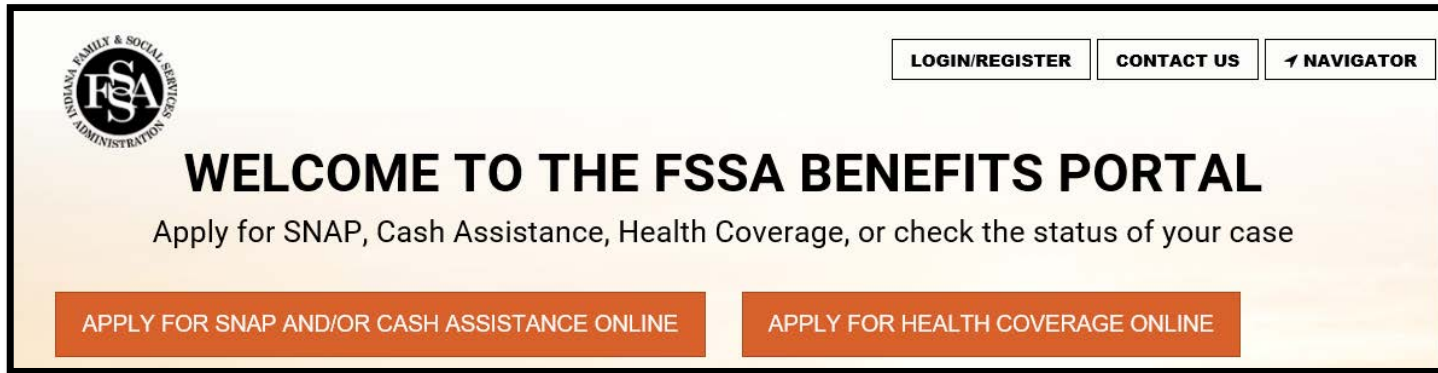
# What is SNAP?



- SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and was formerly called Food Stamps. SNAP benefits can only be used for food products and for plants and seeds used to grow food. A full list of items that can and cannot be purchased with SNAP is available here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits, which are also provided via Hoosier Works EBT card, may not be used for online purchasing. Currently more than 680,000 Hoosiers receive SNAP benefits and nearly 13,000 Hoosiers receive TANF assistance.

# Completing an Application

- Applicants must sign application either electronically or a paper application - *a client must be present at electronic application completion, and sign the application.*



It is recommended that applicants use the online Benefits Portal at <http://fssabenefits.in.gov>

- Paper applications should only be printed upon request as the application contents may change over time.
- Client Rights and Responsibilities are included with both online and paper applications.



# SNAP Eligibility Determination

- Household Size.
- Gross Monthly Income.
- Special SNAP Budgeting for the elderly and disabled.
- Each case is reviewed for all factors individually.
- Prescreening tool available at <http://fssabenefits.in.gov>.



## Am I Eligible to Receive Benefits?

Answer the questions in the screening tool to see if you might be eligible for SNAP (Food Assistance), Cash Assistance, and/or Health Coverage benefits

**Screen for Benefits**

**Division of  
Family Resources**







## Division of Family Resources

# Application Lifecycle

A list of verifications is developed during the interview. This list is mailed to the applicant with a 13 day due date to meet the 30 day processing requirement.

A notice is mailed that contains the eligibility results (approved/denied), the benefit amount if approved, and the certification period.

Application

Stack of application forms including 'APPLICATION FORM', 'PERSONAL INFORMATION', 'EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION', and 'PERSONAL INFORMATION'.

The application date is the date DFR received the application. DFR has 30 days to process the application per federal regulations.

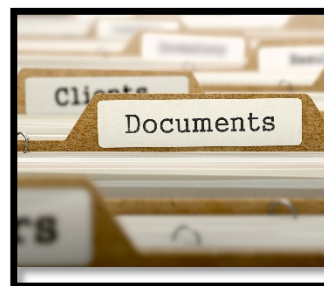


Interview

Interviews are scheduled at least six days out to allow an appointment notice to be received via mail.

Required Verifications

Verifications may include income, resources, shelter expenses, etc.



Verifications Received

**Verification received:** eligibility determined. If the assistance group is eligible, benefits are approved.  
**Verification not received:** application is denied.

Notice Mailed

Appeal rights and instructions are also included in the notice.

Changes/  
Recertification



# On-line shopping

SNAP recipients in Indiana may use their Hoosier Works EBT cards to purchase groceries online for pickup or delivery at two approved retailers – [Amazon](#) and [Walmart](#).

**Delivery fees** that may apply to the online purchase **may not be paid with SNAP benefits.**

*If SNAP recipients have any problems using their card for ordering, they should call the number on the back of their Hoosier Works EBT card for customer service.*

# Contact Information

Tammy Maples

SNAP/TANF Program Manager

[Tammy.Maples@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Tammy.Maples@fssa.in.gov)





Mission: To promote a healthy community through the provision of accessible, respectful, and integrated health care with local partners to any and all individuals and families, regardless of insurance status.



# What is JPCHC?

- JPCHC offers comprehensive healthcare to the community, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.
  - We proudly serve patients with Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, most private insurance, and those who are uninsured.
  - Sliding-fee-scale discount is available to those who qualify.
- Enrollment assistance is a *free* service offered to any person, whether they are a JPCHC patient or not.





# JPCHC Locations

*13 Locations throughout 4 Counties*

## **Marion County**

- 16<sup>th</sup> Street
- 16<sup>th</sup> Street Dental
- Arlington Avenue
- Brook Park
- Castleton
- Post Road
- Shadeland

## **Hancock County**

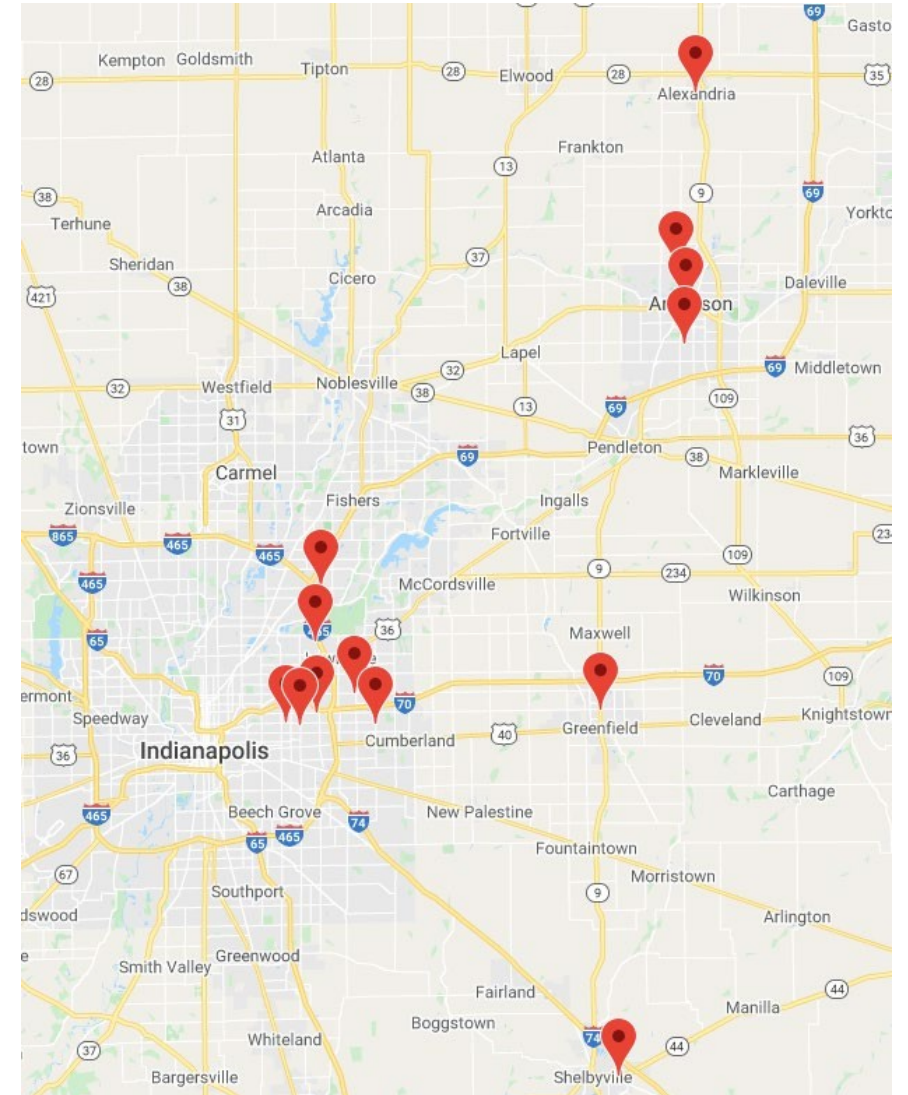
- Greenfield

## **Madison County**

- Alexandria
- Anderson
- D26 Dental
- Wigwam

## **Shelby County**

- Shelbyville



## JPCHC Services



### *Services*

- Family Medicine
- Pediatric Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Behavioral Health
- Dental

### *Free Services*

- Enrollment Assistance
- Prescription Assistance

# Enrollment Assistance

Our Health & Outreach Advocates are Certified Indiana Navigators and SHIP Counselors. They are available at each of our sites to assist patients with health insurance enrollment – *FREE* of charge! Assistance includes applications for the following:

- Hoosier Healthwise (HHW)
- Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP)
- Presumptive Eligibility (PE)
- Indiana Medicare Plans
- Health Insurance Marketplace



Our Health & Outreach Advocates can also assist with:

- Prescription Assistance
- JPCHC Sliding-Fee-Scale Discount







**Questions?**



**THANK YOU!**

**Andrea Albertsen, Marketing & Community Relations:**

**[AndreaA@JanePauleyCHC.org](mailto:AndreaA@JanePauleyCHC.org)**

**To schedule an appointment today, please call: 1-844-MY-JPCHC (1-844-695-7242)**

**LET'S BE SOCIAL!**

*Like and Follow us:*



**Spencer Valentine**  
**317-793-7316**  
**[svalentine@cirta.us](mailto:svalentine@cirta.us)**



Connecting people and places



Connecting people and places in Central Indiana.



Connecting people and places in Central Indiana.

Every day, the average Central Indiana commuter spends:

- **50.6 minutes** driving alone
- **40.8 miles** to and from work.

**It doesn't have  
to be that way!**





Connecting people and places in Central Indiana.

# What is Commuter Connect?

We help people find ways to get to work other than driving alone :

Carpooling

Biking

Vanpooling

Walking

Public Transit

Teleworking



# What is Commuter Connect?

- Our mission is to connect people to opportunities.
- Overall goal is cleaner air and less traffic
- Free to employees and employers
- Part of the *Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA)*





Connecting people and places in Central Indiana.

# Who is Eligible?

Anyone who lives ***AND/OR*** works in one of these counties:

Boone

Hamilton

Hancock

Hendricks

Johnson

Marion

Madison

Morgan

Shelby





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# What's in it for Employers?

- Reduces demand for parking
- Enhances employee recruitment and retention
- Improves employee attendance and punctuality
- Lowers pollution
- Lessens traffic



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# What's in it for Employees?

- Less stress from driving
- Getting to work
- Gives you time to read, rest, relax and more
- Saves money on gas, insurance, vehicle maintenance
- Less pollution



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# We Provide

- Free, online matchmaking for carpools, vanpools and bike buddies
- Free Emergency Ride Home for people who work for participating employers
- Vans (in partnership with Enterprise)





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# Emergency Ride Home

- Free cab rides if employee needs to leave work unexpectedly or stay late
- 5 times every year, up to 50 miles/ride
- Open to employees of participating employers



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# How to be a Participating Employer

- Allow us to be on site or in contact at least once a year to tell your employees about the free benefits available
- Assign a staff person to be our contact





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# Local Best Practices

Designate preferential parking for carpools/vanpools – we'll provide the signs and hangtags



Want to find a carpool?  
317-327-RIDE



[www.CommuterConnect.us](http://www.CommuterConnect.us)

**Carpool  
Parking  
Only**



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# Carpools

- 2 or more people (even if they're relatives) who ride to and from work together
- They share the cost and often the driving







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# Carpools

Register existing carpools for free with Commuter Connect and you'll get benefits such as the Emergency Ride Home.

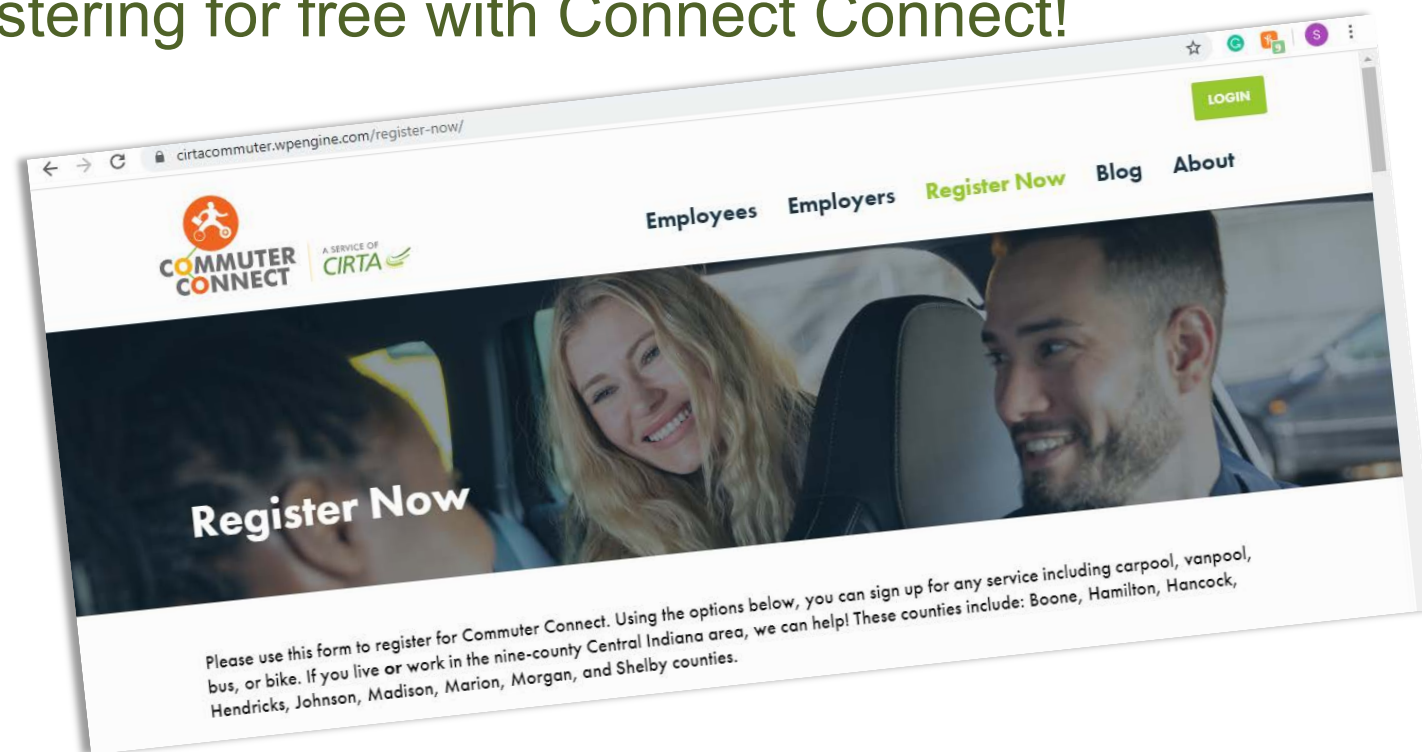




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# Carpools

Find a match to form a new carpool and other options by registering for free with Connect Connect!





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# Vanpool Support

Our Vanpool Coordinator works to put and keep vanpools on the road – Molly can help you:



- Find others to join the vanpool
- Plan a schedule and route
- Secure Park-and-Ride spots
- Assist in setting up payment



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# Vanpools







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# Vanpools

- 5 - 15 people who ride to and from work in a Commuter Connect van
- Everyone's a volunteer, including driver(s)
- Drivers must have valid driver's license for 5 yrs





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# Vanpools

- Everyone shares monthly fare (Commuter Connect subsidizes the cost)
- Meet at a designated Park-and-Ride spot
- No long-term commitment riders need only provide 30 days notice prior to leaving the vanpool





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# Vanpool Support

How do we get started?

1. You provide employees' home zip codes by shift
2. We'll analyze the data and recommend options
3. We'll come onsite and give a Vanpool 101 presentation
4. Sign up employees who are interested and create routes



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# Workforce Connectors

- Service connects IndyGo to worksites in North Plainfield, Plainfield and Whitestown





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# Workforce Connectors

- One pickup a day at 5:15 a.m. in downtown Indy
- Rest of the day, pickups at IndyGo connection points





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# Workforce Connectors

- CIRT A contracts with Miller Transportation and Royal Transportation to run the services
- \$1 each way







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With so many things to share we have a lot of marketing materials to get the point across.

# Marketing

## How to offer an employee benefit absolutely free

**FREE BENEFITS FOR HELPING YOUR EMPLOYEES GET TO WORK**

All of your employees have one thing in common: They have to get to and from work. Many of them consider that process the worst part of the day. Commuter Connect can help you with free benefits that make the daily commute easier and less costly – and make your employees happier and more productive.

**Here's how it works**

Commuter Connect can help you:

1. Assess your employees' commuting needs and concerns.
2. Identify commuter services and benefits that can help.
3. Create a commuter benefits plan, and implement it.
4. Communicate opportunities to your employees.

And there is absolutely no cost to you for our transportation assessment or the benefits that will be made available to your employees, as a result of your collaboration with Commuter Connect.

**LET'S GET STARTED**

**COMMUTER CONNECT**  
A SERVICE OF CIRTA

### BECOME A COMMUTER CONNECT PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER

To access the free assistance, all you need to do is become a Participating Employer. It just takes four easy steps.

1. Identify a point of contact within your organization.
2. Verify employment of qualifying employees on a monthly basis.
3. Distribute Commuter Connect communications to your employees.
4. Help arrange for Commuter Connect to have a presence onsite to talk with employees, when possible.

### PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER BENEFITS

#### Step 1 - Assess

Commuter Connect will visit your workplace and talk with you about your employees' commuting needs, as well as available incentives. We'll look at such factors as:

- Commuting options based on the workplace location and employee work hours
- Access to bus routes
- Availability of on-site or nearby bike facilities and showers
- Existing options for commuting-related tax benefits and company offered transit and/or vanpool subsidies

#### Step 2 - Identify

Next, we'll identify resources that help increase employee satisfaction and productivity through improved commuting options. These could include:

- Incentives for use of transportation options other than driving alone
- Recognition of "green" commuters
- On-site bike lockers and showers, if none yet exist
- Preferential parking for vanpools and carpools
- Transit benefits that can be added to your suite of employee benefits
- Allowing flexible hours for carpools and transit riders

#### Step 3 - Create

Once we agree on the opportunities that are best for your workplace, we'll create a plan for launching your new commuter benefits. This will include the information you need to offer incentives, help your employees tap into vanpool subsidies and more. Then we'll work with you to put that plan to action.

#### Step 4 - Communicate

We will work with your team and within your workplace culture to communicate with your employees. Whether you want on-site benefits fairs, presentations at staff meetings, posters for common areas or customized information for a newsletter, employee handbook or new-hire materials, we'll make sure you have what you need to get the word out. Specifically:

- We'll provide employees with information on how they can improve their commute, save money and reduce stress.
- We'll help them tap into other programs offered by Commuter Connect, such as vanpools, and carpool and bicycling matching services.
- We'll sign up your employees as Registered Commuters, which will qualify them for a free emergency ride home when they regularly commute to work ways other than driving alone.

### READY TO GET STARTED? CALL 317-327-RIDE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

**REMEMBER:** The sooner you start, the sooner you tap into benefits such as:

- Enhanced employee recruitment
- Greater workforce stability
- Improved employee productivity
- Reduced parking costs
- Decreased tax burden for your business and employees.
- Tax-free raises for employees\*
- Improved public image

\* Employees can subsidize employee transportation costs up to the amount allowed by federal regulation (\$130 per month in 2015). This employee benefit is non-taxable income and can be deducted by the employer.

We can help any employees who live or work in one of these counties:

Boone	Hamilton
Hancock	Hendricks
Johnson	Madison
Marion	Morgan
Shelby	

**COMMUTER CONNECT**  
A SERVICE OF CIRTA

317-327-RIDE [www.commuterconnect.us](http://www.commuterconnect.us)

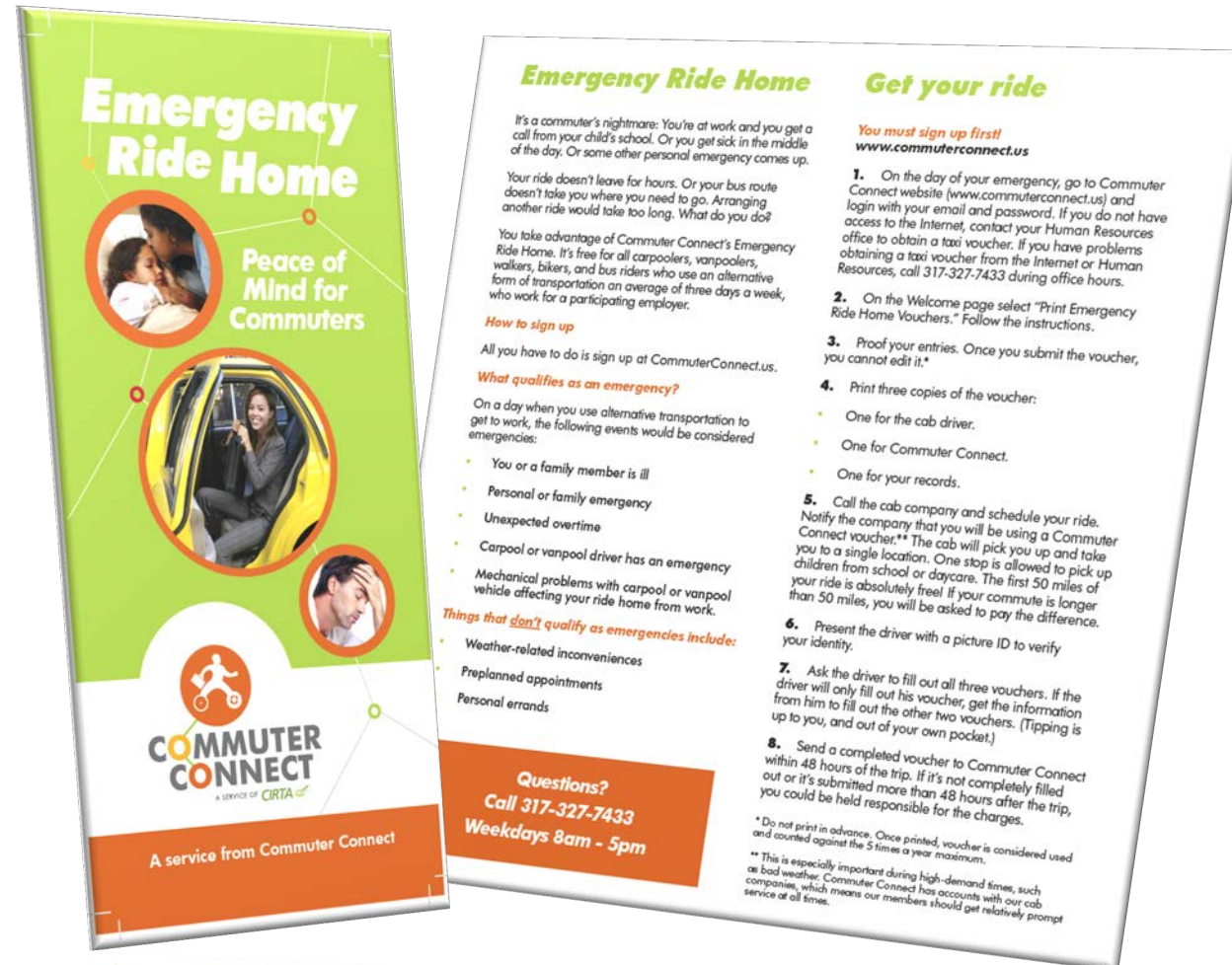




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This Emergency Ride Home pamphlet easily explains the program for employers and employees.

# Marketing





# Vanpools with Enterprise



Imagine if you  
could all ride  
together ...



You can. And  
the best part?  
We supply the wheels.

**Sound good?**  
Then let's talk about  
how it works



All Commuter Connect vanpool vehicles are provided by **Commute with Enterprise**.

### How do I start a vanpool?

With our help. To learn how to join or start a vanpool, call 317-327-RIDE (7433).

### How do I sign up?

To register for the vanpool program, visit [www.commuterconnect.us](http://www.commuterconnect.us) or call 317-327-RIDE (7433).



All Commuter Connect vanpool vehicles are provided by Commute with Enterprise.

**COMMUTE**  
with **enterprise**



**COMMUTER  
CONNECT**  
A SERVICE OF **CIRTA**

320 N. Meridian St., Suite 920  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Office (317) 327-RIDE  
cs@cirta.us  
www.commuterconnect.us

## Vanpools



**Your commute**  
**Our wheels**  
**Your savings**



**COMMUTER  
CONNECT**  
A SERVICE OF **CIRTA**





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## Vanpools with Enterprise



## You gather the riders, we supply the van

**It's true.** Put together or join a vanpool and you can ride to and from work in a Commuter Connect-provided 7-, 12- or 15-passenger van.

**You read that right:** We provide the van. You and your fellow commuters share the cost for gas and a monthly fee. One of you agrees to be the primary driver; the rest of you agree to sit back and enjoy the ride. Your monthly fee covers the cost of insurance, maintenance, repairs and roadside service. We'll even help you find more riders.

**Think about it:** You'll spend less money on gas, parking and automotive wear-and-tear, and more time chatting, texting or snoozing. The result? More cash in your pocket and less stress in your life.

**Vanpool 101:** A vanpool is a group of 5 to 15 people who commute together to and from work in a roomy, comfortable van provided by Commuter Connect, a service of the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA).

### Does Commuter Connect really supply the van?

Yes. Thanks to a federal grant to improve Central Indiana's air quality, we supply groups of commuters with new vans. Vanpool participants share the monthly fee for the van and fuel costs, all of which amount to a fraction of the cost of driving alone to work.

### Who drives?

Each vanpool must have a primary volunteer driver/organizer and at least one backup driver. All drivers are screened to make sure they have a good driving record. Why be the primary driver/organizer?

1. You get the best view of the scenery
2. You're in charge
3. You get to use the van on evenings and weekends

### How does it work?

Working together and with our guidance, vanpool riders determine the pick-up and drop-off locations, the schedule and route.

### What if I get stuck at work, or have to leave early?

All vanpool participants, who ride in a vanpool at least three times a week and work for a Commuter Connect participating employer, are eligible for the Emergency Ride Home Benefit, which means a free taxicab ride in the event of an emergency. (Some restrictions apply.)

### Who can participate?

The Commuter Connect Vanpool Program is available to anyone who commutes within, into or out of Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Morgan or Shelby counties.



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES IN CENTRAL INDIANA



Connecting people and places in Central Indiana.

# Let's Talk!

Spencer Valentine

317-793-7316

[svalentine@cirta.us](mailto:svalentine@cirta.us)

317-327-RIDE (7433)

[www.CommuterConnect.us](http://www.CommuterConnect.us)



# Quick Poll





# Wrap-Up



Next Session is August 27<sup>th</sup>

[Register Here](#)



Indy FLEX Sessions every  
Thursday!

[Check them out here!](#)



Past Ecosystem Enrichment Info?

[Previous Sessions Archived Here](#)