



Region in a minute

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Wheels of Hope offers free rides

LAWRENCE — The Merrimack Valley Project has relaunched its Wheels of Hope program offering free rides to individuals with a secured spot at a treatment facility from the Merrimack Valley to a treatment facility anywhere in Massachusetts; or a medication-assisted treatment provider that confirms the rider is a new client.

People in the Merrimack Valley seeking treatment can call the Massachusetts Helpline at 800-327-5050 to arrange for transportation, in English, Spanish, or other languages. Trained specialists will arrange for Lowell-based Lucos Transportation to provide pick-up within two hours from a public location including police and fire stations, community centers, transportation centers, churches and other public places.

Rides may be secured by an individual, a family member, a service provider, or professional medical staff. The program is being funded by grants from the Massachusetts HEALing Communities Study, the Combating Opioid Overdose through Community-level Intervention Initiative, and through a legislative amendment championed by state Sens. Ed Kennedy and Diana DiZoglio in collaboration with the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. Free promotional materials in English and Spanish are available at HelplineMA.org/WheelsofHope and presentations can be arranged by contacting Elizabeth Reardon at EReardon@HRiA.org.