

Local Transportation Options for People Without Insurance Transportation Coverage

Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties - appointments, interviews, shopping, errands, and basic access

Use this list when the person does NOT have Medicaid transportation, Medicare Advantage transportation, VA ride coverage, or a private insurance ride benefit. These options are private-pay, public transit, senior/disability programs, caregiver transportation, or app-based rides. Always call first to confirm price, service area, advance notice, and whether hands-on assistance is available.

Quick difference between service types

Type	Best for	Important limitation
General ride	People who can get in/out alone and just need a ride.	Driver usually does not assist beyond normal pickup/dropoff.
Assisted / door-through-door	Seniors, disabled adults, people needing escort into appointments.	Costs more; usually reservation-based.
Caregiver transportation	Someone who needs help dressing, walking, errands, shopping, or staying with them.	Usually hourly, often with a minimum number of hours.
Public / paratransit	Lowest-cost option if person can use bus or qualifies for ADA service.	May require application, fixed service area, advance scheduling, or route limits.

All three counties - useful anywhere in the service area

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
Uber / Lyft	General transportation for people who can ride independently. Good for appointments, job interviews, shopping, and short urgent trips.	Variable app price. Can be immediate or scheduled ahead in the app. Surge pricing may apply. No insurance required.	Use smartphone app. Not hands-on care. Ask donor to cover exact fare estimate when possible.
GoGoGrandparent	Phone-based ride coordination using services like Uber/Lyft. Helpful for older adults or anyone without a smartphone.	Membership/concierge fees plus ride cost; fare estimate usually available before booking. 24/7 phone support.	1-855-464-6872. Does not require smartphone. Adult riders only; not a free service.
A Golden Ride	Assisted, non-medical transportation for seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities. Door-through-door, accompaniment, errands, courier/prescription pickup.	Private pay; call for quote. Reservation-based.	843-566-4039. Serves Mount Pleasant, Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester. info@agoldenride.com
Caring For U by Danni	Independent caregiver + transportation. Flyer says serving Summerville and the Lowcountry; specializes in children and seniors.	Flyer lists \$17/hour, \$15 per ride, and child-care flat rates. Call/text to confirm current pricing and availability.	843-963-2634. Good for people needing more help than a basic ride.
Caregiver agencies	Assisted transportation with a caregiver. Best when person needs escort, walking help, shopping help, or someone to stay with them.	Usually private pay by the hour; many agencies have minimum hours. Ask for exact hourly rate and mileage policy.	Examples below by county. Ask: "Do you offer transportation without requiring a full care plan?"

Charleston County

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
CARTA fixed-route bus	General public transportation in Charleston metro, North Charleston, West Ashley, Mount Pleasant, James Island, and nearby areas.	\$2 fixed-route one-way; \$3.50 express; transfers no charge within the time window. No insurance needed.	Customer Service: 843-724-7420. Best for people who can use bus stops independently.

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
CARTA DASH	Free downtown Charleston shuttle routes. Useful for downtown appointments, agencies, hospitals/clinics nearby, and interviews.	Free. Runs on published route schedule.	CARTA: 843-724-7420. Check route first.
CARTA Tel-A-Ride	ADA paratransit for people whose disability prevents them from using regular CARTA bus service. Trips are not limited to medical purposes.	\$4 per one-way trip. Requires ADA eligibility application; applications reviewed within 21 days. Reservations by phone.	Apply/help: 843-745-4101. Ride reservations: 843-747-0007, 8 AM-5 PM daily.
CARTA OnDemand	Discounted Uber-based same-day service for seniors 55+ and Tel-A-Ride customers inside the service area.	Pay \$4 and any amount over \$30 per UberX trip. Same-day only; Monday-Friday 7 AM-5 PM. Advanced rides not available.	Register through CARTA OnDemand. Not wheelchair accessible. Trips must start and end inside service area.
Right at Home Charleston	Caregiver transportation for seniors: appointments, grocery store, pharmacy, errands; caregiver can assist.	Private pay; call for hourly rate/minimums.	843-580-5120. Serves Charleston area including Summerville per website.
Care Companions Home Care	Caregiver transportation and errand support for Charleston-area seniors; can accompany to appointments and shopping.	Private pay; call for assessment and rate.	843-461-7104 / 843-469-3931. Good for assisted transportation, not just a ride.
Home Care Plus	Senior home care agency serving Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Summerville, James Island, Goose Creek, North Charleston and more.	Private pay; call for transportation as part of care services.	843-628-3642. Address: 2040 Ewall St, Mount Pleasant.
ComForCare Charleston	Companion care/home care; may assist with errands and transportation as part of care.	Private pay; call for hourly rate and minimums.	843-225-2067.
Custom Care Carriage	Private senior transportation, handicap transportation, and non-emergency transportation in Charleston area.	Private pay; call for quote.	843-608-0788. Confirm wheelchair/assist level before booking.
Let's Go Transportation Service	Private-pay non-emergent transportation in Charleston area.	Private pay; call for quote.	843-327-2011 or 803-354-1217.
Ride It Out	Private-pay transportation, Mount Pleasant area only.	Private pay; call for quote.	843-849-7433.

Berkeley County

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
TriCounty Link fixed / rural transit	Public transportation serving rural Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. Useful for jobs, medical facilities, shopping, and schools.	\$2.25 single ride with transfer; \$22.50 10 rides; \$18 weekly; \$70 monthly. Exact routes/schedules vary.	843-899-4096 or 800-966-6631. Office: 305 Heatley St, Moncks Corner.
TriCounty Link ADA deviated route	For ADA-eligible riders who cannot use the regular flag-stop bus system. Route deviation must be within 3/4 mile of an existing regular fixed route.	\$4 one-way. Must be pre-approved. Schedule at least 24 hours before ride and up to 2 weeks ahead.	Customer service: 843-899-4096. ADA Trip Coordinator: 843-529-0400.
A Golden Ride	Assisted non-medical rides for seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities in Berkeley County and surrounding area.	Private pay; reservation-based; call for quote.	843-566-4039. Door-through-door/accompaniment style service.
Caring For U by Danni	Independent caregiver + transportation, serving Summerville and Lowcountry; may be useful for Goose Creek, Ladson, or nearby Berkeley addresses if available.	Flyer lists \$17/hour and \$15 per ride; confirm before sending client.	843-963-2634.

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
Uber / Lyft	General ride for interviews, appointments, shopping, and errands when the rider can travel independently.	Variable app fare; immediate or scheduled. No insurance needed.	Use app. Not hands-on assistance.
GoGoGrandparent	Phone-based ride ordering for people without smartphones; uses ride-share style services.	Membership/concierge fees plus ride cost; 24/7 support.	1-855-464-6872.
BNHealthLLC / Non-Emergency	Private-pay non-emergency transportation listed for Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston.	Private pay; call for quote.	843-814-7969 or 843-868-6118.

Dorchester County

Service	Type / who it fits	Cost / advance notice	Phone / notes
TriCounty Link fixed / rural transit	Public transportation serving rural Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston counties. Useful for jobs, appointments, shopping, and schools.	\$2.25 single ride with transfer; \$22.50 10 rides; \$18 weekly; \$70 monthly.	843-899-4096 or 800-966-6631. Check routes/schedules first.
TriCounty Link ADA deviated route	ADA option for riders whose disability prevents regular bus use; within 3/4 mile of existing fixed route.	\$4 one-way. Apply first; schedule at least 24 hours before ride and up to 2 weeks ahead.	Customer service: 843-899-4096. ADA Trip Coordinator: 843-529-0400.
Dorchester Seniors, Inc.	Senior services in Dorchester County; transportation may be tied to senior programs/services.	Low-cost/no-cost services may be available depending on eligibility and program enrollment. Call for transportation details.	Ask if transportation is available for appointments, groceries, senior center, or meal-program clients.
Comfort Keepers Summerville	Caregiver transportation for seniors in Summerville/Dorchester area; can support errands and appointments as part of care.	Private pay; call for hourly rate/minimums.	843-594-0297. Office: 1710 Old Trolley Rd, Suite D, Summerville.
Right at Home Charleston / Summerville	Caregiver transportation and senior care support in Summerville and surrounding area.	Private pay; call for hourly rate/minimums.	843-580-5120.
Caring For U by Danni	Independent caregiver + transportation. Flyer says serving Summerville and Lowcountry; specializes in children and seniors.	Flyer lists \$17/hour and \$15 per ride; confirm current pricing.	843-963-2634.
A Golden Ride	Assisted non-medical rides for seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities in Dorchester and surrounding counties.	Private pay; reservation-based; call for quote.	843-566-4039.
Uber / Lyft	General ride for interviews, appointments, shopping, and errands when the rider can travel independently.	Variable app fare; immediate or scheduled. No insurance needed.	Use app. Ask donor to cover exact quote when possible.
GoGoGrandparent	Phone-based ride ordering for people without smartphones; available nationally.	Membership/concierge fees plus ride cost; 24/7 support.	1-855-464-6872.
BNHealthLLC / Non-Emergency	Private-pay non-emergency transportation listed for Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston.	Private pay; call for quote.	843-814-7969 or 843-868-6118.

Call script for Red Bird / requester

Hi, I am looking for transportation help for someone who does **not** have insurance-covered medical transportation. They need a ride to an appointment, job interview, shopping, or essential errand. Do you offer private-pay, low-cost, senior, disability, caregiver, or public transportation? What is the total cost, how far in advance should we schedule, and can the driver assist from the door into the appointment if needed?

Fast sorting guide

If the person...	Try first
Can ride independently and has a phone/app	Uber, Lyft, CARTA, TriCounty Link
Can ride independently but has no smartphone	GoGoGrandparent, CARTA/TriCounty Link phone scheduling
Is a senior 55+ in CARTA OnDemand area	CARTA OnDemand - \$4 + overage above \$30, same day only
Has disability and cannot use regular bus	CARTA Tel-A-Ride or TriCounty Link ADA deviated route
Needs escort, walking help, or someone to stay	A Golden Ride, Caring For U by Danni, caregiver agencies
Needs wheelchair-accessible transport	Ask Custom Care Carriage / private NEMT providers; confirm wheelchair details

Source notes / verify before sharing

- A Golden Ride: agoldenride.com - non-medical transportation for seniors, veterans, adults with disabilities; 843-566-4039.
- CARTA: ridecarta.com - fixed-route fares, DASH, Tel-A-Ride, OnDemand details; 843-724-7420 / Tel-A-Ride 843-747-0007.
- TriCounty Link: ridetricountylink.com - rural transit, fares, ADA deviated route, 843-899-4096.
- AccessAbility transportation resource list: abilitysc.org/transportation - local private-pay NEMT/provider phone numbers.
- GoGoGrandparent: gogograndparent.com - no smartphone required; 1-855-464-6872; membership/concierge fees plus ride cost.
- Caregiver agencies: Right at Home Charleston, Comfort Keepers Summerville, Care Companions, Home Care Plus, ComForCare - call for current rates/minimums.
- Caring For U by Danni: rate and phone information taken from local flyer provided by requester; confirm before referral.

Updated May 2026. Transportation availability, rates, service area, and eligibility can change quickly. This handout is for screening and referral, not a guarantee of service.