



*Come Ride With Us!*

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**\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\***

**SARTA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**A Program with DJFS Will Increase Access to Transportation and Services**

Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) is partnering with the Stark County Department of Job and Family Services to increase access to transportation for our community.

Currently, The Department of Jobs and Family Services (DJFS) purchases about \$100,000 worth of SARTA tickets and passes per year to help people find and keep employment by having reliable transportation and to help them access county services. DJFS has also found an increased demand for short term transportation until other arrangements can be made.

SARTA is developing a short term pilot program in conjunction with DJFS that will increase public access to needed transportation while helping to increase SARTA ridership and fare revenues. The partnership will launch with a pilot program to sell fare tools to DJFS at a reduced rate of 50%, in the total amount of \$20,000. Also, DJFS will be entitled to a reduced rate on future purchases after reaching an annual sum of \$100,000. This will provide more access to help individuals reach jobs, education, and medical services.

Kirt Conrad, SARTA CEO said, “This is the first of many partnerships that SARTA would like to participate in with businesses and agencies in the community. We are hoping to extend this opportunity to other agencies and organizations in Stark County.”

See the SARTA website ([www.SARTAonline.com](http://www.SARTAonline.com)) for possible updates or other details on this story.

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