

RUCA vs. Per Diem:

Effective 07/01/2016:

Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) Adjustments Add-ons

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2016, transport of clients meeting residence zip code classifications of urban, rural, and super-rural will, in some situations allow additional reimbursement or add-on to the provider.

Transport Base RUCA Adjustments

The base rate, when paid for nonemergency medical transportation services in areas defined under RUCA to be super-rural, is equal to 111.3 percent of the respective base rate if applicable for modes 1 thru 7.

Transport Mileage RUCA Adjustments

The mileage rate for nonemergency medical transportation services in areas defined under RUCA to be rural or super-rural areas is as follows:

- • For a trip 17 miles or less, the mileage rate is equal to 125 percent of the respective mileage rates for modes 1 through 7
- • For a trip between 18 and 50 miles, the mileage rate is equal to 112.5 percent of the respective mileage rate for modes 1 through 7.

For reimbursement for nonemergency medical transportation RUCA adjustments for modes 1 through 7, the zip code of the recipient's place of residence determines whether the urban, rural, or super-rural reimbursement rate adjustment applies.

From January 1, 2015 thru July 31, 2016 - Aitkin County Volunteer Drivers drove 1843 miles that qualified for the RUCA adjustment. Per current policy, volunteer drivers are paid an additional stipend based on the price of gas. This stipend is paid for any trips over 15 miles (under 15 is paid a flat dollar fee). The stipend is not reimbursable by Medical Assistance and is paid out of levy dollars. The RUCA adjustment is an approved Medical Assistance amount and would be reimbursed in full.

Comparing the qualifying miles driven between January 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016 - volunteer drivers were reimbursed \$1,094.05 (mileage plus per diem). With the RUCA adjustment they would have been paid \$1,124.55 (which does not include the per diem). A difference of \$30.50.

RUCA is available up to 50 miles, after 50 miles the reimbursement would be the straight IRS rate.

Question: Does the County want to continue to pay Volunteer Drivers the additional stipend or just use the RUCA adjustment?

Thank you.