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## Transportation

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### Grant meant to smooth the road from welfare

- \$941,330 awarded to Contra Costa and Solano counties will be used to expand bus services

TIMES STAFF

Contra Costa and Solano counties will receive \$941,330 to help low-income residents get to work and to child care facilities.

The money is part of a three-year, \$5 million federal grant administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Each project must be matched with local dollars.

The money for the Low-Income Flexible Transportation Program is designed to help participants in California's welfare-to-work program, CalWORKS.

County Connection will receive \$330,000 to add Sunday service and extend hours of service on Route 114, which runs along Monument and Detroit avenues in Concord.

The amount of time between buses will be decreased to 20 minutes midday on weekdays; night service will be extended to 11:30 p.m. on weeknights, and the new Sunday route will serve this corridor as well as Clayton Road, Diablo Valley College and the Concord BART station.

Golden Gate Transit will receive \$536,000 to increase hours and frequency of service from Richmond to jobs in San Rafael.

Richmond has the county's largest concentration of CalWORKS participants, and Marin County has a shortage of entry-level employees.

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Solano County will receive \$75,000 to pay for a guaranteed ride home program for CalWORKS participants.

The program, which is offered in many other Bay Area communities, gives residents who use public transit a ride home from work if a child gets sick or there are other types of family emergencies.

Other programs to receive money include van services in Sonoma and Santa Clara counties to transport children from school to after-school programs and extended late-night services to low-income residential areas, including former military bases Alameda Point and Treasure Island.

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