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**** EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 ****

United Way and Frederick County Health Dept. to Launch Free Vaccine Rideshare Program

Ride United Vaccine Access Campaign will promote equitable access to COVID-19 Vaccines

Frederick, Md. (May 14, 2021) – On May 17, United Way of Frederick County will announce the launch of the Ride United Vaccine Access Campaign, providing access to free and discounted Lyft rides in Frederick County. Transportation has proven to be a key barrier for many individuals, especially low-income households, seeking COVID-19 vaccination.

The Frederick County Health Department’s COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center will act as the hotline partner for the vaccine rideshare program. Call takers will be able to provide free rides through the Lyft app, or provide personalized concierge service for those who don’t have access to a cell phone or a Lyft account. Those seeking vaccination can call 301-600-7900 for English or 301-600-7905 for Spanish to schedule a vaccine appointment and secure a free roundtrip ride to/from the vaccination appointment.

“We are excited about eliminating transportation as a barrier to vaccine access in Frederick County,” said Ken Oldham, President and CEO of United Way of Frederick County. “This program will create more equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine in our community. We are confident that the program will provide ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households with the access they need to get vaccinated.”

ALICE individuals and families who are unable to afford a basic cost of living in Frederick County. The ALICE Report shows that 37% of Frederick County households are ALICE. ALICE households are among the least likely to be vaccinated. Cost of access to transportation is major barrier for ALICE households seeking healthcare services.

Those who need a ride to get vaccinated can visit www.uwfrederick.org/rideunited for more information or can call 301-600-7900 for English or 301-600-7905 for Spanish. The first \$25 of each one-way ride is completely free to the rider.

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About United Way of Frederick County

Since 1938, United Way of Frederick County has been fighting for health, education and financial stability for every person in the Frederick County community. United Way produces the ALICE (Asset- Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) Report which shows that approximately nearly 40% of households can no longer afford to live in Frederick County. Our investments and programs are aligned to support and increase the financial stability of these households.

United Way of Frederick County partners include global, national and local businesses, nonprofits, government, civic and faith-based organizations, along with educators, health providers, senior citizens, students, and others. The organization provides grants to local nonprofits, offers programs such as free tax preparation and matched savings, mobilizes volunteers, and engages in public policy advocacy. To learn more about United Way and how you can get involved, please visit UnitedWayFrederick.org.

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YouTube: youtube.com/UnitedWayofFrederick

About Frederick County Health Department

The mission of the Frederick County Health Department is to improve the health and well-being of the residents of Frederick County through programs to prevent disease and illness, promote wellness and safety and protect public health. It performs all mandated functions as outlined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and also implements numerous Federal and State grant programs to address identified health needs in the community. Community partnerships are an essential component of the Health Department's success. The Health Department is proud to be an accredited organization, a status they achieved in 2014 and have successfully maintained.

About Lyft

Lyft was founded in 2012 and is one of the largest transportation networks in the United States and Canada. As the world shifts away from car ownership to transportation-as-a-service, Lyft is at the forefront of this massive societal change. Our transportation network brings together rideshare, bikes, scooters, car rentals and transit all in one app. We are singularly driven by our mission: to improve people's lives with the world's best transportation.