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For immediate release

### **Transportation Remuneration Incentive Program ends in June 2006**

In an effort to reduce state spending, the Department of Health and Human Resources is discontinuing the Transportation Remuneration Incentive Program on July 1. The TRIP Program was implemented in June 1974. During recent times it has solely been operated by DHHR. Its sole source of funding has been through state monies and a partial contribution from the users. No federal funding has ever been available to support this program.

DHHR conducted a review and found that the program cost approximately \$180,000 annually for the TRIP subsidies. DHHR further found that TRIP usage is limited statewide. Approximately 14,000 state residents annually participated in the program, but they were limited to only about 25 percent of the states' counties. Since many counties lacked public transportation, those residents could not participate in the TRIP program.

Customers receiving TRIP tickets for June 2006, and those received in prior months, can be used through Dec. 31. Any unused booklets may be redeemed at local DHHR offices for the full cost of three dollars \$3 per booklet through the close of business on Dec. 31. Questions concerning the use of any unused TRIP tickets should be directed to Cona Chatman at (304) 558-8290 or to your local DHHR office.