Promoting the availability and accessibility of transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and communities.

NADTC 2020-2021 Innovation Grants

In the Community and Across the Nation

Over the 7 months between November 2020 and May 2021, these programs

- Provided 7,730 total rides.
- Served 677 total riders who were older adults, people with disabilities, those with low incomes, Native Americans, and other diverse communities.

What these numbers don’t tell you is the impact these programs have on those getting rides and their communities.

Grantees included:

- Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens—Cedar Bluff, VA
- Capacity Builders—Farmington, NM
- The City of Talladega—AL
- Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc.—Concord, NH
- Horizon Health, Inc.—Pierz, MN
- Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board—Laurens, SC
- Mountain Rides Transportation Authority—Ketchum, ID
- Molly’s Angels—Napa, CA
- San Juan County Islands Shuttle—Friday Harbor, WA
- Thrive Allen County—Iola, KS

In October 2020, the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) announced the award of up to $30,000 each to 10 grantees to implement innovative projects that will remove barriers to transportation and expand mobility options for older adults and people with disabilities.
Testimonial from Bernadette C. LSW at CHI clinic and hospital about a referral she gave us:

“This patient was unable to find rides to appointments and his health was suffering. Having a ride service for him has enabled him to get the healthcare that he needs. His health has improved along with his quality of life.” —Horizon Health

Help for those without options

- 20% of Allen County residents currently do not have reliable transportation options—Thrive Allen County
- 61% of riders faced mobility challenges—Mountain Rides Transportation Authority (MRTA)
- Without the MRTA new bus service...
  - 10% of riders would not have gotten to their destination
  - 12% of riders would have paid for a transportation service
  - 39% of riders would have had to rely on a friend or family member—Mountain Rides Transportation Authority (MRTA)

Testimonial from Scott K. rider:

“Horizon Health has been very helpful and there for me when I need them. I was very sick and unable to make it to my appointments. I could hardly walk last fall and they helped me to get to all my appointments and get back on track. I am walking and doing so much better now, and I am so thankful for this program.” —Horizon Health
Improving Health

100% of riders stated rides they received have improved their health.
—Horizon Health

“Getting to routine appointments has helped to improve my health and gives me peace of mind that I can now rely on this service to get me there.”—Horizon Health

Saving Life and Limb

“I really don’t know what we would have done without Molly’s Angels. Norman had to go for a life-saving procedures every week to St. Helena Hospital and there is no transportation help for him. You were our last resort, and I can’t thank you enough.”—Molly’s Angels

“Had my 95 year old mother not gone to the doctor this day for her infected leg, doctors say she may have had to have it amputated. This ride saved my mom.”—Molly’s Angels

Benefits to Healthcare

Several of AASC’s Bridge program clients have used the transportation service and it is helping them not have readmits to the hospital when they don’t have transportation. Instead of calling an ambulance to the ER when they don’t have transportation, they are now utilizing the service to get to their appointments. —Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens

40% of canceled outpatient surgeries at the hospital are due to transportation issues.—Thrive Allen County

Local medical providers saw a 15% drop in missed appointments. —Thrive Allen County
Changing Lives

A client who went to Roanoke, VA for surgery said he would not have been able to go without the medical transportation. The client and driver used to work together and had a nice reunion during the 3-hour trip. The client specifically requested the same driver if he needs this service again.—Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens

“To me it’s been a godsend,” said Iolan Loren M., in reference to the local initiative. The 83-year-old said his daughter had been giving him rides to his dialysis treatments in Chanute, KS but her busy schedule often makes that impossible. “I was driving myself,” Loren said, “but after I get done with treatment, a lot of the time, I’m weak and I’ll fall or something.” “I fell down there [in Chanute] several times, one time, behind my car.” Such incidents, however, are now a thing of the past, and Loren can get back to Iola, KS from Chanute, KS worry-free following treatment.—Thrive Allen County

Despite challenges from COVID-19 and stay at home orders, wildfires and power outages, these grantees used the NADTC grant funds to add and improve their services for those they serve now and in the future.