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NADTC Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grants Will Expand Mobility Opportunities in Six Communities

Washington, DC—Today, the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) announced the award of \$300,000 in competitive grants to six communities in five states – Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio and Virginia – to develop and test practical and sustainable innovations for increasing accessible transportation. One hundred and thirty organizations representing thirty-seven states and two Tribal nations competed for these FTA cooperative agreement funds, which are managed by the NADTC. Grantees will receive up to \$50,000 each to expand mobility opportunities that enable older adults and people with disabilities to better connect to employment, health care and other needed community services.

“The mobility innovations to be developed by these community grants will greatly benefit older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers,” said Sandy Markwood, CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). “Local transportation provides the critical link to health care, employment and other community services, decreases social isolation and enhances connections to family, friends and the community at large.”

“Easterseals’ mission has long focused on supporting individuals with disabilities of all ages in their efforts to reach their personal goals—whether that means getting to work, staying healthy, or being able to share more time with family and friends,” said Katy Neas, Easterseals Executive Vice President of Public Affairs. “We’re excited that the NADTC Accessible Mobility Innovations grants will provide more transportation opportunities for people to make connections, partake in community events, and engage in life-enhancing activities.”

The grantees are:

- **Area Agency on Aging 1-B** in Southfield, MI will develop and implement travel training (not currently available in the area) to accompany its current mobility management and one-call services (*myride2*).

- **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission** in Pittsfield, MA will offer medical transportation to more remote areas and create a central scheduling hub and an app for drivers.
- **City of Hernando** in Hernando, MS will create a model for combining transportation services and nutrition services through expansion of transportation on Saturdays and to currently unserved destinations.
- **Mountain Empire Older Citizens** in Big Stone Gap, VA will create a one call system and recruit and train passenger attendants to educate and assist riders.
- **Peace Village/Cancer Justice Institute** in Cincinnati, OH will create a mobility navigator/cancer care navigator “hub” to schedule and coordinate rides for cancer treatment and screening.
- **Senior Transportation Connection** in Cleveland, OH will offer evening and weekend, consumer-directed, accessible transportation to senior and disabled residents.

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center is funded through a cooperative agreement of Easter Seals, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. NADTC’s mission is to increase accessible transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers nationwide.

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America’s national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation’s capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Visit www.n4a.org for more information.

For nearly 100 years Easterseals has been the indispensable resource for people and families challenged by disabilities. We offer hands-on, vital programs through our network of affiliates to help people of all ages reach their full potential through development and life skills learning, workforce training and placement services, and fun, healthy recreation programs for children, adults, and caregivers. To learn more about Easterseals and services in communities nationwide, visit www.easterseals.com.

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