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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 27, 2019

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**NADTC Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grants
Support Transportation Projects in Five Communities**

Washington, DC—The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) has announced the award of \$400,000 in competitive grants to communities in five states—Colorado, Maine, New Mexico, New York and Oklahoma—to implement innovative projects that will remove barriers to transportation and expand mobility options for older adults and people with disabilities.

The five **Innovations in Mobility** grantees were selected from among the ten transportation planning grants funded by NADTC in 2018. Each grantee will receive up to \$70,000 to build upon their earlier work, partner with older adults, people with disabilities and community stakeholders and develop sustainable and replicable innovations that result in increased availability of accessible transportation in their communities. NADTC grants are administered through a cooperative agreement with the Federal Transit Administration.

“These grants will help keep older adults and people with disabilities connected to their communities,” said Sandy Markwood, CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. “Access to transportation is more than a ride—whether it is getting to a medical appointment, to religious services, to the grocery store or to social gatherings. Transportation is vital, particularly in rural communities. These grantees not only provide access to transportation, but they provide social connection, which we all know is a key and critical component of healthy aging.”

“Easterseals is excited to partner with these five communities to implement programs that are making a difference in the lives of older adults and people with disabilities,” said Angela Williams, Easterseals President and CEO. “Responses to a 2018 NADTC [national poll](#) on transportation needs indicate that trip costs and a lack of mobility options are two of the biggest barriers for those who do not drive, and we want to take steps to remove those

barriers. These grantee projects start that process by providing low-cost access to food shopping and community services and by expanding current transportation service for individuals living in rural and tribal regions.”

The grantees are:

- **Capacity Builders, Inc.**, in Farmington, NM, will provide curb-to-curb rides for individuals with disabilities and for older adults in remote areas of the Navajo reservation in San Juan County as well as other areas outside the City of Farmington. The project will recruit Navajo elders as drivers and hire individuals who speak the Navajo language. Visit www.capacitybuilders.info for more information.
- **Greater Portland Council of Governments** in Portland, ME, will test the concept of a city-wide weekly shopper shuttle service for older adults, people with disabilities and individuals who have low incomes, including residents of housing facilities and those living in single-family and small multi-unit housing. The Shopper Links project responds to the identified unmet need for free or low-cost, door-to-door transportation to grocery shopping. Visit www.gpcog.org for more information.
- **INCOG Area Agency on Aging**, in Tulsa, OK, will develop a paratransit travel training program to familiarize and better connect older adults and people with disabilities living in food deserts to grocery stores through the use of existing transportation services. The project will also use ridesharing services to implement a program to fill existing transportation gaps to healthy food options. Visit www.incog.org for more information.
- **North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization**, in Fort Collins, CO, will implement a centralized One-Call/One-Click center in which existing transportation providers in Larimer County will coordinate services to deliver an increased number of rides for older adults and adults with disabilities in rural areas of the county. Visit www.nfrmpo.org for more information.
- **Shared Mobility, Inc.**, in Buffalo, NY, will develop and deploy a shared-ride coordinated volunteer transportation program for older adults, people with disabilities and low-income individuals in Erie County, New York. Visit www.sharedmobility.org for more information.



The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center is funded through a cooperative agreement of Easterseals, 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 501(c)(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 more than 250 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 100 years, Easterseals has served as an indispensable resource for individuals with disabilities, veterans, seniors and their families. Together, our affiliates in communities nationwide serve 1.5M people through high-quality programs including autism services, early intervention, workforce development, adult day care and more. In schools, workplaces and communities, we're fostering environments where everyone is included and valued — with a real and positive impact on us all. Join us in ensuring that everyone — regardless of age or ability — is 100% included and 100% empowered. Visit www.easterseals.com.

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