

# Bosma Center for Visionary Solutions



Image Provided by IndyStar

## BEST PRACTICES

- IndyGo provides an opportunity for local nonprofits to purchase accessible vehicles with 5310 funds.
- Partnerships allow Bosma to extend their services into the community.
- Bosma clients going through travel training can receive an IndyGo bus pass to travel to more locations throughout the community.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Established in 2009, Bosma Center for Visionary Solutions is the largest provider of rehabilitation services for people who are blind or visually impaired. Located in Indianapolis, Indiana, Bosma served 897 clients in 2023, also receiving 1,400 calls annually to their resource line for assistance. Bosma offers community-based services for older adults and working-age individuals who cannot navigate from their home to work, and provides intensive job skills training, job placement and career coaching to assist clients when entering the workforce.

At the [Bosma Rehabilitation Center](#) they offer hands-on, customized training for everyday skills, including cooking and cleaning, and on assistive technologies

like computers, cellphones or screen readers. Center staff will work with the client and caregiver to enhance their skill set through one- or multi-day training sessions depending on the needs of the client. Bosma serves a large region and has clients traveling from around the state to receive training, and by including transportation as part of their available services, family caregivers can get some much-needed respite. Through a partnership with the designated Section 5310 recipient, IndyGo, Bosma has applied for and received accessible vehicles to provide transportation to their clients participating in training programs at their rehabilitation center and throughout the community, contributing to the long-term success of their clients.

## FUNDING

Bosma is a subrecipient of FTA Section 5310 funding through IndyGo, the transportation provider for the Indianapolis urbanized area. Section 5310 funding has allowed Bosma to purchase accessible vehicles that transport roughly

125 clients annually throughout the community, as well as from nearby hotels for clients traveling from out of town to participate in training at their rehabilitation center. By awarding funding to local non-profits, IndyGo can augment

their daily operations to provide additional options to clients of nonprofits like Bosma to transport their clients. Bosma saw the need to develop new partnerships in the community and will be seeking additional 5310 funding for a mobility management position in 2025. This new position will be vital to working with the travel trainers currently at the rehabilitation center to understand the needs of their clients, but also generating awareness of their programs and accessible transportation throughout Indianapolis.

## COORDINATION/PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with entities like IndyGo have enhanced the services offered by Bosma, by integrating travel training into their current services, clients have the flexibility of using both Bosma and IndyGo transportation. Bosma has incorporated travel training using their own vehicles and IndyGo's to broaden their client's ability to travel outside of Bosma's business hours, those receiving travel training, IndyGo offers free passes to be used on their bus and rail lines. Having multiple transportation options within the community allows clients to travel independently, not only to work activities, but to medical, social and essential services throughout the community.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

Bosma offers orientation and mobility (O&M) as part of their regular services, which helps clients with visual impairments navigate around their home, community or workplace. Travel Training vehicles are primarily used for work related activities, so having access to IndyGo allows clients to expand their opportunities throughout the entire community.

## Acquiring accessible vehicles with FTA Section 5310 funding allows:

- Increased participation in the services offered by Bosma,
- Flexibility to utilize Bosma's own vehicles and schedule to transport clients to work activities within Indianapolis,
- Expanded transportation options for Bosma's clients through partnerships with IndyGo,
- Opportunity for clients to live independently without relying on friends or family.



Center for Visionary Solutions

Bosma's CEO continues to grow the partnership by joining the IndyGo Board of Directors, representing people with disabilities. Bosma staff also support IndyGo by reviewing and evaluating accessible features at their facility, along routes and in mobile app features, especially when adding new services. By experiencing transportation services from the viewpoint of a person with the disability, IndyGo can gain valuable insights on ways to design future programs to be accessible to all users.

is integrated into the O&M services at Bosma, and offers the skills and education needed to travel independently without relying on friends or family to transport them where they want to go. Bosma

Reliable transportation increases the likelihood of success for the participants in Bosma's programs, by integrating the skills needed to utilize transportation into their current programming, Bosma can

ensure their clients will arrive to their destination safely. When clients come from out of town, they rely on Bosma's accessible vehicles to get to the rehabilitation center to provide reliable and safe demand-response transportation options tailored to the needs of their

clients. Riding transportation allows clients the freedom to navigate their community on their own without relying on friends or family, and through a partnership with IndyGo, clients have multiple transportation options that can help to lead independent lives.



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## Who We Are

Established in 2015, the NADTC is a federally funded technical assistance center administered by Easterseals and USAgings based in Washington, DC.

The **National Aging and Disability Transportation Center** is funded through a cooperative agreement of Easterseals, USAgings, 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.

**USAgings** is the national association representing and supporting the network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocating for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities. USAgings and our members work to improve the quality of life and health of older adults and people with disabilities, including supporting people with chronic illness, people living with dementia, family caregivers and others who want to age well at home and in the community. Together, we are ensuring that all people can age well. Our members are the local leaders that develop, coordinate and deliver a wide range of home and community-based services, including information and referral/assistance, case management, home-delivered and congregate meals, in-home services, caregiver supports, transportation, evidence-based health and wellness programs, long-term care ombudsman programs and more.

[www.usaging.org](http://www.usaging.org)

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