Do Transportation Barriers Impede Access to Economic Opportunities?

States, regions, and local communities are implementing innovative mobility solutions at unprecedented levels. Even in rural areas, transit providers recognize the gaps in transportation coverage and implement unique partnerships (such as with Uber, Lyft, and businesses), use varying transportation service delivery options (such as on-demand service), and complement services with innovative programs (such as volunteer driver programs).

Transit planning organizers and providers partner with local businesses, chambers of commerce, health care, and non-profit – human service organizations to implement mobility services aligned with the needs of a community. The networks that develop are called mobility management networks – and are simply, a way to build coordinated transportation service in an area to ensure that individuals can get to jobs, health care, education, and community settings – in inclusive ways. Human service providers can leverage transportation options in these networks to support economic advancement for their stakeholders. Learn about whether a state or region has a mobility management network through the National Center for Mobility Management, a technical assistance center, funded by the Federal Transit Administration (www.nc4mm.org).

Cross-agency Partnerships to Support Transportation

Collaboration across Federal agencies and their state counterparts is supported through a Federal initiative called the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM). Through a strategic plan, eleven Federal agencies, and over 130 programs are encouraged to work together to accomplish:

- Goal 1: Improve access to community through transportation.
- Goal 2: Enhance cost-effectiveness of coordinated transportation.
- Goal 3: Strengthen interagency partnerships and collaboration with state, local, and industry groups.
- Goal 4: Demonstrate innovative coordinated transportation.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the ability to use any HHS funding for transportation as match to FTA grants programs: the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, Rural Formula Grants and Tribal Transit Formula Grants. View the Summit webcast (1:03–1:19).

CCAM enables Federal agencies and their grant programs, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to share financial resources through matching funds.

Learn about how transportation services can be paid for or matched by over 130 Federal grants and programs.

The CCAM strategic plan, approved in October 2019, aims to improve access to jobs, health care, education and community services through better access to transportation and coordinating 130 government-wide programs.

For technical assistance in Region 1, contact the NCMM Regional Liaison, Judy Shanley, Ph.D., Easterseals, NCMM, (jshanley@easterseals.com).

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