

Rides Change Lives
Are Senior Transportation Programs Prepared to
Meet the Needs of a Growing Older Population?

Capitol Hill Staff Briefing

On February 23, 2009, the National Center on Senior Transportation convened a Capitol Hill Staff Briefing, entitled ***Rides Change Lives***. The purpose of the event was to focus the attention of policymakers and leaders in the field of senior transportation on the question, “Are senior transportation programs prepared to meet the needs of a growing older population?”

The keynote speaker, Dr. E. Douglas Beach, Secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, discussed the demographic imperative facing the nation, emphasizing the growing numbers of persons 85 and older, the importance of supporting older drivers and the need to make available an array of transportation options that respond to the growing and diverse mobility needs of elders living in the community.

The Aging Network views transportation for older adults as critical to enabling older adults to live and thrive in their communities. Area Agencies on Aging and State Offices on Aging nationwide are working closely with public and private transportation providers to build a transportation infrastructure that supports elders.

The Briefing provided an opportunity to showcase the eight senior transportation demonstration projects (list attached) funded by the Center in May 2008. The grantees were selected from 322 applications from 46 states and the District of Columbia. The grantees are:

- using technology to improve service delivery and program efficiency;
- developing approaches to enable families, friends and community members help defray the costs of transportation for elders who need frequent rides or travel long distances;
- designing and expanding volunteer programs that use volunteers in different ways and lessen the financial burden on individual volunteers,
- improving taxi services;
- supporting older drivers; and
- improving collaboration among interest groups and community agencies to ensure a more coordinated, individually responsive system of transportation services for elders in their communities.



NCST Senior Demonstration Grantees and NCST Staff, February 25th, 2009

The grantees will complete their work this summer. To find out more about the demonstration grants, please contact Lynn Winchell-Mendy, Technical Assistance Associate with the Center, or you may contact grantees directly to find out more about their individual projects. The attached list includes contact information for each demonstration project.

Copies of the briefing materials are available on request or may be downloaded from the NCST web site at www.seniortransportation.net.

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