

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—January 23, 2015

CONTACT: Virginia Dize, NCST Co-Director, n4a
P 202.872.0888 vdize@n4a.org
Carol Wright, NCST Co-Director, Easter Seals
P 202.347-3066 cwright@easterseals.com

NCST Ladders of Opportunity Grants Will Connect Seniors to Public Transportation

Washington, DC—Today, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) announced the award of \$100,000 in competitive grants to five communities in five states – Maine, Wisconsin, Texas, Virginia and Ohio – to expand seniors' use of public transportation. Each grantee proposed a project that connects to a national network to enable their innovative transportation services ideas to be quickly implemented and utilized in other communities across the country. Sixty-three organizations representing thirty states and two Tribal communities competed for these FTA cooperative agreement funds which are managed by the NCST. Grantees will each receive \$20,000 to help seniors connect to medical and health services; to programs that help them manage chronic conditions such as diabetes; to senior housing; and to community services that support aging in place.

The NCST is an important FTA program administered by Easter Seals, in partnership with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, which assists communities with transportation options for seniors.

Our seniors are a growing part of the U.S. population – more than 43 million people today are age 65 or older and forecasted to double by 2050. Thus, it is important to identify strategies that ensure seniors have access to transportation services to get to medical care and other important community services such as grocery stores and pharmacies – especially when they can no longer safely drive. Equally important, transportation counters social isolation, enabling seniors to engage in life enhancing activities and maintain connections to family, friends and the community at large.

"Increased access to public transportation will provide seniors and their families' opportunities to have a better quality of life," said FTA Acting Administrator McMillan. These five Ladders of Opportunity projects will drive connections between public transportation and one or more aging in place initiatives in their communities, including care transitions, chronic disease self-management programs, long-term services and supports and senior housing with services.

The grantees are:

- Community Concepts, Inc., Lewiston, ME
- Dane County Department of Human Services, Madison, WI
- Harris County Area Agency on Aging, Houston, TX
- Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Big Stone Gap, VA
- WSOS Community Action Commission, Fremont, OH



###

About NCST

The National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) is the nation's go-to resource for senior transportation information, research and development is administered by Easter Seals Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, and with guidance from the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA). NCST's mission is to increase transportation options for older adults and support aging in place in communities nationwide.

About n4a

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America's national network of 618 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation's capital for the 246 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.

About Easter Seals

Since 1919, Easter Seals has offered help, hope, and answers to children and adults with disabilities and their families in the United States. Easter Seals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and other special needs and provides critical community-based supports and services to military service members, veterans, their families and families of the fallen. Easter Seals creates life-changing solutions so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in their communities.

