

NCST

*National Center on
Senior Transportation*

Association of Travel Instruction 11th Annual Conference

An Introduction to the National Center on Senior Transportation & the Aging Network

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Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

NCST Organization

- **Training and Technical Assistance Center**
- **Funded** by the Federal Transit Administration with guidance from the U.S. Administration on Aging
- **National Steering Committee** – Includes both **Aging** and **Transportation** organizations

Technical Assistance Center Functions

- **Training** – Audio conference on Travel Training for the Aging Network in Sept. 2010.
www.easterseals.com/NCSTdistancelearning
- **Technical Assistance** – 866-528-6278,
ncst@easterseals.com
- **Outreach** – conferences,
www.seniortransportation.net, print & e-newsletter,
- **Applied Research** – Demonstration grants, Student Scholars program, Research to practice

The Older Americans Act

- Congress initiated based on constituents
- July 14, 1965
- Development of & framework for Federal, State & Local service system
- Advocacy
 - System improvement & reform
 - Empowering older adults (self & organizations)
 - Responsiveness
 - “Fair Share”
- Reauthorization

**U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services**

Administration on Aging

Central Office and Regional Offices

**Tribal
Organizations
(246)**

NASUAD

State Units on Aging (56)

n4a

Area Agencies on Aging (629)

Local Service Provider Organizations (30,000)

CONSUMERS

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Older Americans Act & Transportation

- **Titles I-VII**
- **Title III (b)** – Supportive Services & Senior Centers

ACCESS

- **Information & Referral/Assistance**

AAAs are mandated to:

- Have a visible focal point of contact where anyone can go or call for help, information or referral on any aging issue
 - Provide a range of options
 - Assure that these options are readily accessible to all older persons regardless of income
- **Ageing & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)**
 - **Transportation**

The Aging Network & Transportation

Primary Roles

- Advocate (86.1%)
- Address Transportation in Area Plan (85.6%)
- Provide information, education and assistance on transportation needs (82.3%)
- Identify gaps/unmet need in transportation services (81.5%)

Additional Roles

- Service Provider
- Contractor/Funder
- Convener
- Partner

The Aging Network & Travel Training

- Advocacy at the local level in support of travel training programs (boards, councils, etc.)
- Staffing a Mobility Manager position
- Using Title III (b) funding and staff to support travel training programs
- Hosting train the trainer sessions
- Co-sponsoring training sessions
- Referring callers to travel training programs
- Helping with outreach to seniors/publicizing training events

Specific Examples

Atlanta Regional Commission

- Working towards a regional travel training program
- AAA is looking to offer counties Title III(b) funds to assist with travel training programs
 - Local example: Cobb County – Get on the Bus Gus

AAA of Western Michigan

- Offers a senior mentoring program that provides travel training services on the existing fixed route system

Fairfax County, VA

- DOT employee sits at the AAA office as a travel trainer
- AAA funds this position

Partnering/Outreach

Senior friendly transit options

- Are the transit routes going to places that seniors want to go?
- Are the drivers helpful and understanding?

Interesting Approaches

- Offer group trips on transit to popular attractions
- Offer related training/activities, cell phone instruction...

Partnering/Outreach

Aging organizations to reach out to

- Area Agency on Aging
- Residential facilities
- Faith based organizations
- Retirement associations, like the retired teachers association
- Senior Newspapers (submit articles)
- Private foundations
- Paratransit department (for referrals)
- Volunteer agencies that may have volunteers who need transportation. For example the Foster Grandparent program.
- AARP

Discussion/Questions

- Are any of you partnering with an aging services provider already?
- Other thoughts/questions?
- What will you take away from this?

Thank You!

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