
National Senior Service Corps Transportation Activities

ARKANSAS

Boone and Marion Counties RSVP, Harrison

The Planning and Development District estimates that 800 in the counties persons – many of whom are low-income, elderly and living alone -- lack access to transportation services. The District approached RSVP for help in developing a low-cost but consistent transportation system. RSVP responded by providing 20 volunteers to serve as drivers; 16 delivering direct driving services and 4 with logistical support. RSVP helped to put in place a transportation system that did not previously exist. More than 100 persons each week are transported, representing 50 percent of the target population. In 1997 alone, RSVP volunteers made 4,800 trips to more than 400 individuals.

MAINE

Aroostook RSVP ,Presque Isle

Transportation for medical needs ranked among the top ten elder priorities, according to a 1996 Aroostook Area Agency on Aging consumer needs assessment. The agency, which serves a largely rural county that has little public transportation, established eight volunteer transportation groups to provide rides to medical appointments for frail elderly and seriously ill residents who have no other means of transportation. Thirty-four RSVP volunteers, who make up 75 percent of the total pool of volunteer drivers, provided 491 medical-related rides to 81 people in 1997.

MINNESOTA

Senior Companion Program of Minnesota

Many elders of the Red Lake Indian Reservation have no transportation or telephone, little income, and few family members nearby. Four Senior Companions serve 40 home bound elders, providing them with rides to the grocery store, medical appointments and elder nutrition sites for meals. The Senior Companions report that their clients are now eating better and more regularly. Companions also have been

instrumental in obtaining emergency medical care for clients when needed, in addition to helping to link them to other community services.

MONTANA

Senior Companion Program Helena

Accessibility to health care is a problem in rural Indian country, Montana. The native elders who have high incidences of diabetes, which in turn can cause vision loss, specially need assistance with daily living and transportation to medical facilities. Twelve native Senior Companions in 1997 worked with 33 native elders, providing cost-effective transportation services to medical appointments and providing companionship.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Carroll County RSVP , North Conway

Carroll County has almost no public transportation and a large number of residents who either have serious health conditions that prevent them from driving, who don't have access to cars. Fifty RSVP volunteers provided 637 rides totaling 42,870 miles for residents needing rides to doctor and dentist appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy and other necessary trips. Mental health clients received 21 percent of the rides, and children received 10 percent of the total rides.

NEW YORK

Columbia County RSVP, Hudson

Columbia County has no county-wide public transportation, with only limited bus service available in the city of Hudson. RSVP volunteers provide rides to doctors' appointments for seniors who have no vehicles and who cannot afford other means of transportation. In 1997, RSVP volunteer drivers spent 9,000 hours driving 268 seniors a total of 200,000 miles.

OHIO

Portage/Stark/Columbiana RSVP, Kent

Public transportation (PARTA) in Portage County is limited to five communities in the greater Kent and Ravenna areas. Public transportation to hospitals in the Akron or Cleveland metro is non-existent. Twelve RSVP volunteers now make medical transportation possible for 90 seniors by providing free transportation and escort services to destinations not served by PARTA. Volunteers are reimbursed for gas expenses through a small grant from the Episcopal Community Service Foundation. RSVP volunteers travel up to 7,000 miles each year under this program.

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa County RSVP, Inc.

According to a recent community needs assessment study, inadequate transportation services rank within the top three critical problems faced by persons age 60 and older in Oklahoma County. It is projected that 10 percent of persons age 60 and older residing in Oklahoma County are frail, low-income and have no means of transportation to medical appointments. Through the assistance of RSVP Provide-A-Ride, volunteer drivers utilize their own vehicles to provide 350 plus rides each month to an average of 222 frail, low-income clients age 60 and older in need of transportation to critical medical appointments throughout the Oklahoma County area. During the past year, RSVP Provide-A-Ride volunteer drivers provided a safe, reliable, escort service and transportation to 611 clients who have no other means of transportation to 3,872 medical appointments.

UTAH

Carbon County RSVP, Price

In Carbon County, with a population of 17,000, approximately 20 percent or 3,400 individuals are 60 years of age and over. A community survey identified medical transportation as a priority need among the senior citizens. Currently, public transportation is not readily available for seniors, and most medical specialists are a minimum of 150 and up to 270 miles away. To address this need, the Southeastern Utah Association of Governments, the Area On Aging, and Health Care Financing developed the Care-A-Van Program (CAV) where volunteers use personal vehicles to transport frail elderly and disabled individuals to medical appointments. Of the seven volunteer drivers in the CAV program, five are RSVP Volunteers. Over the past several months, the 5 RSVP Volunteers served 62 clients, driving a total of 25,992 miles, and assisting with 307 medical appointments.