



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

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Clerk, DANA R. CRISINO, Director, Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council

HOCTC Resolution 2023 – 41

Amendment the HOCTC Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan 2021 – 2024 to update Appendix 1

WHEREAS, the federal transportation legislation, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, upholds and expands previous transportation legislations that require federal grantees to "locally develop a coordinated transit-human services transportation plan" that directs the coordination among recipients of federal funds for human services transportation, and to update that Plan every four years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation requires the development of a Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plan for each urbanized area under the direction of a Metropolitan Planning Organization in accordance with 49 USC 5303; and

WHEREAS, the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) developed a locally derived coordinated transit-human services transportation plan through a process that included representatives from public, private, non-profit transportation services, human service providers, interested parties, and the general public, that was previously approved by the GP&L in December 2021; and

WHEREAS, the HOCTC Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC), which includes representatives from public, private and non-profit agencies, and human services transportation providers, developed the Section 5310 project listing, known as Appendix 1 of the Coordinated Plan, of potential projects to be undertaken by member agencies, as funding (Federal, State, and local) becomes available; and

Appendix 1

2024 Section 5310 Project List Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

1. Agency: Rome Memorial Hospital, Inc., d/b/a Rome Health

Requesting: Rome Memorial Hospital, Inc., d/b/a Rome Health is seeking funding support for one 11-passenger bus that can accommodate three wheelchairs and a handicapped accessible van to meet the demands for transportation for the Residential Health Care Facility (RHCF) and to address unmet needs of vulnerable hospital patients with transportation barriers.

Project

Description: Currently, the facility has one 11-passenger bus for the 80-bed nursing home for the purpose of transporting nursing home residents to medical appointments and social activities, with priority given to medical transportation. Purchased in 2015, the current bus is nearing the end of its useful life. In addition, there has been an increase in requests to provide transportation for other hospital populations. Most transportation is for travel in Rome, Utica and Syracuse, but can extend to Albany or Rochester for specialty appointments. As a result, the system needs two vehicles to accommodate the demand for medical transportation, while still maintaining transportation for resident social activities. The van would be more cost-effective when transporting only one patient, while the bus is more practical and cost-effective for multiple passengers.

Coordination

Efforts: Rome Memorial Hospital, Inc., participates in the Oneida County Emergency Preparedness Coalition. The RHCF coordinates transportation requests for the 80-bed nursing home and other hospital populations. The hospital's Continuum of Care Department maintains a list of transportation resources to assist seniors, disabled, and low-income individuals with their transportation needs.

Funding

Comments: Rome Memorial Hospital, Inc., will be applying for Section 5310 funding once the application becomes available and is seeking inclusion in the Herkimer / Oneida Counties Coordinated Transportation Plan update. The hospital will supplement any necessary funding if the grant is awarded in 2023 through its capital budget process or in collaboration with its Foundation.

Contact

Information: Cassie Winter, Vice President Marketing/Communication
Rome Memorial Hospital
1500 N. James St.
Rome, NY 13440
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cwinter@romehealth.org

**2. Agency: Senior Citizens Council Rome New York, Inc.
(Db: Copper City Community Connection)**

Requesting: Copper City Community Connection is requesting one (1) 12 passenger European Style transit van with portal door and wheelchair seating capacity to meet our transportation needs in 2024. CCCC currently owns and operates a 2013 12 passenger van to transport the elderly to and from the social model adult day care program in Oneida County.

Project

Description: Copper City Community Connection van has been used to transport the elderly who are no longer capable of using public transportation due to their disabilities to and from the social model adult day care and individuals residing in rural community outside of public transportation. CCCC provides services and support including transportation to western Oneida County individuals including the city of Rome and its surrounding rural communities. The current van is well past its useful life and is not wheelchair accessible. CCCC offers transportation 5 days per week Monday - Friday to the many events and activities during the day and occasional evening to support and encourage seniors in Oneida County to be engaged in community life avoiding loneliness and isolation that often accompanies the aging process. The day program also provides respite for care providers from the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for a loved one with dementia and other cognitive impairments helping to maintain independence and life at home with loved ones.

Coordination

Efforts: The Copper City Community Connection offers a freestanding social adult day program in Oneida County. A replacement vehicle would allow continuation of quality transportation allowing the elderly to continue to join in events and activities with other participants of social model program in Oneida County. The addition of adding wheelchair capacity vehicles will also allow diversification of participants along with field trips and outings. Transportation allows the Center to coordinate more with other senior community centers allowing more seniors in Oneida County to avail themselves of the offerings of the Copper City Community Connection.

Funding

Comments: Copper City Community Connection has secured the necessary funding to supplement the 2024 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Senior and Individuals with Disabilities Program grant through the annual budget process.

Contact

Information: Susan Streeter, Executive Director 305 E. Locust Street
Rome, New York 13440
315-337-8230
sstreeter@coppercitycommunityconnection.com

3. Agency: 50 Forward Mohawk Valley

Requesting: 50 Forward Mohawk Valley is seeking operating assistance funds for the continuation of the Mobility Management project in Herkimer and Oneida Counties for 2024. 50 Forward Mohawk Valley has developed a mobility management program that educates seniors, disabled, and low income individuals about programs and services that allow individuals to use alternative forms of transportation, to be informed of transportation options where there is limited resources and to advocate for increased options and partner collaborations.

Project

Description: The goal of this program is helping communities and individuals create and manage their mobility options. It is an approach designed and delivering transportation services that starts and ends with the customer. Our key role in this program is to Understand and Advocate; Convene and Facilitate; and, Inform and Connect.

Understand and Advocate: Mobility management begins and ends with a focus on transportation's many groups – current and potential riders; employers, economic development groups and local business associations; human service agencies and their clients; taxpayers and other funders; and local governments. To effectively plan a responsive and sustainable transportation network for all these customers, empathy and an unbiased understanding of their needs, environment, and goals is essential. The more we share our understanding of the customers with our partners, the more we can bring others to support the work of improving mobility options. Transportation is integral to almost all activities that take place within a community. The ability of people to reach needed destinations impacts the viability of businesses, health and human services, economic development, local government and more. Being able to articulate this relationship between transportation and success in other sectors is an important step in strengthening support for community transportation options. (Outreach, Education, Advocacy, Assistance)

Convene and Facilitate: Mobility management staff cultivate partnerships and create or join collaborative efforts that include transportation providers, planners and other community stakeholders. (Part of transportation committees, Livable Communities Oneida County, Mobility Management Association)

Inform and Connect: All mobility management activities point toward one goal: connecting customers to the transportation options that are most responsive to their needs. We stay informed about existing community transportation services, sharing that knowledge with customers, and helping customers connect the dots in using all appropriate services. (Call Center and Outreach)

50 Forward Mohawk Valley will continue its' Mobility Management Services including outreach, education, presentation, travel training for human service

agencies, one click one call web based and call center resources, service coordination, referral, advocacy, and continuing the Way2Go program. 50 Forward Mohawk Valley will continually update the transportation educational resources and make them available electronically resulting in more access for the resources to be shared among service providers. The project serves seniors, disabled and low- income individuals.

Coordination
Efforts:

The Mobility Manager reaches out to public, private and nonprofit organizations that provide transportation services throughout Oneida and Herkimer counties.

Funding

Comments:

Funding will service as leverage for the continuation of the Mobility Management project in Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

Contact

Information:

Todd Stokes Assistant Director
50 Forward Mohawk Valley
220 Memorial Parkway
Utica, NY 13501
Phone 315-223-3973 / Fax: 315-223-3975

4. Agency: Senior Network Health, LLC

Requesting: Senior Network Health Transportation is requesting for 2024 two Transit XL vans and one twelve passenger bus that can accommodate two wheelchairs. This request is to meet the overflow demands of the critical service of rising medical transportation requests of customers.

Project

Description: Senior Network Health Transportation, as an affiliate of the Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) provides transportation for the entities of the system. MVHS is comprised of two acute care hospitals, a two hundred and two bed skilled nursing facility, an Adult Day Medical Care Program, Senior Network Health a managed long term care plan, a cancer center and multiple primary care sites. Senior Network Health Transportation Department provides medical transportation to people who are chronically ill, elderly, and multicultural with prominent language barriers or disabled receiving services within MVHS that reside in Oneida and Herkimer counties. Without this transportation service many people would not be able to access the medical care that they require. Our transportation department coordinates all scheduled rides through an integrated software program to optimize efficiency of our vehicles and drivers. In 2022 Senior Network Health Transportation provided 10,429 rides and unfortunately had to decline 2143 rides due to limitation of the fleet and drivers. In 2019-2020 we were awarded funds from Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. These funds assist with replacing vehicles currently in the fleet and adding to the fleet. We are requesting for 2024 two Transit XL vans and one twelve passenger bus that can accommodate two wheelchairs so that we are able to continue to provide this vital service.

Coordination

Efforts: Senior Network Health is a member of the Transportation Coordination Committee. We participate in the Oneida and Herkimer County Emergency Preparedness Coalition and coordinate transportation throughout all of Mohawk Valley Health System.

Funding

Comments: Senior Network Health has supplemented the necessary funds provided from the 2019-2020 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program grant and will continue to be able to supplement monies if granted funding is awarded in 2024.

Contact

Information: Sara Miller
1650 Champlin Ave
Utica, NY 13502
Phone: 315-624-4513
Email: Smiller4@mvhealthsystem.org

5. Agency: Herkimer County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

Requesting: Herkimer County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. will be applying for (2) Type IV or Lot K replacement buses in 2024. These buses will be used for the purpose of transporting individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities within Herkimer County.

Project

Description: Herkimer County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. buses are used for the purpose of transporting individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities within Herkimer County. The buses that will be requested will be replacing buses that have been used beyond their useful life and will be operated primarily in the villages of Dolgeville, Little Falls, Poland, Newport, Middleville, Herkimer, Mohawk, Ilion, and surrounding areas.

Coordination

Efforts: To address the coordination aspect, we provide transportation for individuals to various programs within Arc Herkimer as well as other employers and day program providers within Herkimer County. We also encourage individuals, who are able to do so, to ride the public transportation line that is available through the valley. Currently we have available seating on the route coming from the area of Richfield Springs and from the Newport / Middleville area and welcome the opportunity for other providers to contract with us for transportation from those areas and possibly others.

Funding

Comments: Herkimer County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. will be applying for Section 5310 funding once the application becomes available therefore would like to be included in the Herkimer / Oneida Counties Coordinated Transportation Plan update. As far as we know now, our scope of service and ridership should remain consistent over the next several years therefore we will not be requesting funding for any additions to our fleet, only replacements for vehicles that have exceeded their useful life as outlined in the Section 5310 guidelines.

Contact

Information: Dean Jones, Transportation Director
Arc Herkimer Transportation
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