



HERKIMER-ONEIDA COUNTIES GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

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HOCTS Resolution 2018-02

Amendment to the 2017-2020 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan to update Appendix 1 with 2018 Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Project List

WHEREAS, The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) transportation reauthorization was signed into law on August 10, 2005 requiring federal grantees to “locally develop a coordinated transit-human services transportation plan through a process that included representatives for public, private, non-profit transportation services, human service providers, interested parties, and the general public” that directs the coordination among recipients of federal funds for human services transportation, and to update that Plan every four years; and

WHEREAS, the federal transportation legislation Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) in 2012, and the current federal transportation legislation, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) as of December 2015, upheld and expanded the requirement of the locally developed coordinated plan; 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 Government Policy and Liaison Committee (GP&L) was designated by the Governor of the State of New York as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for Herkimer and Oneida Counties, including the Utica Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the Herkimer- Oneida Counties Transportation Study (HOCTS) has updated the locally derived coordinated transit-human services transportation plan with the 2017-2020 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Herkimer and Oneida Counties

Appendix 1

2018 Section 5310 Project List Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

1. Agency: **LutheranCare**

Requesting: LutheranCare is requesting funding for three vehicles (1) two Lot F (Low Floor) buses (one a replacement vehicle) with seating capacity for 11 ambulatory and 2 wheel chair passengers equipped with low-floor ramps to accommodate those passengers; and, (2) one Lot F (Low Floor) bus to be used for the transportation requirements of the bariatric individual uniquely equipped with larger door access and other features which would better support the needs of those weighing 400 pounds or more.

Project

Description: LutheranCare serves the elderly and persons with disabilities through the residential adult home, skilled nursing facilities, social model adult day program, home companion services and Caregiver Support Program. Our most pressing transportation needs are reliable conveyance for our residents to and from recreational outings and activities and round-trip transport for participants in the adult day and support program. (1) Through a DOH grant award in 2016, the transportation program for seniors and persons with disabilities has expanded to include a rural outreach effort in Oneida, Lewis, Herkimer and Madison counties which has substantially increased the number of individuals served and is aimed at providing respite and support group services to individuals caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias. These services are provided at no cost to the loved one through our home companion and adult day programs. One of the buses utilized for this transport was acquired under a 5310 grant and is currently costing the organization substantial dollars to maintain and repair. If granted, this request would be applied toward its replacement and the purchase of a new vehicle to better meet the expanded scope of services; (2) LutheranCare is one of just a few local skilled nursing communities with a dedicated bariatric unit on its campus. In researching the transportation options available for these individuals, those options were found to be very limited. Safe, reliable transportation to and from medical appointments as well as recreational outings is a quality of life issue which would be addressed by the availability of an appropriately equipped vehicle.

Coordination
Efforts:

(1) In addition to campus transportation, residents of the Clinton Manor and Mohawk Valley apartments (who also fall into the elderly and disabled category) utilize the vehicles several times a month for recreational daytrips. The target population of the Caregiver Support Program is those caring for loved ones who, in addition to the stresses caused by dementia, are also geographically isolated without access to support services; (2) Given the limited availability of bariatric vehicles in the area, LutheranCare would reach out to other nursing homes, local hospitals and non-profit agencies that may have need of transportation for their bariatric patients/clients and offer use of the vehicle when not in use by the organization.

Funding
Comments:

(1) As mentioned above, the bus in need of replacement was funded by a 5310 grant submitted in 2007 for purchase in 2008. In addition, a grant from the Department of Health has enabled launching an aggressive outreach effort into the rural areas of the Mohawk Valley; (2) Funding from The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties provided for the construction of our Bariatric Suites. This appeal represents a request for support of the purchase of a uniquely suitable means of transportation for the bariatric patient/client.

Contact
Information:

Karen Anne Ostinett, Director of Funds & Volunteer Development
LutheranCare
108-110 Utica Road
Clinton, New York 13323
315.235.7104
kostinett@lutherancare.org

2. Agency: **Senior Citizens Council Rome New York, Inc.**
(d/b/a: **Ava Dorfman Senior & Community Center**)

Requesting: The Ava Dorfman Senior Center is seeking a 1-12 passenger van to meet our transportation needs.

Project

Description: The Ava Dorfman Senior Center has been in operation since 1959 serving the elderly of Rome New York and the surrounding areas. We offer many events and activities during the day and evenings to support and encourage seniors in Oneida County to be engaged in the community avoiding the loneliness and isolation that so often accompanies the aging process. The support of senior centers in our communities is the first line of defense in preventing more costly supports such as nursing homes.

The Ava Dorfman Senior Center also provides a social model adult day care program for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia and other cognitive impairments. This program offers individuals active cognitive training and social stimulation to minimize the impact of their conditions. The social adult day care program also affords the care provider with the freedom to work and/or take care of personal errands such as personal health, banking, shopping etc. One of the supports offered through our social model adult day care program is transportation.

Currently individuals or families have to either drive themselves to the Center or we use private transport providers which are very costly. The cost of transporting individuals beyond the City limits is often greater than 80% of our funding. Those that drive themselves frequently do not feel confident in their driving abilities in snowy or rainy weather and many will not attend events in the evening hours due to poor night vision. A vehicle will allow the Center to be more responsive to the needs of our members and reduce expenses.

Coordination Efforts:

The Ava Dorfman Senior Community Center is the only freestanding social adult day program in Oneida County. We are not affiliated with other facilities such as nursing homes. The Vehicle will allow us to take field trips with our participants something they have never done because transportation has not been available. The Vehicle will allow us to visit the other social model programs meeting more friends and increasing our socialization efforts. A vehicle will allow us to use community resources for such activities as shopping, banking, enjoying community events.

By offering transportation in the evenings and weekends more members will participate in events. Often we are told "I would love to get out of the house on the weekends it is so lonely but I won't drive at night or the snow". Transportation will also open the door to more members participating because they have completely given up driving. A vehicle will help to maintain an independent life style and allow seniors to engage socially thus avoiding isolation and loneliness. Transportation will allow the Center to coordinate more with other senior community center allowing more seniors in Oneida County to avail themselves of the offerings of the Ava Dorfman Senior Community Center.

Funding

Comments: The Ava Dorfman Senior Community Center has never received funding from Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. The operating costs associated with the vehicle will be covered by the savings we anticipate from the discontinuation of some if not all of the private vendors.

Contact

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

3. Agency: **ElderLife, Inc. (d/b/a The Parkway Center)**

Requesting: Parkway Center is seeking operating assistance funds for the continuation of the Mobility Management project in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. Parkway Center has developed a mobility management program that educates seniors, disabled, Limited English Proficiency, and low income individuals about programs and services that allow individuals to use alternative forms of transportation other than a personal auto.

Project

Description: The goal of the Oneida and Herkimer County mobility management program is to provide education to individuals about the available programs and services within the Counties that will enable them to meet their basic needs. The objectives of this program are to develop program materials, including online resources, printed materials and workshop curriculums, meet with local program and service providers in the transportation sector and pilot educational workshops in the community. PSC proposes a mobility management program that would educate constituents about these programs and services and would allow individuals to use alternative forms of transportation. This would increase accessibility to services and reduce single-occupancy vehicle usage. Education would take place in the form of workshops, one on one peer delivered travel training, online resources and collaboration with transportation program and service providers. The project will serve seniors, disabled, Limited English Proficiency, and low income individuals.

Coordination

Efforts: The Mobility Manager has been reaching 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: Kari Johnson
Director of Volunteer Services
Parkway Center
220 Memorial Parkway
Utica, NY 13501
Phone 315-223-3973
Fax: 315-223-3975

4. Agency: **The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter**

Requesting: The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter intends to purchase four (4) Type IV or Lot K buses to be used for daily transportation to and from day programs for adults with intellectual disabilities, via contract with Birnie + Krapf Bus Service. Persons using these buses/vans are not only intellectually disabled; many have physical disabilities, are elderly and need support of staff for transport.

Project

Description: The buses will replace existing buses, beyond their useful life to be used by The Arc, through a contract with Birnie + Krapf Bus providing fixed route transportation services to persons who cannot use public transportation, private bus or taxi service for the following reasons:

- in some instances, no public transportation exists;
- taxi service, where it is available, would be cost prohibitive;
- many of the people who would use the buses are non-ambulatory and require vehicles equipped with lifts and tie downs, along with door to door service;
- many persons are severely disabled and cannot be taught to travel safely on their own; and
- many persons are on strict medication regimes and require a provider such as The Arc who cannot only coordinate transportation/medication effort, but has a great deal of experience doing so.

Coordination

Efforts: The Arc contracts with Birnie + Krapf Bus for transportation services and supports not only people who receive services from The Arc, but also Upstate Cerebral Palsy, Central New York DDRO, and other human service agencies. Via this contract approximately 500 roundtrips are provided daily, Monday – Friday.

Funding

Comments: Funding for the matching 20% will be paid by The Arc, via Medicaid reimbursement for transportation supports.

Contact

Information: Gail Miskowiec, Chief Operations Officer
The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC
245 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13501
Telephone: (315) 272-1543
Fax: (315) 272-1783
gfmiskowiec@thearcolc.org

5. Agency: **Arc Herkimer**

Requesting: Arc Herkimer will be applying for the replacement of three of our 30 passenger handicapped accessible buses that will have met or exceeded their useful life.

Project

Description: The three buses that we will be applying to replace through the 5310 program currently serve the villages of West Winfield, Richfield Springs, Little Falls, Herkimer, Mohawk, Ilion, Frankfort, and surrounding areas. Approximately 78 elderly and disabled people are transported on these three buses on a daily basis as part of our total transportation system which transports approximately 250 elderly and disabled people on a daily basis throughout Herkimer County

Coordination

Efforts: Along with providing training to assist with accessing public transportation to a number of people that attend our programs, our coordination efforts include providing transportation to elderly and handicapped individuals that attend day programs at Valley Health Services, Folts Home, and CNYDSO.

Funding

Comments: As mentioned in the project description, this would be a continuation of existing funds, namely the replacement of previously funded vehicles.

Contact

Information: Dean Jones, Transportation Director
Arc Herkimer Transportation
P.O. Box 271, Herkimer, NY 1335
315-574-7980
djones@archerkimer.org

6. Agency: **Mohawk Valley Health System**

Requesting: Mohawk Valley Health System (Senior Network Health LLC) is seeking to apply for two (2) Lot B, Transit 350's to add to their fleet to keep up with the demands of growing services and members. Vehicles provide medically required transportation services for clients of the Mohawk Valley Health System.

Project

Description: Mohawk Valley Health System has consolidated all of its Transportation needs into one centralized Transportation Department within the System. This allows all of its entities to schedule rides from one location for all of its patients, members, residents and registrants. This currently covers members currently residing in Lewis, Oneida and Herkimer counties. The scheduled medical appointments currently are located between Albany, Cooperstown, Old Forge all the way to Buffalo and all of the areas in between. The transportation system serves elderly, disabled and limited English speaking members.

Coordination

Efforts: All entities of Mohawk Valley Health System include:

St. Luke's Home – 202 Residents

Adult Day Health Care – 40 to 50 Registrants

Senior Network Health – Currently at 510 members with enrollment increasing monthly

Faxton Cancer Center – 10+ patients

Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare – as needed (including Sub acute Rehabilitation)

St. Elizabeth Medical Center – as needed

In addition to the coordination efforts of the above entities, we also contract rides for our members when our transportation is simply inundated with rides or when vehicles are in for repair. We currently utilize the following agencies on a case to case, day to day basis, as needed and as an out of pocket expense:

Adonis Avante out of Herkimer

Edwards Ambulance

Birnie Bus

D&T Transport

Community Transport Services of Old Forge

Capital District Transport of Albany

Funding

Comments: Prior to the consolidation of the Centralized transportation departments, both the St. Luke's Home and Senior Network Health had individually taken advantage of the 5310 grant in 2008, 2011 and again in 2017. We currently have 2 vehicles in our fleet from the 5310 program; the other two were "retired" earlier this year. All transportation costs are currently absorbed out of the internal transportation budget without funding from other sources.

Contact

Information: Karon Weiler
Director of Plant Operations
St. Luke's Home
Center for Rehabilitation & Continuing Care Services
1650 Champlin Ave., Utica, NY 13502
kweiler@mvhealthsystem.org 315-624-8670

7. Agency: **Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL)**

Requesting: RCIL will apply for funding to purchase three (3) LOT D Vehicles (8A/1WC) to add to its current fleet to provide flexible transportation to 25-35 seniors and individuals with disabilities who participate in the Adult Day Services program at RCIL each week day. Vehicles will also be used to transport program participants to offsite activities during the program day.

Project

Description: RCIL has operated a social model adult day services program in the City of Utica for more than 30 years. Program participants live in all sections- urban, suburban, and rural - of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, have functional limitations that limit their ability to participate fully in the community, and receive door-to-door transportation provided by RCIL or its transportation provider partner, Birnie Bus. Many participants do not live on the regular bus routes or have personal and caregiver schedules that necessitate transportation arrangements that do not fit into the regular bus route schedules.

Coordination

Efforts: RCIL is directly involved with the Transportation Coordination Committee and the development of the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Study, and works with the region's Mobility Management organization, Parkway Center. The RCIL Adult Day Services program will work with other programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities to maximize the utilization of the vehicles purchased with Section 5310 funding.

Funding

Comments: RCIL received Section 5310 funding to purchase one of the vehicles in its fleet in 2015. That vehicle is still in daily use by the Adult Day Services program. The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties funded the purchase of a 7-passenger van to be used by the program in 2017. There are currently no other funds associated with the proposal to purchase three Lot D vehicles in 2018, but RCIL will seek other funding opportunities to support this project.

Contact

Information: Maureen Ghent, Program Director
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315-797-4642 ext. 2983