



# SNAPSHOT

SUPPLEMENTAL

TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAMS for

SENIORS

Prepared by the Beverly Foundation

## American Indian Senior Transportation *Special STPs Sector*

### STAR Search

The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) of Albuquerque, New Mexico partnered with the Beverly Foundation of Pasadena, California to undertake a survey of transportation problems, practices and programs in Indian Country.

Surveys were distributed by NICOA to their network of service providers, of which 86 responses were received and 16 surveys were completed for a 19% response rate. Information was included in the survey that announced the intention to present two STAR Awards for Excellence.

### Profile of Respondents

<u>Organizational Status</u> Non-profit 56%	<u>Trip Purpose</u> Medical 94% Religious 13% Social/Recreations 33%	<u>Reservation Requirements</u> Same day service 56% 24 hours in advance 13% 2 days in advance 13% 2+ days in advance 13%
<u>Location</u> Rural 81% Urban/Suburban 26%	<u>Riders Targeted</u> Seniors 44% Seniors/ADA 38%	<u>Service Type</u> Door-to-door 75% Door-thru-door 19% Fixed Route 6%
<u>Funding</u> Grants 44% Tribe Revenue 38% Other 25%	<u>Service Hours</u> Daytime 94% Daytime and Evenings 19% Weekdays 75% Sundays 69%	<u>Special Services</u> Escorts provided 50%
<u>Vehicle Safety</u> Daily vehicle inspection 63% Insurance for vehicles/drivers 94%		

*Physical health and financial and economic issues were identified as the top 2 reasons why seniors have stopped driving*

Indian elders tend to experience a variety of chronic and acute health conditions that limit their mobility and require them to seek out health services and supportive care. The rural residence of many Indian elders and the limited availability of health and

social services can make transportation difficult for them and for their service providers. This snapshot is meant only to provide a first glimpse of the senior transportation services in Indian Country. It is clear that a high percentage of Indian Country programs

*Family members and friends were identified as providing the greatest amount of transportation for seniors who have stopped driving.*

are in rural American and Indian elders have a major need to travel to non-emergency medical locations.

### **STAR Awards for Excellence**

An annual STAR Search survey has been undertaken from 2000 to 2003. STAR Search has produced considerable data related to more than 400 STPs across the country. Each program has been included in a comprehensive database, profiles have been developed for each program, and program reviews and case studies have been developed for the winners of the STAR Awards for Excellence. By the end of 2003, 18 STAR Awards were presented to Programs of Excellence.

The criteria for selection of winners in Indian Country included: (1) Community Ties (involvement of community sponsors and volunteers); (2) Attention to Special Circumstances (transportation escorts for assistance); (3) Purpose (emphasis on seniors and multipurpose riders); (4) Staff (mix of paid and volunteer, especially drivers); (5) Budget (budget information provided); and (6) Stability (in operation for a period of time, e.g., 5 years). An expert panel was convened to rate the surveys based on the above criteria using a point value.

### **2003 Star Award Winners of Excellence** **Special Sector: American Indian Senior Services**

#### **Lac Du Flambeau Senior and Diabetes Center, Lac du Flambeau, WI**

Lac du Flambeau transportation service is provided in conjunction with the Senior Center's program services. They typically provide transportation twice a week for shopping and medical services. Secondly, transportation is provided for personal activities.

All employees of the center act as drivers and, based on the need for transportation, will use their own vehicles.

The Community Health Representative (CHR) program in the area does most of the medical transport for the community. However, the CHR often calls Lac Du Flambeau to fill gaps by transportation arrangements for the senior. While most trips are non-emergency medical, many seniors in the community need individualized social transport.

#### **Community Health Representative Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okmulgee, OK**

Community Health Representative (CHR) provides a variety of health related services; however, 80-85% of the services that they provide are transportation, which far exceeds their contract for providing transportation.

Seventy-five percent of rides are provided to seniors, with the focus on the frail elderly and those that need interpreters. Drivers often act as transportation escorts and interpret for riders when needed. The vehicles are leased from the government and service is door-to-door and door-through-door.

CHR is seen as a provider of quantity of life transportation – due to the majority of rides provided for medical based reasons.

\*Data from Beverly Foundation STAR Search 2000-2003 Surveys

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