TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

AmeriCorps VISTA Resource Development:
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Nebraska Seniors

- Almost 15% of Nebraskans are 65 or older (1 in 6!)
  - Will be 1 in 5 by 2030

- Access to services and transportation are the greatest issues faced by aging Nebraskans

- Studies show seniors must rely more on family and friends as they age and become more disabled
Impact of Transportation Gaps

- Isolation

- Aging in place

- Rural communities face population and income losses

- Overall, no community in the US has a definitive solution
Transportation Options

- Public
  - bus
- Private
  - car
- Volunteers
  - walk
  - bike
Public Transportation

- 56 rural and 3 urban providers
  - Covers roughly 79 counties
  - 10 counties have no service
  - 4 counties have limited service
- Available weekdays
- Average cost is about $2.00 for a one-way trip
  - Discounts for seniors
- Nebraska has both fixed and “call for pick-up” routes
Reach Your Destination Easily, RYDE

- Arguably BEST public transportation service in Nebraska.
- Provides transportation in and around the Kearney area
- Program provided through the Community Action Partnership of the Midwest
- 7 counties and the city of Ravenna are served
- Rides are scheduled 24 hours in advance
- Drivers are trained to help with assistance
  - To vehicle
  - To destination or home
Mobility Management

- Nebraska Public Transit Pilot Program
- Public transportation support for ALL Nebraskan
- Focus on rural residents
  - Through cities and across county lines
- Includes door-to-door and curb-to-curb services
- Mobility Managers
Mobility Managers

- Splits Nebraska into 6 “regions”

- Managers responsibilities:
  - Train drivers
  - Arrange travel options for the elderly and disabled
  - Marketing
ADA Service Buses (HandiVans)

- Similar routes to the city buses
- Slightly more expensive
- Call for pick-up required
- Strict guidelines
- Limited Routes

HandiVan Application
Barriers

- City buses have transportation restrictions
  - *Omaha buses do not travel west of Lakeside Hospital and Village Point*
  - *ENOA does not offer services into Midtown or further east*
  - *Limited transport out of cities*
- Weekend routes are limited, and nonexistent in rural communities
- Door-to-door services are limited
- Public awareness/marketing
- Communication/cooperation
Private Transportation

- Taxis
- Service Programs
  - Home Instead
- Mobile Ride-Share
  - Uber
  - Lyft
  - Liberty Mobility
Mobile Ride Share

Uber
- Can request a ride when and wherever
- Low rate for off peak hours
- Pilot programs for seniors
- Uber Central
  - Desktop capable
  - Rides requested in advance
- Uber Assist
- Uber Carpool

Lyft
- Can request a ride when and wherever
- Low rate for off peak hours
- Pilot Programs for seniors
- Concierge
  - Desktop capable
  - Rides scheduled on behalf of others
- Jitterbug Partnership
  - Users call operator on their flip phone
Barriers

■ Funding
  - Starting programs in rural locations are not financially “worth it”
  - Seniors need access to internet, mobile devices/ computer

■ Availability
  - Mobile ride-share programs are available where drivers are available

■ Distance
  - No protocol on whether a driver should be paid traveling long distances to retrieve drivers
  - Driving long distances can be very expensive
  - Drivers may have to drive hours to get to and from destinations
Volunteers

- Many seniors turn to family, friends and community for transportation needs

- This is a cheap, convenient and safe option

- Drivers volunteer their time and car to provide need services to help with appointments and errands

- Many community programs offer public volunteer programs to help with senior transportation needs
Gaps in Transportation (Recap!)

- Everywhere!

- Nebraska’s aging population and large percentage of rural communities take a toll on transportation options

- Both public and private organizations find transportation in some rural communities unjustifiable, leaving seniors stranded.
What’s Next?

- Scotts Bluff
  - *Fixed bus route in Scotts Bluff and Gering*

- Liberty Mobility
  - *Rural Rideshare that partners with Medicaid and public transportation*

- Driverless Cars
  - *Issues with weather, roads, and access*

- Contracted mobility services

- Nebraska Department of Roads, NDOR, could become the *Nebraska Department of Transportation, NDOT*
QUESTIONS?
Thanks

- Further Public Information:
  - [http://nebraskatransit.com/](http://nebraskatransit.com/)