



2009 Community Grants

Transportation Reimbursement at Candler County (TRACC)

Organization: **Concerted Services, Inc. (CSI) Lead Agency**
Candler County NORC Program

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The TRACC Program or Transportation Reimbursement at Candler County is designed for older adults who cannot drive or who have transportation challenges. The program's goal is to make it easier for seniors to get around, and remove the financial constraints associated with travel. The program allows Candler County residents to arrange for their own transportation with the knowledge that they can pay for services using the vouchers. TRACC will serve up to 50 residents of Candler County who are age 60 and older and have expressed a need for transportation assistance.

Participants in the TRACC Program purchase a booklet of reimbursement vouchers (printed in triplicate copies) for \$10.00. The book of vouchers has a maximum book value of \$100. Every participant may buy a book of vouchers worth \$100 every 3 months to be spent within a 6-month period. In a 12-month period, the maximum value of vouchers for each senior is \$400. Before receiving their first voucher booklet, participants fill out an intake form and participate in a program orientation. The orientation helps participants understand and feel more comfortable about the voucher procedure. After the orientation is completed, participants select someone who lives outside of their home to become their transportation service provider or driver. Participants are responsible for contacting the transportation providers to arrange for travel. Upon completion of a ride, the participant and transportation service provider will each submit their voucher portion to the Candler County NORC Office and a check is sent to the service provider within two weeks. In compliance with liability issues, drivers are paid for both the time spent on the trip as well as mileage.

Progress report: Transportation Reimbursement Voucher booklets have been designed, printed, and shipped to the NORC Office. The following forms have been created: Client and Volunteer Emergency Contact Information, Release of Liability in connection with volunteer involvement, Waiver and Assumption Risk Forms for client and volunteers, and a Travel Reporting Log. Two fliers to market TRACC have been created and distributed to existing NORC Participants through the October monthly mail-out packets and at the Concerted Services, Inc. Senior Center. Fliers have also been posted throughout the community at local pharmacies, doctor's offices, the library, and on several church bulletins. One article for advertisement has been submitted to the

local newspaper for publishing on October 21st. The Outreach Coordinator plans to submit additional promotions and advertisements on a regular basis. The NORC Outreach Coordinator has identified 10 participants and 7 drivers for TRACC. A program orientation session is scheduled for October 22nd to meet with these participants and drivers as a group, review forms and program guidelines, and distribute voucher booklets and Travel Reporting logs.

Coastal Georgia: Communities for All Ages

Organization: **Coastal Regional Commission (CRC)**
Planning & Governmental Services

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The **Coastal Communities for All Ages** project seeks to implement a series of “livability principles” including affordable and appropriate housing options, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options which together facilitate personal health independence and engagement in community life. This will be achieved by:

1. Assisting local governments to identify local needs relative to the growing numbers of elderly and persons with disabilities, and to develop strategic plans for their respective communities using a *Charrette* format;
2. Expanding the Regional Plan for Coastal Georgia to include guiding principles, identify strategies, and develop performance standards for regional *Communities of Excellence* as they relate to an aging population;
3. Provide technical assistance to the cities and counties in the region as they implement livable community strategies.

The CRC is facilitating a region-based process (Charrette) that engages a full range of stakeholders including policymakers and the development industry at-large to reshape the planning and design of communities. This regional Charrette provides an opportunity to bring stakeholders, planners, architects, leaders and policymakers together to identify key elements for creating communities for persons of all ages.

The work effort from the Charrette will strategically look at the implications of aging, develop a vision, and identify policies and model practices to address the housing, transportation, and healthy living needs of a growing older population and the needs of persons of all ages.

Progress Report: A site has been selected to design a *Community for All Ages*. This opportunity provides a hands-on approach to identify changes required in policies and ultimately assists to establish aging-in-place local planning laws. The model community is planned on property located in Darien, Georgia 10 miles from Brunswick. The site is approximately 20 acres of undeveloped property located one mile from exit 49 on Interstate 95 and a short walk to downtown Darien. The site is undisturbed wooded acres on top off a bluff overlooking the Cathead River and the Altamaha Delta beyond.

In addition to the developer, design and land use consultants, collaborative partnerships from disciplines and agencies to improve livable communities are underway and several key stakeholders have been identified:

- The City of Darien is providing the City of Darien's historic Trailhead Center building, located on 1st Street as the site to host the Charrette.
- Mercy Housing Southeast is committed to the project and is planning between 72 and 90 affordable rental units, for ages 55 and over.
- Gary Colberg, CEO of Southeast Georgia Medical Systems is appointing a task force to help identify and plan for needed facilities and services. Southeast Georgia Medical Systems is committed to provide those identified facilities and medical services on site.

The Charrette is planned for January 2010.

In addition to designing a *Community for All Ages*, the CRC and project team for the *Communities for All Ages* is working with the Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources to develop this site as a low-impact development. The project team has a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited professional (LEED®, AP) civil engineer who is implementing environmentally sensitive site planning and design techniques and taking a green infrastructure-based approach for stormwater management.

The CRC plans to utilize this development as a model development for *Communities of All Ages* and as a *Demonstration Project* for the Coastal Stormwater Supplement.

Note: LEED certification is the recognized standard for measuring sustainability. Achieving LEED certification is the best way to demonstrate that a project is truly "green." The LEED green building rating system -- developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington D.C. based, nonprofit coalition--- is designed to promote design and construction practices that reduce the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improve occupant health and well-being.

Identification of Unmet Needs for Environmental Supports in Housing and Communities of Georgia's Seniors

Organization: Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access

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The purpose of this one- year survey study is to investigate the effects of physical and social environmental factors on activity and participation outcomes of Georgia's seniors in home and community settings. This information will be used to identify and prioritize unmet needs for: 1) physical environmental modifications (including accessibility features, assistive devices and communication technologies) in home and community settings; and 2) social support services that will enable Georgia's seniors to successfully age in place, independently, safely and with the highest possible quality of life.

Progress Report: To date, a survey to identify the key environmental factors that act as barriers and facilitators to activity and participation of Georgia's seniors in home and community settings, has been developed and is currently undergoing pilot testing. The survey will be conducted by telephone and online in partnership with the Atlanta Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the Georgia Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Initiative and the Emory Center for Health in Aging to recruit older adults living in diverse types of housing (e.g., single family, condominium, apartment) and communities (i.e., urban, suburban, rural).

Caring for Georgia's Frail Elders

Organization: University of Georgia Institute of Gerontology

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Caring well for frail elders and those with advanced illness is one of society's greatest challenges. Despite countless efforts from the individual to the policy level, care for frail elders is often unsatisfactory, causing pain and heartache for older adults and their families. To extend the initiative "Georgia for a Lifetime" to its fullest, we must consider how to improve the care for this vulnerable population. The end-of-life care experience has a broad public health impact and people never forget the experience of their loved ones during this emotional time. Nursing home and hospice care have long been studied and regulated. However, palliative care has emerged in the past decade as a way to improve end-of-life care, and will be the primary focus of the proposed project. Palliative care is started earlier in an illness and treatment is tailored to meet the needs of the individual and the family. The goals of this proposal are two-fold: (1) To document the current state of palliative care services in Georgia, and (2) To develop recommendations so that improved care is available to more Georgians as we prepare for our aging population. To accomplish the first goal, we will examine the adequacy of the workforce and staff training needs related to palliative care by conducting statewide surveys representing hospitals, nursing homes, personal care service providers, and hospice organizations. We will also explore the palliative and end-of-life services the programs offer. Our final reports will summarize our survey findings, and provide other innovative recommendations, such as the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, the Green House, the new Evergreen initiative to support those living at home with advanced illness, and elder intentional communities.

Progress report: The hospital survey instrument has been developed, incorporating the guidelines outlined by Weisman and Meier (2008), based on *A Framework for Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality: A Consensus Report* (National Quality Forum). We have been in communication with researchers at Yale University and received the end-of-life educational needs assessment tool that they have been testing. We will use this web-based instrument for the training needs assessment so that we can also compare results with the Yale study. The research assistant is in place. The IRB application for the project has been submitted. Facility lists have been compiled and we are ready to begin as soon as we receive IRB approval.