**Responding to COVID-19: Rural/Remote Alternate Transportation for Seniors (ATS)**

**January 2021 Funding Application**

The Medically At-Risk Driver (MARD) Centre is inviting proposals from not-for-profit alternate transportation for seniors (ATS) service providers in rural and remote areas of the province. This funding call is to support rural and remote not-for-profit ATS Service Providers in their delivery of transportation services to seniors in their service area. The maximum amount of funding per successful applicant is $25,000.

**Background**

The MARD Centre is located in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta. Alternate transportation for seniors (ATS) is one of MARD’s priority areas of research. Transportation is essential to maintaining the health, independence, and social inclusion of seniors. Transportation plays an important role in the lives of seniors and lack of access to transportation is associated with lack of access to medical and essential services, as well as loss of independence and increases in social isolation. Research undertaken by MARD demonstrates that seniors living in rural and remote communities in the province are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to access to alternate forms of transportation as compared to their urban counterparts (MARD, 2017)[[1]](#footnote-1).

The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the associated reduction in access to services due to temporary closures of services has had a negative impact on the health and well-being of seniors in the province (e.g., delayed medical treatment, access to essential services). Although the coronavirus (COVID-19) is still with us, the demand for ATS services continues. We anticipate that this demand will increase over the coming months with the arrival of the warmer spring weather, changes in restrictions, and increased vaccinations. This RFP is designed to support not-for-profit ATS service providers in rural and remote locations in the provision of transportation services to seniors. Proposals that emphasize addressing challenges that have emerged or have been exacerbated due to COVID-19 are preferred.

**Project Goals**

To support existing not-for-profit ATS service providers in rural and remote areas of Alberta in:

1. meeting the increased demand for medical and essential transportation during and following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions;
2. establishing and/or strengthening collaboration with other rural/remote ATS service providers, community organizations, FCSS, and/or municipalities within your region to enhance ATS service delivery; and
3. developing sustainability plans to ensure ongoing operations beyond this grant funding.

**Proposal Requirements**

Proposals will be accepted from interested not-for-profit ATS Service Providers in the province of Alberta who meet the following criteria:

1. You are situated in a rural and/or remote community in Alberta with a population of 10,000 or less;
2. You are currently providing service to seniors 65 years of age and older;
3. The community/communities you serve has/have limited or no transportation options for seniors available (e.g., public transit);
4. You are experiencing increased demand for medical and/or essential transportation service from seniors 65 years of age and older following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions; and
5. You are interested in and are committed to strengthening collaboration with other rural/remote ATS service providers, FCSS, community organizations, and/or municipalities to enhance ATS service delivery in your region.

Distance from the Project community to an urban center for health care access will also be considered.

**Previous applicants to the Responding to COVID-19 Fall 2020-2021 call for proposals are ineligible to apply.**

All applicants are required to complete their application using the proposal template, with submission of an electronic copy of your application to [mard@ualberta.ca](mailto:mard@ualberta.ca). **All applicant information will be confidential.**

**The deadline for proposal submission is 1700 hours, March 31, 2021.**

It is the Applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the application arrives on or before the specified time.

**Notification of Successful Applicants will be April 15, 2021.**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**Organization Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Address of Organization:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Executive Director (Or Signing Delegate) Contact Information:**

**Contact Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Contact Telephone:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Contact Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

***Project Title:***

Click or tap here to enter text.

***Years in Operation:*** Click or tap here to enter text.

***Administration***

**# of Office Staff:** Click or tap here to enter text.

***Vehicles***

**# and Type of Vehicles:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Type and # of Drivers: Paid**Click or tap here to enter text.

**Volunteer** Click or tap here to enter text.

***Clients***

**Approximate # of Clients 65+ Using Your Service in the Past Year:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Average # of Rides Provided Overall in Past Year:** Click or tap here to enter text.

(Please specify if the number of rides is one-way or round trip)

**List of organizations (e.g., ATS service providers, FCSS, community organizations, and/or municipalities) within your community and/or region that you are currently collaborating with or planning to engage in further collaborative partnerships:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Geographic location(s) to be served through this funding:** Click or tap here to enter text.

***Description of Project/Need for Funding***

**Please provide a brief description of the following:**

1. **Your organization’s need for funding to enable continued ATS service provision in your community and/or region during and/or following COVID-19 *(e.g., lack of other ATS service providers in your service area/region, distance to urban centres for urgent medical services, etc.).***

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **How the funding will be used to meet the transportation needs of seniors in your community/region during and/or following COVID-19 *(e.g., the type of rides anticipated [e.g., medical, essential trips], # or rides anticipated per month); anticipated destinations (e.g., out of town/in town medical trips; trips for essential services such as groceries and prescriptions; home delivery of groceries/prescriptions, etc.).***

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **How the funding will be used to initiate and/or strengthen coordination with other ATS service providers, FCSS, community organizations, and/or municipalities in your region that serve to enhance the efficiency of ATS service delivery during and/or following COVID-19 *(e.g., partnership with a senior’s centre or FCSS organization in booking rides, volunteer recruitment and management).***

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a description of your organization’s past, current, or planned collaboration with other ATS service providers, FCSS, community organizations, and/or municipalities in your region that serve to enhance ATS service delivery during and/or following COVID-19.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a description of how your organization will work toward a sustainable funding model using new or existing collaborative partnerships *(e.g., sharing a volunteer coordinator position, shared staff to schedule rides, fee for service models).***

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Provide a description of how your organization will partner with others to ensure that transportation is being prioritized based on the greatest need regionally *(e.g., factors that will be considered to prioritize individual rides).***

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Total amount of funding requested:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Which outcome(s) will this funding address (select all that apply) and what are the anticipated impacts?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Outcomes** | **What are the anticipated impacts?** |
|  | Enabling Albertans 65+ to have **their medical transportation needs** met(e.g., urgent medical appointments such as chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, retinal clinic appointments met during COVID-19 and/or regular medical appointments that have been postponed due to COVID-19) | 1. Number of individuals 65+ served through this MARD COVID-19 grant is anticipated to be:   **Anticipated Monthly Average:**  Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | Enabling Albertans 65+ to have **their essential needs** met (e.g., grocery pickup and home delivery of groceries/ prescriptions met that have been compromised due to COVID-19) | 1. Number of individuals 65+ served through this MARD COVID-19 grant is anticipated to be:   **Anticipated Monthly Average:**  Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | Strengthened coordination/ collaboration with other ATS service providers, FCSS, community organizations, and/or municipalities in your region | 1. Provide a detailed description on **your coordination/ collaboration activities with ATS service providers, community organizations, and/or municipalities** in your region that has the potential to enhance your ATS services (*This may include established Letters of Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, written/formal protocols, participation and/or leadership demonstrated in other areas*).   Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | The financial sustainability of ATS providers is strengthened in your region | 1. Provide a description of how financial sustainability of ATS service will be strengthened in your region (e.g., sharing organizational resources for booking and managing rides; collaborating on developing and implementing marketing strategies; attaining critical resources such as PPE supplies; etc.)   Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | Other (Provide description)  Click or tap here to enter text. | 1. Number of individuals 65+ served through this MARD COVID-19 grant is anticipated to be:   **Anticipated Monthly Average:**  Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Project Budget**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expenses** | **Description** | **Requested Budget** |
| ***Service Delivery*** | | |
| Administration | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| Personnel  (e.g., Drivers, support staff) | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| Coordination and/or Collaboration Activities  (e.g., staff time devoted to meeting with partners, formalizing agreements, protocols, participating in provincial and regional communities of practice, etc.) | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| Financial Sustainability Plan  (e.g., staff time devoted to reviewing examples of best practices, attending learning sessions, meeting with business experts and potential funders, etc.) | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| Operational Costs  (e.g., Mileage, gas, parking, other service costs) | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| ***Supplies*** | | |
| Masks, gloves, sanitizer,  Plexiglas barriers, etc. | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| ***Other*** | | |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | $Amount |
| **Total Project Budget** |  | **$** Amount |

**Funding provided by MARD through a grant from the Ministry of Seniors and Housing,**

**Government of Alberta**

1. Alberta Provincial Transportation Needs Assessment. (2017). <https://www.ualberta.ca/medically-at-risk-driver-centre/media-library/transportation-needs-assessments/alberta-provincial-transportation-needs-assessment---alberta-2017.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)