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Subject: Grants to Make Transportation Planning More Inclusive

January 22, 2016

Funding Opportunity: Inclusive Transportation Planning Grants

Conference call to answer questions about the grants: Jan. 27, 2016

Application deadline: March 18, 2016

Your organization can now apply for a new round of ACL-funded demonstration grants. The grants seek to make transportation more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and older adults by giving consumers a voice in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems.

Learn more about the grants and the conference call at www.transitplanning4all.org.

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Inclusive Transportation Planning Grants in Action: Giving Riders a Voice and Making Dialysis Less Stressful

ACL's Eric Weakly and the Federal Transit Administration's Rik Opstelten describe how Ride Connection in Portland, Ore. is using its inclusive transportation planning grant to make getting to and from dialysis less stressful.

Dialysis patients generally receive treatment several times per week, and missing a session can have real health consequences. Unfortunately, getting to treatment can be a challenge, and programs that try to address the problem often do not understand the unique needs of these patients. This can create as many problems as the program seeks to resolve.

For many dialysis patients, rides that do not show up and waiting hours to go home are familiar experiences.

As Troyce Crucchiola, a dialysis patient in Portland, OR describes it, "our lives are so much about hurrying up to wait."

Often the problem is a disconnect between those developing and running the program and the consumers who are using it.

"All of the people in transportation know that they move dialysis patients, they know that we go to and from treatment, the drivers know that they have people in their cars they bring home from dialysis that don't look good, that don't feel good,

that just want to go home...” Crucchiola said in an interview with Portland Radio Project, “but as far as the process and what we go through and what is involved, they don’t know that.”

What if those developing and running the programs did know?

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