



SNAPSHOT

SUPPLEMENTAL

TRANSPORTATION

PROGRAMS for

SENIORS

Prepared by the Beverly Foundation

REPORT ON STPs IN AMERICA (STAR SEARCH 2000-2003)

The emergence of STPs is a bi-product of this condition of “transportation dependency”. Transportation dependency, to which STPs respond, is not only a result of people having to give up their keys. The same limitations, which may have forced them to give up their keys, can also make it difficult for them to use public and paratransit. In sum, STPs provide the options that enable seniors to stop driving. They supplement or complement the efforts of family members, neighbors and friends. They fill in the gaps when traditional transit options are not available or able to accommodate the special needs of seniors.

In most instances, discussions of senior transportation problems and solutions begin with senior drivers and efforts to enable seniors to continue driving as long as possible. This report on *STPs in America* begins with the assumption that seniors who do not drive, for whatever reason, need to have transportation options to get where to they need to go. It also assumes that family members may not be readily available to provide necessary transportation services.

The report summarizes the purposes, activities and outcomes of effort to identify, document and understand STPs (Supplemental Transportation Programs for seniors) in the United States. It includes a large body of data on more than 400 STPs (at least one in each of the 50 states) from STAR Search activities that were undertaken from 2000-2003.

STAR Search and STAR Awards for Excellence receive special attention in the report.

STAR Search is an annual survey of STPs in America. It is undertaken through national networks of organizations in aging and senior services. Data from each of the more than 400 respondents to STAR

Search is included in the comprehensive database which produced data for the report.

STAR Awards for Excellence are a result of STAR Search and are given annually. At the end of 2003, 18 winners had been selected. The report includes profiles and program reviews of the most recent winners of STAR Awards for Excellence.

The report gives considerable attention to the data generated from STAR Search. The chart that follows provides examples of key data included in the report.

Key Data

Location: **40%** target rural areas; **21%** urban; **13%** suburban; **28%** mixed
Longevity: **50%** established since the mid-1980s
Organization: **80%** nonprofit
Purpose: **61%** medical; **42%** social; **19%** religious; **35%** any purpose
Availability: **58%** daytime; **50%** weekdays
Service: **71%** door-to-door service; **19%** curb-to curb; **10%** fixed route
Escorts: **47%** provide (or can provide) escort services
Vehicles: **42%** use autos; **50%** use vans; **29%** use buses; **6%** use taxis
Rider Fees: **57%** no fees; **21%** flat rate fee; **11%** mileage rate; **8%** sliding fee
Drivers: **34%** volunteers only; **42%** paid only; **20%** mix of both
Funding: **63%** grants; **51%** fees/donations from riders; **18%** tax revenue
Problems: **41%** finances; **40%** insurance; **36%** driver problem

Data: Beverly Foundation STAR Search Survey Results 2000-2003

The section on Concepts and Practices includes issues such as: (1) transportation dependency, (2) a transportation template, (3) the 5 A's of senior friendly transportation, (4) the STPs Model, (5) the cost/maintenance continuum, (6) volunteer friends approach, and (7) transportation as "the tie that binds". The section on The Pilot "Volunteer Friends" Project describes the successful model and economical process demonstrated by the 18-month pilot STPs. It also presents informational and technical materials for planning and start-up activities. The section on STPs, An Agenda for Action discusses the way that low-cost STPs (especially those with volunteers) meet present and future challenges of providing transportation to seniors.

In summary, *STPs In America* continues the discussion of STPs and their importance to the nation's senior service and transportation agenda, presents new concepts and practices related to "senior friendly" transportation, and recognizes the hard work of hundreds of STPs throughout the country.

STPs in America is an update of an earlier report on STPs titled *Supplemental Transportation Programs for Seniors* published in 2000, which identified and documented more than 237 community-based organizations and groups that provided transportation services to older adults in communities throughout the United States. The report was the product of the first STAR Search survey and included a discussion of the results of the survey and introduced the first winners of STAR Awards for Excellence.

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