

September 2, 2020

TO: Jamie Errickson

FR: Susan Ramsey

RE: Transportation Grants (2) Awarded to COA

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The Natick Council on Aging has received notification of grant award from BayPath Elder Services (5,000) and Metropolitan Area Planning Council (32,472) to provide Taxicab transportation to non-COVID related medical appointments outside of Metrowest. Due to COVID-19, the COA suspended its volunteer medical transportation service. The volunteer transportation program provided an average of 984 trips annually (FY19 & FY20 data) for senior, veteran and disabled individuals to medical appointments in Boston, Waltham, Burlington, Chestnut Hill, & Worcester. About 80 individuals with limited family and/or social supports received rides each year. Their chronic and emerging health conditions (chemotherapy, dialysis) were attended to, post-surgery care provided, and routine appointments (diabetes, dental, counseling) maintained with the help of the volunteer driver program.

The grants will allow the COA to connect Natick Residents 60 years of age and older with their medical providers. Providing this continuity of care addresses not only our resident's immediate health needs but also bolsters their overall mental health and well-being.

The COA and JFK Transportation has a long-standing history of working together. Both organizations will abide by safety guidelines as published by the CDC, State of Massachusetts and Natick Board of Health to ensure driver and passenger safety.

Can acceptance of the grant award be added to an upcoming select board agenda?

Funds will be directed to the COA Donation Account. (23074-484060)