

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Mobility Coalition****Federal Tax ID: 01-0704433****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

# Alaska Mobility Coalition - Alaska's Veterans Transportation Project

**State Funding Requested: \$100,000****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Would provide discounted bus fares to newly discharged service personnel and their families as they make their transition to civilian life.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$100,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

*The Alaska legislature has not funded transportation projects for veterans.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Alaska Mobility Coalition, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration, Alaska Department of Transportation and Alaska Department of Veterans Affairs, would provide discounted bus fares and bus passes to newly discharged service personnel and their families as they make their transition to civilian life. In addition, the AMC would work with the above agencies to develop a statewide call center to assist veterans with their transportation needs.

\$25,000 - discounted bus fare program.

\$75,000 - statewide call center to assist veterans with their transportation needs

The funding would be use as part of a state match for a federal grant that will be awarded in summer of 2012.

**Project Timeline:**

We anticipate that the project would begin in September 2012 and would end in September 2014

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Alaska Mobility Coalition

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	David M. Levy
Title:	Executive Director
Address:	3705 Arctic Blvd, #1777 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone Number:	(907)240-2702
Email:	alaskamc@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

<i>For use by Co-chair Staff Only:</i>
3:16 PM 5/2/2012

## **Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) Site Request for Participation (SRFP)**

### **Program Introduction**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Healthcare System provides primary care, specialized care, and related medical and social support to serve America's Veterans' health and wellness needs. To do this, VHA needs to be a comprehensive, integrated healthcare system providing excellence in health care value, excellence in service as defined by its customers, and excellence in education and research. To enhance the VHA system, the Central Business Office (CBO) is launching a new transportation program for Veterans facing barriers to treatment to enhance existing programs implemented by local VA Medical Centers (VAMCs).

VA especially recognizes the problems Veterans who are visually impaired, elderly, or immobilized due to disease or disability, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, face in traveling to access VA health care.

To work toward providing these Veterans with the most convenient and timely access to transportation services, VA's vision is to explore the establishment of a network of community transportation service providers that could include Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's); community and commercial transportation providers; federal, state and local government transportation services as well as non-profits, such as United We Ride, operating within each VISN or even local facility.

This initiative will not replace current activities, but instead will begin to collaborate with Veterans Transportation Network (VTN), Voluntary Services, VSO's, existing internal transportation partners and local transportation providers. The goal of VTS is to improve and enhance veteran transportation services to improve access to VA health care.

If your facility is interested in participating in the Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) Pilot Program please complete the following questions.

**VISN 20/ Alaska VA Healthcare System:**

**Date: 07 June, 2011**

**VA Facility Points of Contact:**

**Scott Kelter, Strategic Planner**

<b>Primary and secondary VTS Program Managers:</b>	<b>Judy Thompson, Dorothy Miller</b>
<b>VTN POC:</b>	<b>Judy Thompson, Chief, Voluntary Service</b>
<b>Medical Center and VISN Vehicle Fleet Managers:</b>	<b>Dorothy Miller, Facilities Management Service</b>
<b>Medical Center and VISN Fiscal POC:</b>	<b>James Else, Chief, Fiscal Service</b>
<b>VTS Executive Sponsor</b>	<b>Alex Spector, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System</b>

**1. Overview:**

**The Alaska VA Healthcare System is pleased to participate in the Veterans Transportation Service Program. This initiative will be funded for FY 2012 and FY 2013 and future budgets will include periodic refresh of program resources at the VAMC/ VISN level. Start-up funding for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011 will also be included.**

**The Alaska VA Volunteer Transportation Program is run completely by Voluntary Service and Facility Management Service. There are three government fleet vans used to transport Veterans between the main clinic in Anchorage and origin/return points in Glennallen, Kenai, and Wasilla.**

**2. Target Geographical Region:**

**The travel destinations, fixed route and / or point to point will be: Remote (“Bush”) Alaska, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. The embedded PowerPoint slide below shows the approximate geographic distribution of Veterans throughout the Alaska catchment area.**



### 3. Access to Care:

The Alaska VA Healthcare System will ensure that acquired vans are specifically equipped to accommodate ambulatory and non ambulatory Veterans. These accommodations will allow for transport of Veterans with or without disabilities.

How will your proposed VTS program improve access to care for Veterans who are visually impaired, elderly, or immobilized due to disease or disability?

VTS seeks to improve access to care for veterans living in remote and rural areas as well as those who face barriers in traveling to access VA health care. Approximately 85% of Veterans in Alaska reside in boroughs with a VA site of primary care. This proposal will address those Veterans who do not live within driving distance of a VA facility, and are not otherwise eligible for VA-funded travel. It also addresses the travel needs of those living within driving distance, but have limited access to care due to travel-related barriers.

Travel from remote regions of Alaska to Anchorage can be extremely costly, time-consuming, and hazardous. There are many communities that have no road access, limited access for aircraft, or no access by a vehicle larger than a snowmobile. They are faced with hazardous aviation conditions due to weather and terrain. The distances, flight times, aircraft size and maximum allowable takeoff gross weight all make timely, safe transportation of Veterans at these remote sites difficult. Improving access to care for Veterans in these “bush” locations can be accomplished by contracting with commercial bush aviation services, partnering with DoD aviation resources, or developing internal capabilities through the purchase or lease of suitable aircraft and hiring of aviation staff.

Local travel within the Anchorage area can be challenging to many Veterans, particularly those with certain physical, mental, or emotional needs. These factors may prevent completion of some appointments, and possibly hinder Veterans from enrolling for care.

**4. Estimated (EOFY 10) Veterans in Target Geographical Region:**

	<b>Veteran Population</b>	<b>Enrollees</b>	<b>Users</b>	<b>Enrollee Market Share</b>
<b>All Alaska</b>	<b>77021</b>	28067	15455	<b>36%</b>
<b>Other Alaska</b>	<b>14696</b>	<b>3035</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>31272</b>	<b>13546</b>	<b>7893</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Fairbanks</b>	<b>11900</b>	<b>4128</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Mat-Su</b>	<b>10284</b>	<b>4220</b>	<b>2477</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Kenai</b>	<b>6254</b>	<b>2374</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Juneau</b>	<b>2615</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>29%</b>

<<PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK>>

