

# This Month in Human Services Transportations

Today we are finding ourselves working under a different environment under Covid-19. While under these new circumstances, the work continues to provide much needed programs for the population of older adults and individuals with disabilities. We greatly appreciate your efforts in continuing to provide much needed services to our community. Thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Older Americans Month Celebration!** The Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2020 is "Make Your Mark". This theme was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. Communities, organizations, and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year's theme highlights the difference everyone can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities. For more details, click [here](#) (Administration for Community Living, 2020).



**Congratulations to Chandler Gilbert Arc (CGARC)**, one of five NPO's providing employment opportunities to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities selected nationwide to participate in the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON). NEON is a new initiative of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) within the U.S. Department of Labor. CGARC will receive technical support from a pool of National Subject Matter Experts, to serve as peer mentors in provider transformation and customized employment. The goal of participation in this National initiative by the 5 participating organizations will be to develop a Strategic Plan to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for the individuals we serve. Phase 1 of this plan is intended to last 6 months, with 2 subsequent phases in 2021 and 2022, where the original five local organizations from year one will serve as mentors to other organizations moving toward this type of service change.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 physical distancing measures, trainings are postponed until we receive further guidance. Please check the MAG Sub Regional Mobility Managers webpage for updates on trainings at the following [link](#).

## RESOURCES

### COVID-19:

- [Gov. Ducey Updated Guidance For Arizonans](#)
- [ACL's Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

### FTA Posts:

- [New Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19](#)

### MAG Human Services Transportation:

- [MAG Connect-A-Ride](#)
- [MAG Transportation Ambassador Program](#)
- [Sub-Regional Mobility Managers](#)

### Section 5310 Grant Program:

- [Elderly and Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Transportation Ad Hoc Committee](#)
- [Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan](#)

## Continuously Improving!

Do you have an idea to make this newsletter better? Let us know by submitting your request to [HRocha@azmag.gov](mailto:HRocha@azmag.gov).

The Maricopa Association of Governments' Heat Relief Network officially launched May 1, 2020. The Heat Relief Network is a regional partnership of the MAG, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, the faith-based community, and businesses. Each year, MAG coordinates the mapping of the Heat Relief Network, a network of partners providing hydration stations, refuge locations, and water donation sites throughout the Valley with the goal of preventing heat-related illnesses and deaths among vulnerable populations. For more information, click [here](#).

## TRANSPORTATION AMBASSADOR PROGRAM - TAP

At the March 3, 2020 Transportation Ambassador Program meeting, participants networked, heard presentations from a variety of speakers, and engaged in a counting trips activity. Presenters included Audra Koester Thomas, MAG, who provided a Regional Transportation Plan update, Guillermo Gonzalez, Valley Metro, provide information and updates on paratransit service, and Jutta Ulrich, Arizona Caregiver Coalition, shared resources for caregivers in the regions. For the Agency Spotlight topic, Henriette Content-Tavor and Jules Hyde, Scottsdale Training & Rehabilitation Services (STARS), provided information, best practices, and the successes of the program. To view the meeting materials, or for more information about TAP, click [here](#).



## CONTACT CORNER



Hello! I am Hezequias Rocha, the new Human Services Transportation Planning Intern. I joined MAG Human Services in mid-April and since then I have been helping the everyday work of Human Services to improve processes to better assist sub recipients, agencies, mobility managers and staff. My goal here is to help the Human Services Division to provide our customers with the best service that meets

your needs and our purpose as a division of MAG. I recently graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's of Science of Planning in Urban Planning and I am excited to put all my years of learning for the service of MAG customers. I am motivated to learn more and help to improve the transportation systems and networks for elderly and individuals with disabilities.

Hezequias Rocha  
Human Services Transportation Planning Intern at MAG.  
[HRocha@azmag.gov](mailto:HRocha@azmag.gov)

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## FEATURED STORIES



The National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM), supported by the Federal Transit Administration, has released the application for the Community Mobility Design Challenge 2020. These grants will support communities seeking to create innovative mobility solutions for

community members who face transportation barriers in advancing their personal well-being. Grants up to \$25,000 will be available. NCMM staff will guide communities through this process. You can learn more about the grants and download the application [here](#). (The National Center for Mobility Management, 2020).

U.S. Department of Transportation Inclusive Design Challenge - Live Webinar! Please join the U.S. DOT for a live webinar on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM E.T. to learn about the Inclusive Design Challenge. This webinar is intended for anyone interested in submitting a proposal, supporting a team as an advisor, or looking to learn more about the Challenge. The Challenge will make up to \$5,000,000 in cash prizes available to designers who develop solutions to enable individuals with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities to use automated vehicles. More details [here](#).



The Arizona Complete Health and Care1st Health Plan, both part of the Centene family, have joined together to offer \$250,000 in COVID-19 support grants to providers and community partners to help address the impact of the novel coronavirus on Arizona communities. The grants will support organizations that are negatively impacted by COVID-19, and to meet emerging community health needs and other unique challenges brought about by the virus. For more information, click [here](#).

Would you like to share a great accomplishment performed by your agency or staff? Submit your stories to [HRocha@azmag.gov](mailto:HRocha@azmag.gov) to be featured here in our next newsletter.

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