

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING
WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR**

Agency/Department/Organization Name: The Center @ Jenks Rest (Tippecanoe County Council on Aging, Inc.)

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Contact Person and Position: Catherine Moran, Executive Director

Program Name: Care-A-Van

Funding Category:

Capital Improvement

Public Facilities/Infrastructure _____ **Housing** _____ **Historic Preservation** _____
Economic Development _____ **Other** X

Public Services (Limited to 15% of the Grant)

Homeless Services _____ **Elderly Services** X **Self-Sufficiency\Work**
Related\Health Related _____ **Other** _____

Program/Activity Description *(Please include target population to be served and what you anticipate to be accomplished by this program or activity).*

The Center @ Jenks Rest's Care-A-Van program is a specialized "door through door" (demand based) assisted transportation system which serves seniors 60 and older and disabled people of all ages in Tippecanoe County. We provide transportation to medical appointments, pharmacies, congregate meal sites, grocery stores and social service agencies through the use of lift-equipped vans. All appointments are set Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Our objectives are to increase the mobility of those individuals in our community who 1) do not own a personal vehicle 2) do not have access to friends or family who are willing or able to take them to their appointments during the week and 3) are on fixed incomes which makes funding transportation costs (bus, taxi, etc.) a struggle. With the cost of living increasing each year – those on fixed incomes are finding it more and more difficult to pay for the necessities of life. This is where the value of our service is truly realized. Without our transportation most of those we serve would be unable to get to important destinations.

In 2012 we strive to serve approximately 40 West Lafayette residents with 800 one way trips. We advertize our service through our brochure and word of mouth.

Our grant request of \$5000 will provide us with 2½% of our budget for 2012. We are also seeking other funding from new donor sources.

Amount of Funding Requested: \$5000

Anticipated Number of West Lafayette residents to be served: 40

Are you meeting your goals for the number of West Lafayette residents served in current program year? ___ Yes ___ **X** No

If No, please explain:

We have lost a number of riders due to illness or death and we have not replaced those numbers. We have been having difficulty paying for this program as each year the costs go up but the donations do not keep pace. We are transporting individuals who do not have extra dollars for transportation.

Total program/activity budget for last calendar/program year (2011): \$200,141.26

Total agency budget for last calendar/program year (2011): \$509,690.80

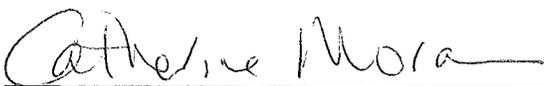
Other Comments:

Our mission is to "encourage seniors to actively achieve their highest quality of life." We believe this statement comes to life through our Care-A-Van program because no one wants to be a burden on others or to feel trapped in their homes. Seniors and disabled people want the freedom to choose when they go to the doctor or they want to be able to make their own choices at the grocery store. That is why Care-A-Van is a valuable service to the seniors/disabled people of Tippecanoe County. We are the only donation based transportation option in this area and this makes us a lifeline for those who are on very low, fixed incomes. Older adults are one of the most transportation-disadvantaged populations. The Administration on Aging estimates that "21% of Americans over age 65 do not drive. Almost 50% of older non-drivers stay home on any given day because they lack transportation options. Other non-drivers have a decreased ability to participate in the community and the economy. Compared with older drivers, non-drivers make 15% fewer trips to a doctor and 59% fewer shopping trips." Care-A-Van is needed in our community.

We have determined it costs \$10 to \$20 for each one way ride however we are grateful if our riders give us \$1-\$3 per ride. We have been working with Newton Oil Company and their discounted gas price has helped a lot. The 10-20 cent per gallon discount has helped but with the cost of gas staying steady in the \$3+ range we haven't been able to see any major savings. This year our relationship with City Bus has provided us with proper maintenance on our vans. In the past we had to have our vans serviced at local businesses ill-equipped to accommodate the intricacies of our lift equipped vehicles. City Bus' ACCESS vans are identical to ours so now we have professional service available to keep our vans running as well as possible.

We currently employ 1 full-time Care-A-Van manager and 6 part-time drivers. Our fleet consists of four medium sized transit vans and one low floor minivan (each of these vehicles is equipped with a lift). We did receive an INDOT grant in 2010 for another minivan which will allow us to save on gas costs as we balance individual runs with larger, multiple rider runs. However, we have yet to receive this van.

An important change of understanding occurred this year. We had been under the assumption that since we are a 5310 specialized transportation service (INDOT classification) we cannot charge for our service. However, we have now learned that our inability to charge for our services results not from INDOT restrictions but because we received Title IIIB funding through Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Partnerships.



Catherine Moran
Executive Director

Date: 1.23.12