

Region 4 East Alabama HSCTP Annual Report 2022



Prepared by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

2021 5310, 5317 Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2022

- Chambers County Commission – Section 5310
This application requested replacement of 2 vehicles to provide meal delivery to the elderly and disabled clients in LaFayette and provide transportation for all of Chambers County.
- Greater Etowah 310 Board – Section 5310
This application requested an additional vehicle to provide transportation to disabled individuals through Etowah County Rural Transportation Services and Gadsden City Services.
- The Learning Tree, Inc – Section 5310 requested replacement of 3 vehicles which transport children from group homes to school, doctor’s appointments, and shopping and recreational outings.
- Sterling Co., Inc. – Section 5310
This application requested funds to purchase 4 vehicles and 13 GPS trackers to improve access to on demand, after hours, and weekend transportation services for citizens with mental and/or physical disabilities.

Stake Holders Meetings for Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plan

Completed:

- Updated stake holders list from previous plan
- Mailed surveys in December 2021
- Held 3 stake holder meetings along with quarterly RPO meetings in January 2022

Those that participated in the survey:

- Alexander City Housing Authority, Tallapoosa County
- Ashland Housing Authority, Clay County
- Calhoun County Schools
- Circle of Care Center for Families, Chambers and Randolph Counties
- The City of Piedmont, Calhoun County
- Coosa County Commission
- Encompass Health, Etowah County
- Etowah County Rural Transportation
- Floyd Cherokee Medical Center, Cherokee County
- Lanett Housing Authority, Chambers County
- Roanoke Dialysis (Fresenius), Randolph County

- RSVP of Etowah County
- Tanner Medical Center of East Alabama, Randolph County

Findings from Surveys:

- Remove Alex City Taxi and shuttle from Tallapoosa County Private Transit Systems
- Need for rural route transportation in Tallapoosa County
- Strategy suggestion of non-profit transportation for Tallapoosa County
- Add Premier Cabulance (non-emergency medical transport) to Chambers County Private Transit Systems
- Remove B&L Taxi from the Etowah County Private Transit Systems
- Update Etowah County Rural Transportation to: demand response service that is an advance reservation shared ride public transportation service facilitated through Etowah County Commission. All vehicles are equipped with wheelchair lifts or ramps. Etowah County's rural transportation operates weekdays between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm.
- Add non-emergent transportation for medical appointments and dialysis to Needs Not Currently Addressed for Randolph County
- Elderly and disabled residents had to depend more on family and delivery service during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- PPE and sanitizer were a need during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Limited staff was a barrier during Covid-19 pandemic.

Action Items:

- Continue to update stake holders list with new businesses/programs
- Continue to coordinate with Gadsden MPO for additional stakeholders
- Have annual stakeholder meetings along with quarterly RPO meetings
- Find other methods of distributing surveys to receive better turnout
- Find needs that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic

Human Service Coordinated Transportation Plan 2020-2023

Completed:

- Completed plan in February 2020
- Plan adopted by the East Alabama Planning and Development Commission September 2020
- Attended ATPA Roadshow in Jacksonville December 8, 2020

Action Items:

- Continue to improve plan maps by adding popular destinations (i.e. post offices, airports, city/town hall, hospitals, other services)

- Continue to gather socioeconomic data for the region to better improve hot spot areas in need of transportation services
- Continue to coordinate with transit services in Gadsden, Calhoun County, and Tallapoosa County to update fixed routes and transit descriptions as necessary
- Use access to mySidewalk dashboard to make more dynamic maps of the area as well as have more up-to-date census data for all counties in the Region