



HOP's New Transportation Initiative

Health Outreach Partners' (HOP) new *Transportation Initiative (TI)* aims to determine the impact of transportation barriers on health care costs and to strengthen patient-centered transportation solutions. The initiative is supported by funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

BACKGROUND

In any given year, at least 3.6 million Americans do not obtain medical care because of a lack of transportation. While distance to health care services is often considered a problem for rural communities, the lack of transportation impacts many different populations. Evidence shows that access to reliable transportation correlates with improved health outcomes and increases the utilization of services. Moreover, in the wake of the Affordable Care Act, the national focus around healthcare access continues to shift from enrollment into health insurance to ensuring access and utilization of health care services, of which transportation plays a key role. Efforts to strengthen patient-centered transportation solutions are needed more than ever.

Transportation has been a key focus of HOP's work. Findings from bi-annual needs assessments consistently show that lack of transportation is one of the most prevalent barriers to accessing care among underserved populations. Through its *Transportation Models that Work* project, HOP identified six diverse communities with innovative approaches to addressing transportation as a barrier to care, and developed policy recommendations aimed at highlighting opportunities for meaningful transportation access.

CURRENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER TO CARE

The RIDES TO WELLNESS COMMUNITY SCAN will quantify financial impacts of missed appointments.

- **National Survey:** Implementation of a national survey of health centers, Veteran's Administration Medical Centers, and private providers to identify the impact of lack of transportation on healthcare costs. Key partners include the FTA, the Veteran's Health Administration, and United Healthcare.
- **Community Profiles:** Development of profiles illustrating local communities that are adopting transportation solutions that show promising opportunities for return on investment.

The "NOT JUST A RIDE" PROJECT will strengthen existing efforts at health centers.

- **Quality Improvement Toolkit:** Development of a toolkit for health centers to support efforts on planning and implementing services to address patients' transportation barriers.
- **Learning Collaboratives:** Establishment of three (3) state-based, peer-learning collaboratives for health centers, Primary Care Associations, clinic consortia, and other key partners to identify strategies, share successes, and document lessons learned.
- **Transportation Resource Maps:** Development of three (3) state-based, interactive maps that include transportation resources and services for learning collaborative participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Transportation Initiative, please contact Sonia Lee, Manager of Client Services and Communications, at 510-268-0091 or sonia@outreach-partners.org.