



Maine Council on Aging
PO Box 988
Brunswick, ME 04011
207-592-9972

February 13, 2024

Carter Friend, Executive Director
York County Community Action Corporation
6 Spruce Street
Sanford, ME 04073

Dear Mr. Friend,

On behalf of the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA), I am pleased to voice my support for York County Community Action Corporation's proposal for funding from the Federal Transit Administration's ICAM Program to support the **Mobility Management Hub's for Maine Project**. This project will enable York County and the state of Maine to design a coordination approach that is tailored to Maine's unique needs and policy landscape.

The MCOA is a statewide multi-disciplinary organization that influences policy, educates stakeholders, and advances initiatives to support healthy, engaged, and secure aging. Our policy priorities include affordable housing options, reliable transportation, access to supports, services, and care in the right setting at the right time, and food and income security. Our Executive Director serves on the State's Public Transit Advisory Council. I lead the MCOA's Transportation Equity for Healthy Aging. This project seeks to increase the transportation options for older people throughout Maine through increased collaboration between all providers and volunteer programs. I also have deep history in this work, as I founded a nonprofit organization in 2003 to provide volunteer transportation and other essential services to older people and people living with disabilities in Hancock County, which came to be known as Friends in Action.

Transportation access is crucial for people of all ages throughout Maine. Transportation providers work hard to fulfill transportation requests but often are unaware of what other providers are doing and what options are available to their clients. Just by researching volunteer transportation programs around the State, we have been able to identify over 38 programs. We are establishing a network for these programs, but the model proposed for York County would make it easier for programs and YCCAC to fulfill requests and increase the transportation options for older Mainers.

As a strong proponent of transportation equity, the MCOA is excited about partnering on the Mobility Management Hub Project and we enthusiastically support York County Community Action Corporation's proposal.

Sincerely,
Jo Cooper, Project Manager
Transportation Equity for Healthy Aging
Maine Council on Aging