

Ride for Health Initiative

Grant Type: *Dollar and partnership and program coordination*

Grant Amount: *\$65,000*

Organization: *Phoenixville Community Health Foundation*



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

The objective of the Ride for Health initiative, which serves an area that is suburban/rural with little-to-no options for transportation, was to provide transportation for medical or human services to individuals without a means of transportation. The program was developed as part of a four-part approach to access to health and human services that includes the elimination of economic, transportation, information, and language barriers.

The nondollar investment includes forming the critical partnerships and taking a leadership role in the ongoing program coordination of the partners.

What was your approach?

An identified, unmet need existed: helping the most vulnerable residents of our community—those without a means of transportation—receive access to health care and critical human services that, in the long run, would advance their opportunities and quality of life.

With little-to-no accessible public transportation, it was challenging to find a cost-effective solution that would truly address the need. The solution came through partnership and collaboration among the regional transportation management association, the local cab company, and nonprofit organizations that serve the most economically challenged members of our community.

It is this collaborative partnership, formed to address a specific unmet need, that

makes Ride for Health so innovative.

This philosophy is the backbone of the program and continues to be essential to the ongoing functioning of Ride for Health and to addressing the ever-evolving need within the community.

What were the outsized results?

The initiative is ongoing. In 2011, Villanova University conducted a comprehensive program evaluation and concluded that “the initiative was found to be innovative, well-run, continuously improving through effective processes and structures, cost-efficient, highly utilized and meeting a basic health access need.”

Currently, the program model is being implemented within another community, and Phoenixville Community Health Foundation is acting in an advisory role.