

## **Improving Transportation Access**

- **Identify the need for this grant by selecting the appropriate indicators**

There is a need to improve the transportation access policies in the rural communities. Many rural communities and small towns are facing challenges with economic growth. By vastly improving the access to community transportation, it can help with a wide range of economic development such as wealth and better health. Having a grant will enable the ability to have new and improved transportation programs.

When you consider the geographic scale and population diversity of the rural communities, for example in Duval County, citizens, businesses, and visitors alike have a high desire of mobility. A good rural transportation system provides many benefits to citizens, communities, and businesses including transportation to and from work, recreation, doctor's appointments and increasing access to illness management.

The percent of population growth in Duval County from 2010 to 2016 has grown more than 20% in the region<sup>1</sup>. A region comparison shows that with the zip code 32202 in 2016 has as much as 50% of people not owning a vehicle<sup>1</sup>. That 50% is almost equivalent to a number of nearly 3,700 people<sup>1</sup>. These groups are typically less likely to have access to a vehicle and are therefore more likely to struggle to find reliable transportation.

- **Identify appropriate demographic data for your targeted population**

Providing transportation options for lower-income citizens is a major part of helping communities grows. There is a need to maintain a public transportation, it is very important to the economy and social structure of the communities involved. The rural

communities in Duval County for example have the young working adults that commute by public transportation which range from the ages of 16-19 at 3.3%. The 20-24-age group with 2.8% the majority of them not owning a vehicle<sup>1</sup>.

Transportation to local services like work and on the job training and skill classes will also be critical for successfully transitioning individuals away from public assistance and increasing the mobility rate for individuals with out transportation. Helping the lower-income to get transportation will result in bridging the gap that divides people between their jobs, services, and training opportunities.

- **Identify best practices for transportation and rural communities**

Providing a variety of transportation choices is a development strategy that encompasses economic and social management to the growth of the communities. Making sure that the community collaborates in development and in decisions will help strengthen and direct development toward existing transportation needs. If you stop and think about the economic shifts away from the traditional employment in local farming and manufacturing, everything is now geared towards industries such as small business and tourism<sup>1</sup>. Based on the rapid growth in the rural areas and lack of adequate availability of transportation for individuals there is a need for this grant to help the engagement in public transportation.

## References

1. Claritas. North East Florida Counts. Demographics .

<http://www.nefloridacounts.org/index.php?module=demographicdata&type=user&func=ddview&varset=1&ve=tab&pct=2&levels=1&topic1=county&topic2=duval&varid=2398&vl=tb&sregcomp=1>. Published January 2016. Accessed May 21, 2016.