



MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/8/24

Contact: Sophia Hogarth – Mobility Coordinator
Benzie Transportation Authority

Phone: 231.399.3480
Email: mobility@benziebus.com

BENZIE BUS AWARDED FUNDING TO ENHANCE TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUITY

BEULAH, MICH. - Benzie Bus is proud to announce that it has been awarded a Rural Community Innovations: Transportation Planning Grant from the Federal Transit Administration and administered by the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC). Funding will enable Benzie Bus to develop a comprehensive transportation plan aimed at improving accessibility and equity within our community.

"We are honored to receive this grant, which will help us address key transportation barriers and better serve the needs of our residents, particularly older adults and people with disabilities," said Sophia Hogarth, Mobility Coordinator. "Our goal is to create a more inclusive and equitable transportation system that enhances the quality of life for everyone in our community."

Hogarth has recently returned from Washington D.C., where she participated in a two-day orientation alongside 11 other grant recipients from across the nation. She noted, "The grant covered all travel expenses, provided me with the opportunity to network with other agencies, and to better understand how to utilize the funds effectively."

The funding from this grant will allow Benzie Bus to identify existing transportation barriers, consider both current and future community needs, and engage in meaningful dialogue with older adults and people with disabilities. Additionally, the grant will focus on creating or strengthening multi-sector collaborative partnerships to ensure a comprehensive and unified effort.

Benzie Bus has formed an advisory committee of local stakeholders, including Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital, Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, and Benzie Senior Resources, to provide support for this project.

For more information about this exciting development and to stay updated on our progress, please visit nadtc.org or contact Sophia Hogarth, Mobility Coordinator with Benzie Bus at 231-399-3480.