

# Driving Change: Advancing Economic Mobility through Transportation Solutions

*National Community Action Partnership*

*Management and Leadership Training Conference*

*January 28, 2026*

# Disclaimer

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This presentation is supported by Grant Number 90ET0502 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Community Services, Community Services Block Grant within the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Neither the Administration for Children and Families nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this presentation (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration for Children and Families and the ACF Office of Community Services, Community Services Block Grant.

# Agenda

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- Welcome & Introductions
- Speaker Presentations
- Q & A
- Tools & Resources

# Project Overview

# Purpose

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*“The Collaborative on Economic Mobility is intended to highlight emerging and promising practices in economic mobility for low-income communities and to expand the capacity of the Community Action network to deliver services that promote economic mobility.”*

# What is Economic Mobility?

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*“The measure of how an individual or family’s economic well-being changes over time. The movement of an individual from a lower economic level to a higher economic level refers to upward mobility. The movement from a higher economic level to a lower economic level refers to downward mobility.”*

# Key Focus Areas

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Community  
Asset Building

Innovative  
Community  
Programs and  
Organizations

High-Quality  
Education

Two-Generation  
and Whole  
Family  
Approaches

Workforce  
Development

# Cross-Cutting Opportunities

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- Opportunities in Housing
- Opportunities in Transportation
- Opportunities in Health



# Menti Poll

The Future of Transportation

# Serving Rural Communities

An Overview of Transportation Mission & Challenges Ahead.



# Who We Are

Project NOW is a Community Action Agency dedicated to supporting individuals and families experiencing poverty, housing instability, and crisis. We provide essential services that help people meet immediate needs and build long-term stability.

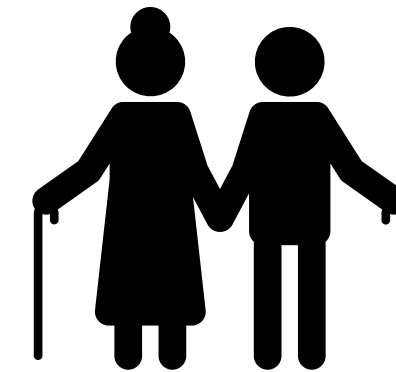
No matter the service, our approach is the same: We treat every person with dignity, respect, and compassion.



Empowering People.  
Strengthening Communities.  
Preserving Dignity.

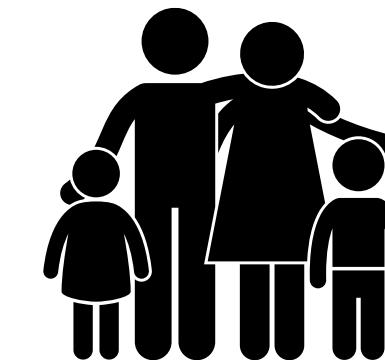


Our mission is to provide safe, accessible, and efficient transportation options for the underserved rural communities of Rock Island county.



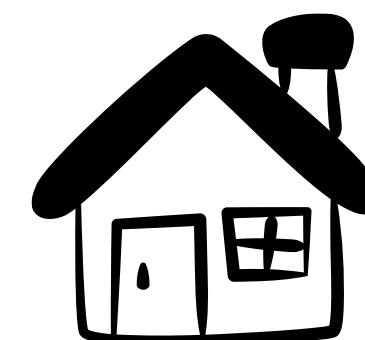
## Seniors 60+ or with Disabilities

Seniors 60 years and older or those with disabilities.



## Low-Income

Individuals without access to a personal vehicle or public transit.



## Small Towns & Rural Areas

Individuals that live in small towns or rural areas that do not have access to public transit.



# Who Do We Serve

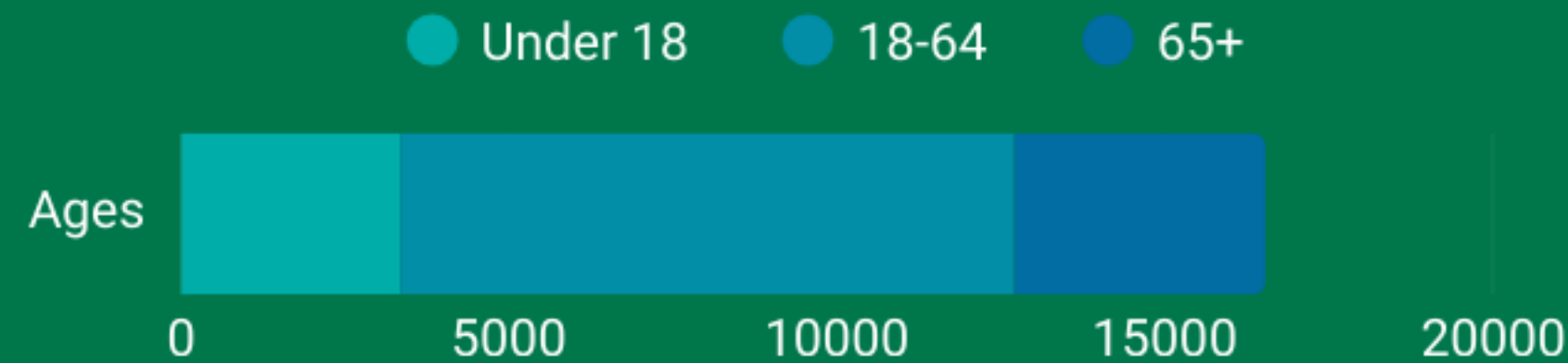
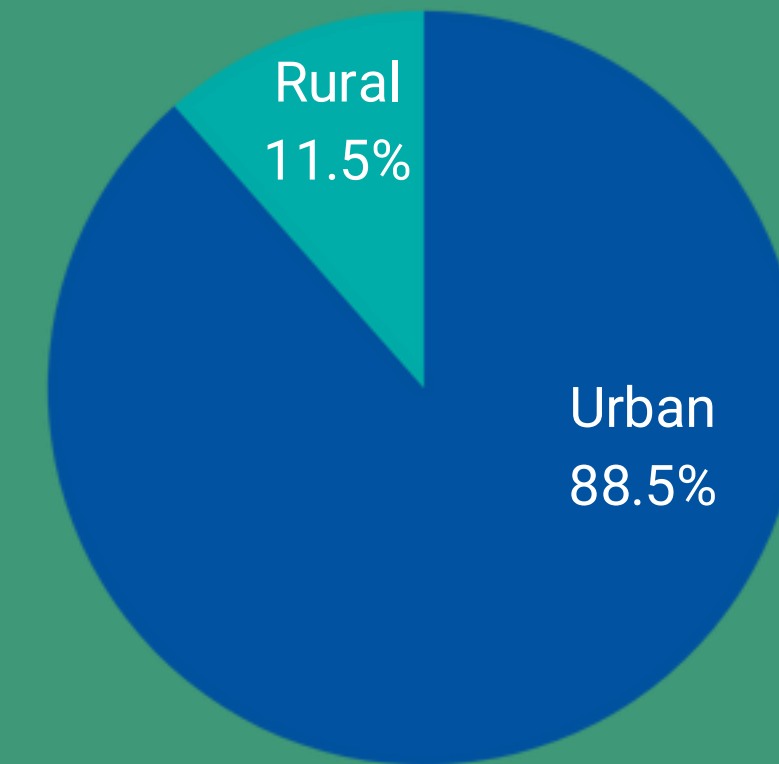


Rock Island County

Population 144,672

Urban 127,921

Rural 16,701



**15.14 %**  
Rural Population  
with a Disability



## ANNUAL INCOME

Per Capita Income **\$35,159**

Median Household **\$66,768**



Rural Populations  
Mean Travel Time to Work

91% High School Diploma,  
but only 25.1% Bachelor's Degree or Higher

**5.7 %**  
Unemployment Rate  
*1.4% higher than  
state/national average*

# Changing Rural Landscape & Emerging Needs



## Population

Impact of population decline in rural areas



## Workforce

Shrinking workforce and increasing employment gaps.



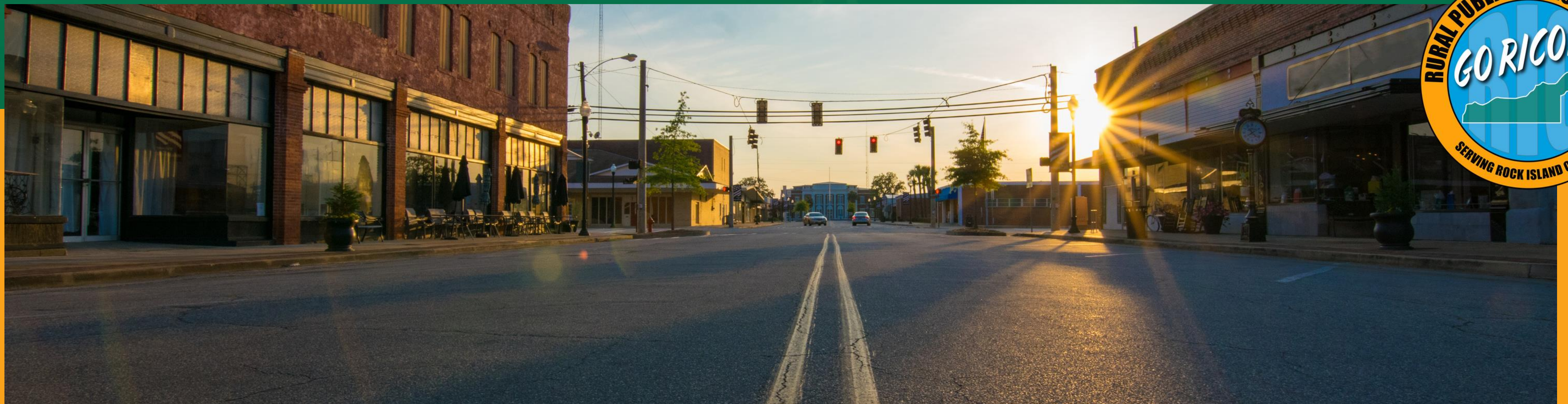
## Legal Deserts

Lack of legal resources or access to justice.



## Health Deserts

Lack of healthcare facilities and services.



# Key Transportation Challenges in Rural Areas

- No Public Transportation
  - No Ride Share Options
- Midwest Winters
  - Roads are snow/ice covered
  - Inability to access urban areas during major storms
- Economic Barriers to Owning or Repairing a Vehicle
  - AAA estimates an annual cost of \$12,182 to own a vehicle in Illinois or \$1,015 per month



# Key Transportation Challenges in Rural Areas

- Low ridership in rural areas.
  - 2020 = 7400 rides, 107,075 miles (14.5 Miles per ride avg)
  - 2021 = 10,504 rides, 143,522 miles (13.7 Miles per ride avg)
  - 2022 = 10,755 rides, 78,883 miles (7.3 Miles per ride avg)
  - 2023 = 11,289 rides, 140,503 miles (12.4 Miles per ride avg)
  - 2024 = 13,172 rides, 187,421 miles (14.2 Miles per ride avg)
  - 2025 = 11,417 rides, 130,602 miles (11.4 Miles per ride avg)
- Inadequate funding for rural transportation systems.
  - Funding has remained stagnant
    - \$365,500 anticipated in 2026
- Lack of investment in infrastructure.





# Partnerships, Collaboration & Funding Opportunities



## Collaboration & Partnership

It is important to collaborate with local governments like Rock Island County, as well as businesses like Metrolink, and local healthcare providers. While building partnerships with companies or other transport organizations to increase service offerings.

## What Success Looks Like

- Successful Partnerships
  - Regional Office of Education – McKinny-Vento (homeless youth)
  - The ARC of the Quad Cities
  - UnityPoint Hospital Network
  - Epilepsy Network
  - Nursing Homes
  - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Future Partnerships
  - Homeless transportation

Transportation Summit

# A Community Focus

An opportunity to build awareness, share best practices, and network with other area agencies while exploring new funding sources, technologies, and strategies.





## Next Steps & Getting Started

Join us in shaping the future of rural transportation!

# Innovative Solutions for Rural Transportation



## Marketing Strategy

New technologies and marketing strategies for engaging rural residents.

- Utilizing apps and online systems for easier scheduling.
- Mobile services or on-demand ride-sharing.
- Innovative marketing for increasing ridership.



## Partnerships

The role of partnerships and collaboration with local governments, businesses, and nonprofits.



## Tech Advances

Possible technological advances (e.g., ridesharing, electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles).





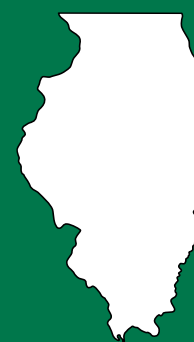
# Finding Funding for Transportation Projects

Where to seek funding for rural transportation solutions: state and federal grants, public-private partnerships



## Government Grants

- Federal Transit Administration
- Rural Transit Assistance Program



## Local & State Funding Sources

- School Districts
- Department of Transportation



## Private Investors & Chamber of Commerce

- Plants & Factories
- Hospitals
- Community Colleges

# Thank You!

Thank you for your time and attention to rural transportation with Project NOW, Inc.



# CCAM National Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC)



Federal Advisory Partners



Federal Transit Administration



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



U.S. Department of Education

# CCAM TA Center Principles

## Overview

The CCAM TA Center supports [CCAM members](#), Federal agencies, their grantees, partners, and stakeholders in improving transportation access for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income.

## Mission

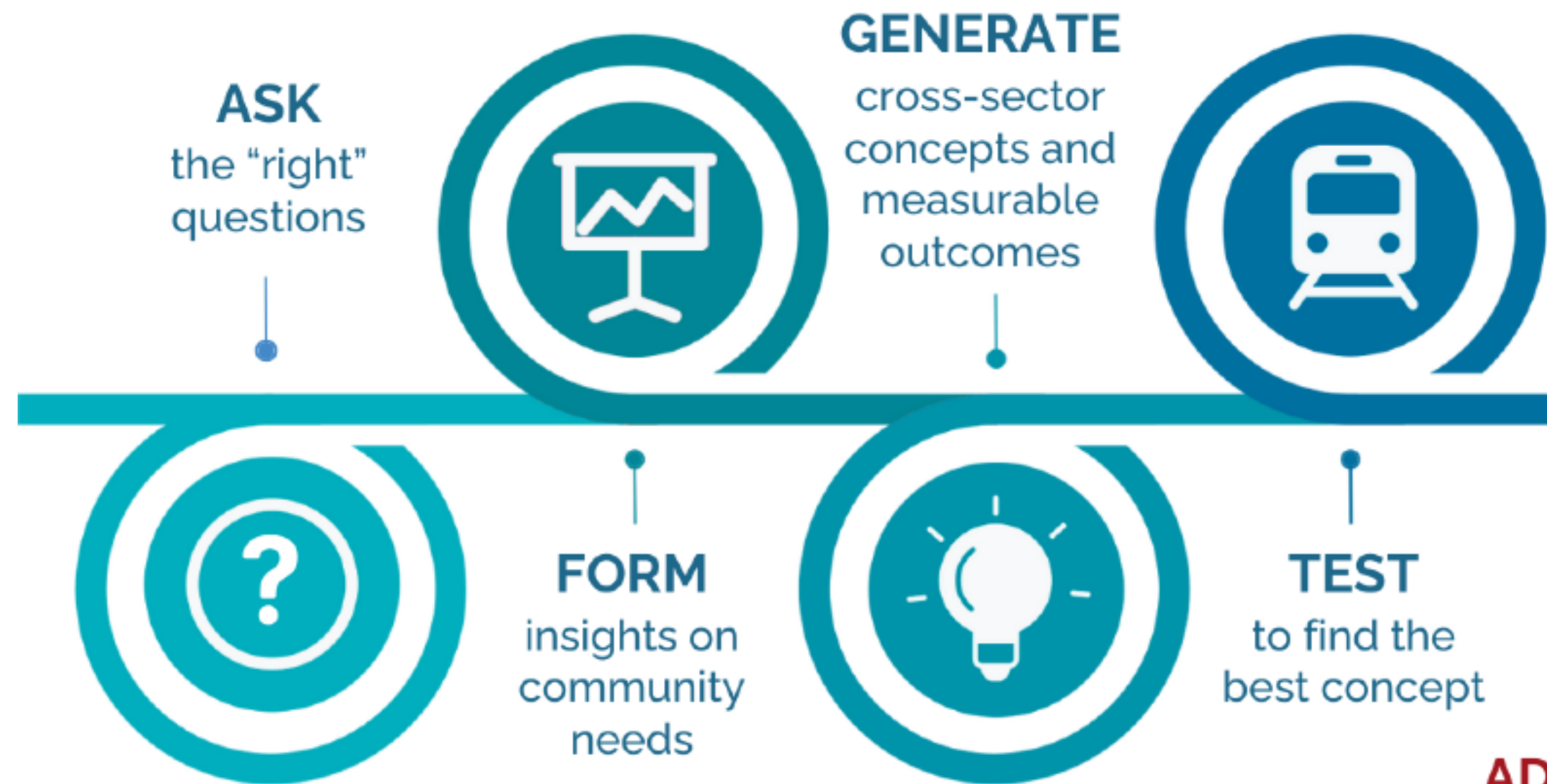
Promote and facilitate human services transportation, public transit, and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) coordination that advances people's access to everyday destinations.

## Activities Include:

- Spreading awareness about the importance of transportation in access to services and everyday destinations.
- Developing a grant program that offers funding for multisector planning or pilot projects to develop and test innovative transportation solutions.
- Maintaining a resource library with case studies, promising and best practices, videos, etc.
- Fostering relationships with other CCAM member TA Centers and their grantees through peer-to-peer meeting exchanges and collaboration opportunities.

# Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center

## GUIDE COMMUNITIES WITH A 4-STEP PROCESS



## INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS IN EVERY STEP



## ADVANCE ACCESS TO EVERYDAY DESTINATIONS

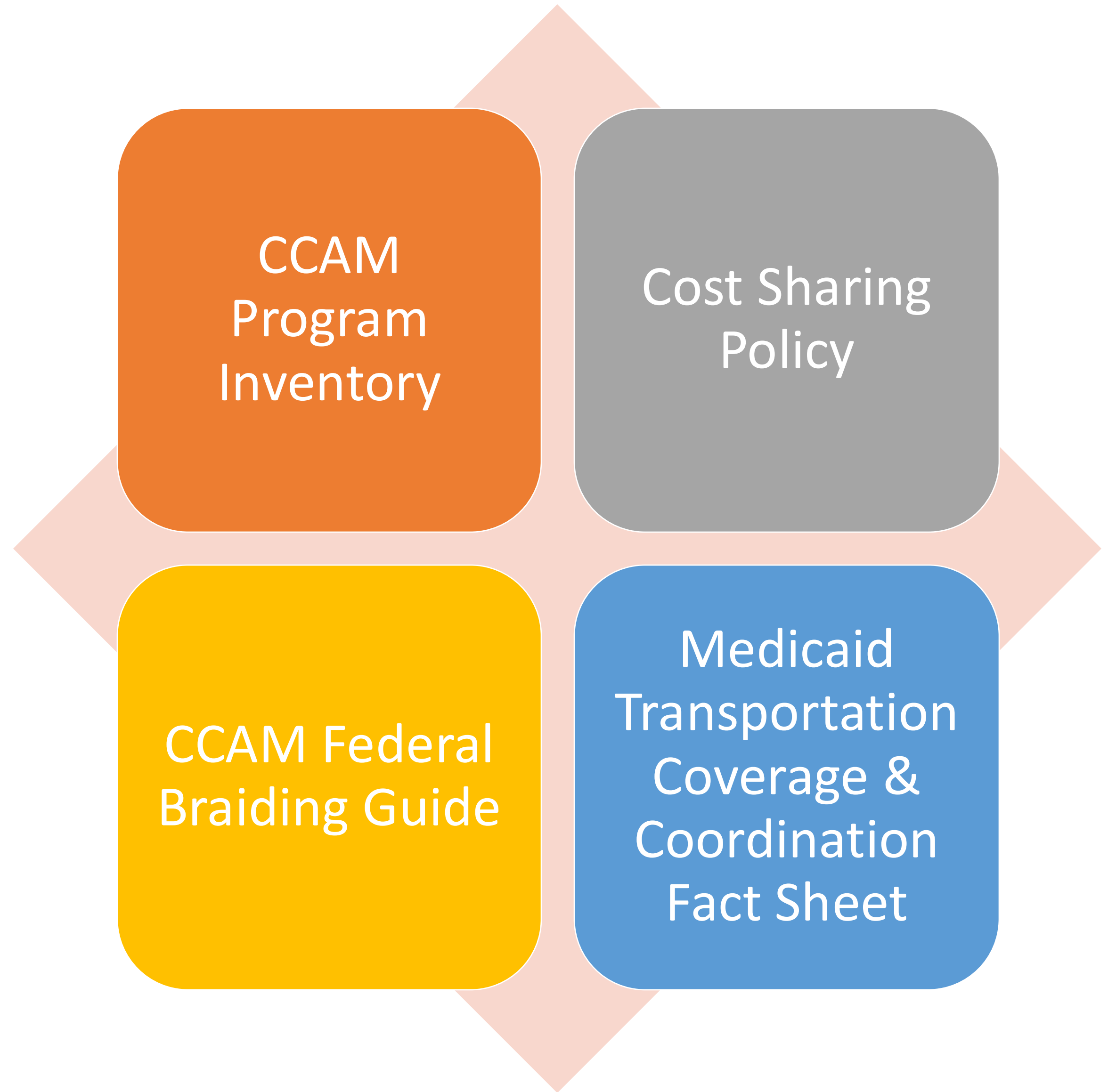
- Jobs
- Nutrition
- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Family
- Community
- Quality of life



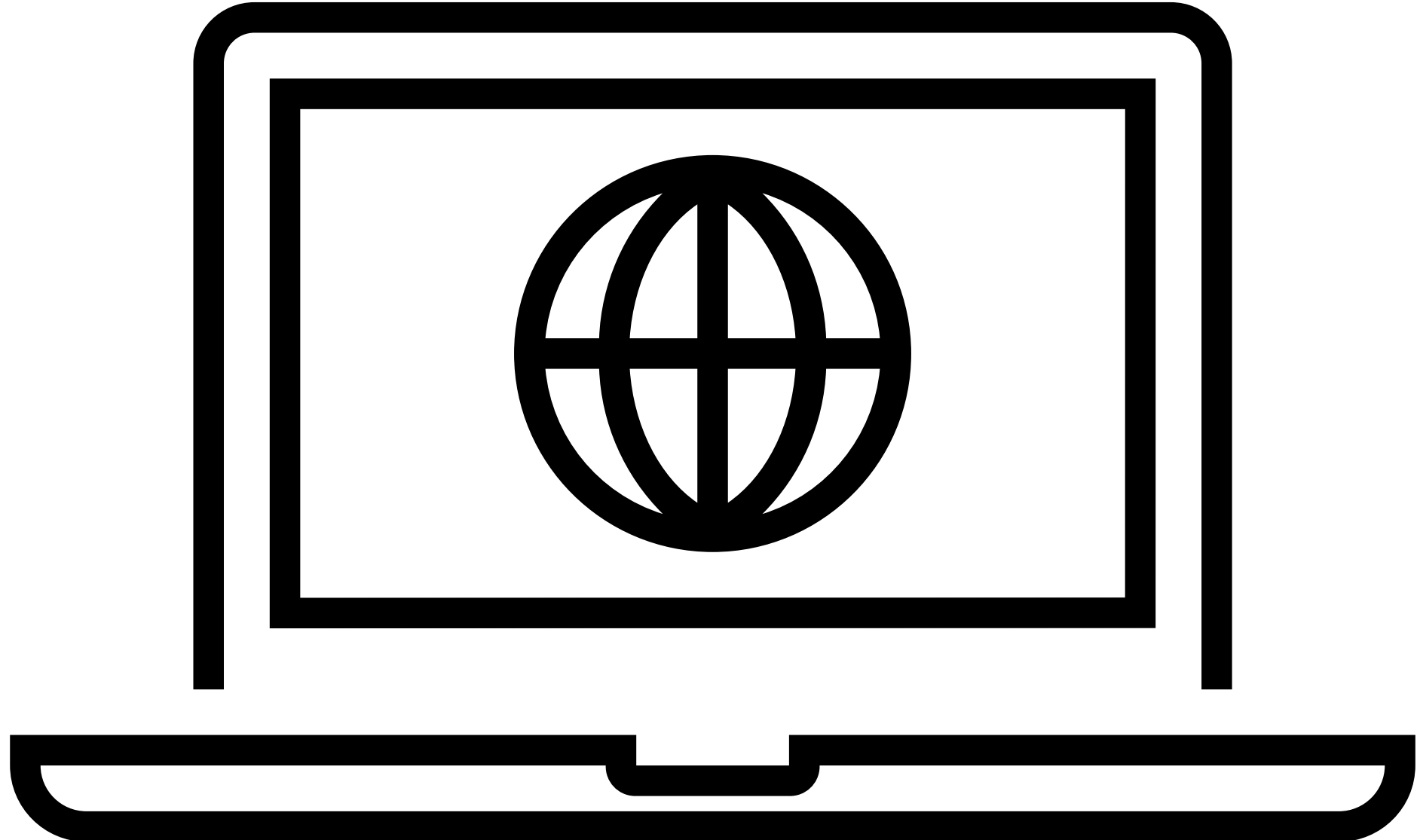
The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center promotes and facilitates coordination that advances people's access to everyday destinations.



# Support for CCAM Federal Resources



# Website Resources



Industry News, Coordinating  
Chronicles Newsletter



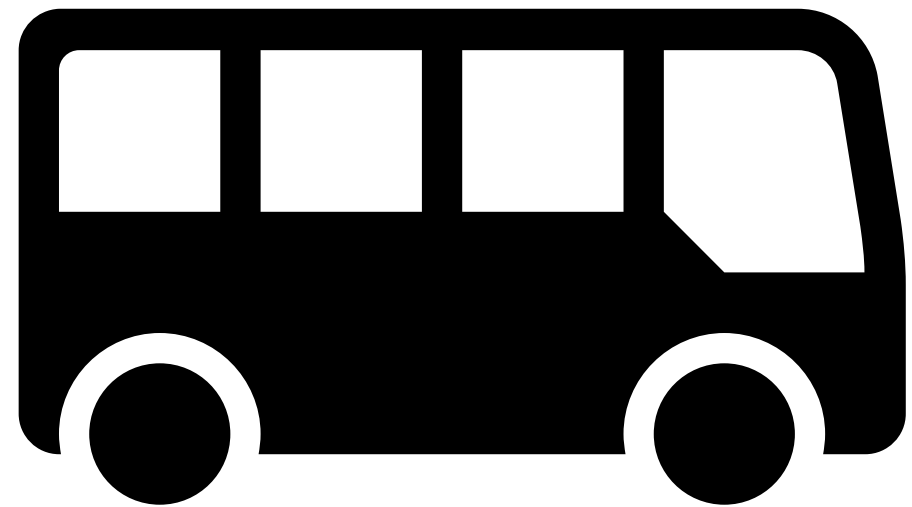
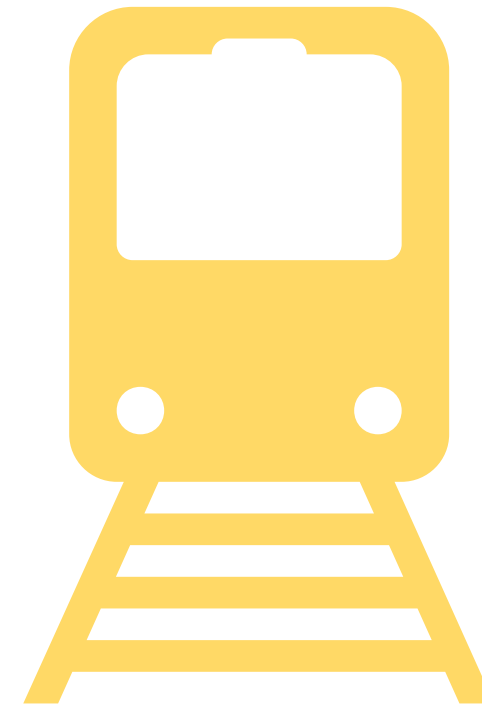
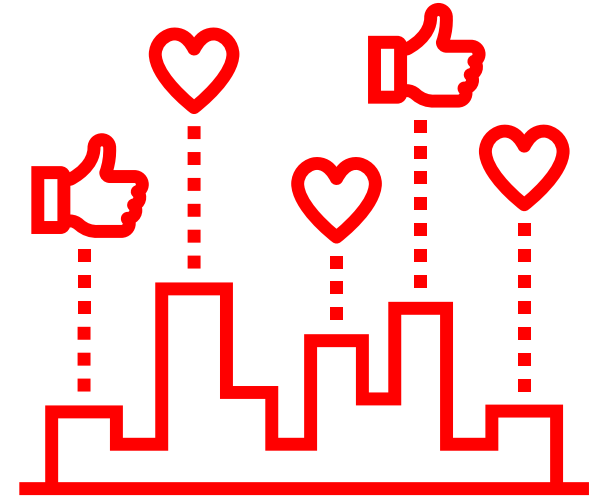
Trip Cost Allocation Tool



Trainings: e-Learning, courses,  
webinars, industry training resources



Community Transportation Provider  
Map



Trip Cost Allocation Tool



# Communities of Practice

Programs by  
population  
served:

Children and  
Families

Employment and  
Training  
Participants

Housing  
Residents

Military  
Veterans

Older Adults

Patients  
Accessing Health  
Care Services

People with  
Disabilities

# Community Transportation Provider Map

## **Purpose of the Database:**

This map shows the approximate locations of transit agencies and organizations across the U.S., combining existing datasets with new research to provide a comprehensive list of transportation providers.

## **Content of the Database:**

Includes public transit providers, community action agencies, senior centers, and others offering transportation services.

## **Using the Map:**

Explore state and local transportation providers and their related information. Zoom in and click on specific transportation agencies to view.

## **Finding Providers Near You:**

Enter your home address, zip code, or town into the search bar. Click on providers in your area to learn more.

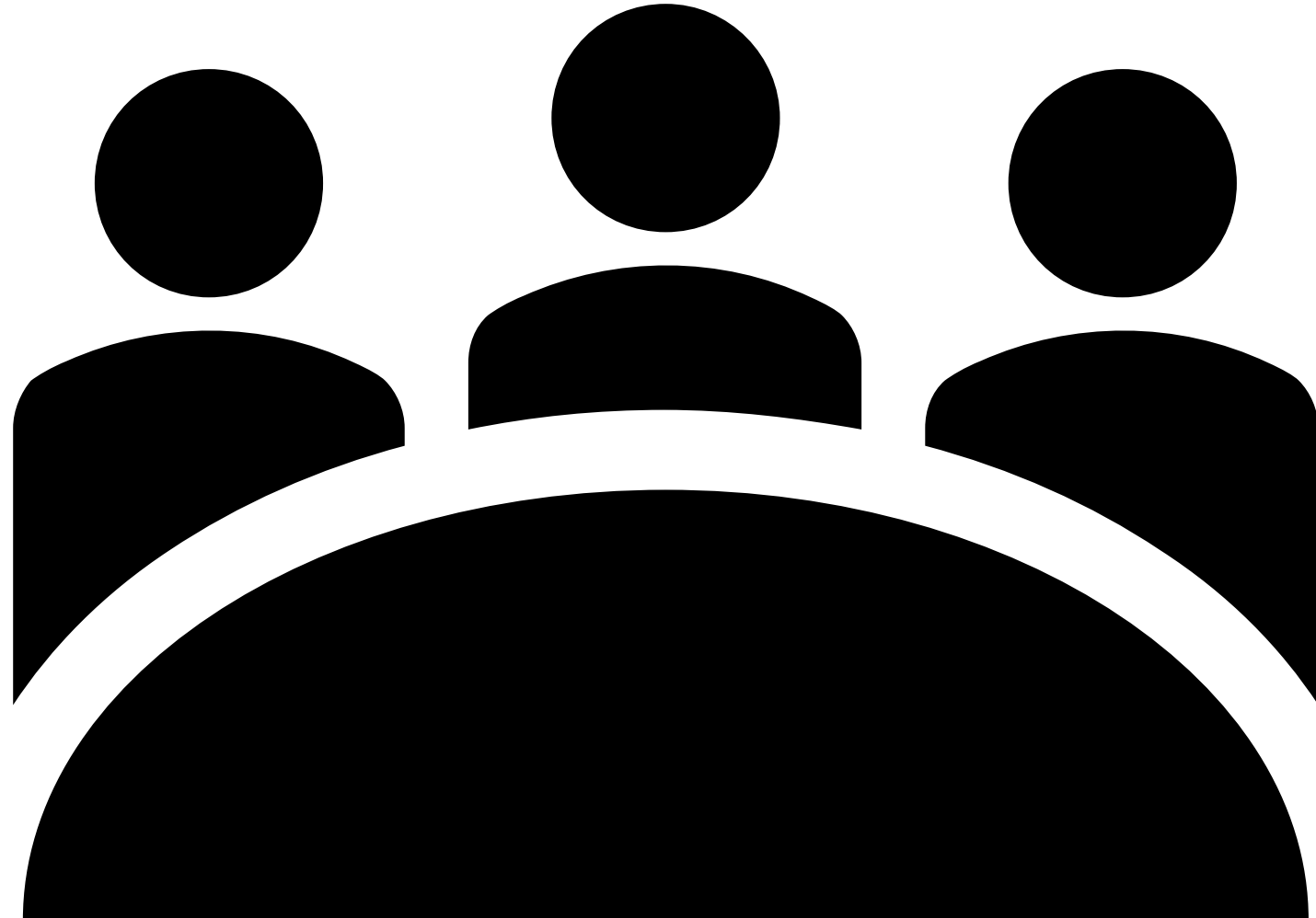
## **Available services:**

Transportation services for seniors, people with disabilities, and those with limited mobility, including rides for medical, social, and daily needs, volunteer driver programs and mobility managers.

## **Access to Essential Services:**

Locate transportation providers that connect you to healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies.

# On-Site Technical Assistance



State Coordinating Roundtables



Regional Coordinating Plans

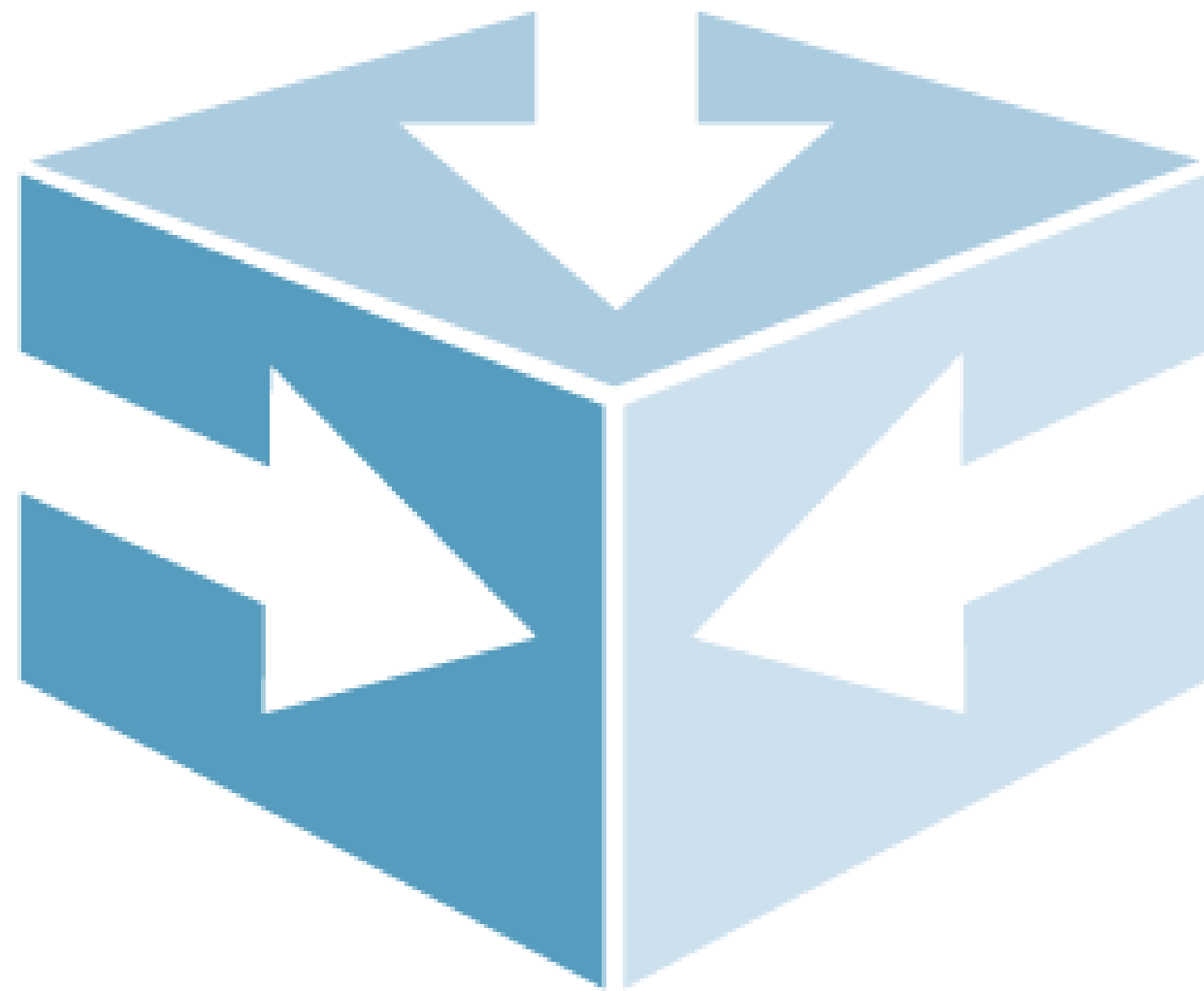


County Human Services  
Coordinating Transportation Plans



State Mobility Management  
Planning

## Performance Measure Training



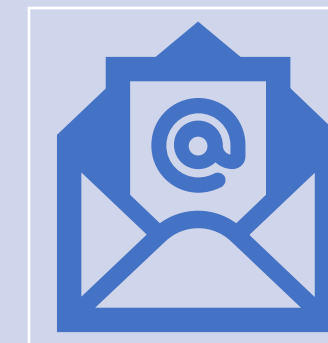
**You Get What  
You Measure®**

You Get What You Measure® is our trademarked approach to strategic planning that incorporates measurement and can be used as a framework for evaluation. You Get What You Measure® is a values-based approach that incorporates systems thinking, creates a shared language, and allows people and individuals with diverse perspectives to share responsibility and accountability in achieving mutually beneficial goals.

# Thank you



Bill Wagner, CCAM-TAC Director



[wagner@ctaa.org](mailto:wagner@ctaa.org)



202-940-6036

# Any Questions?

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# Tools and Resources

# Collaborative on Economic Mobility

**NEW NCAP WEBPAGE!!!**

**Explore the new Collaborative on Economic Mobility (CEM) Webpage!**

**You can find tools and resources related to CEM key focus areas and sign up for our Fresh Finds Newsletter here!**

## CEM Key Focus Areas:

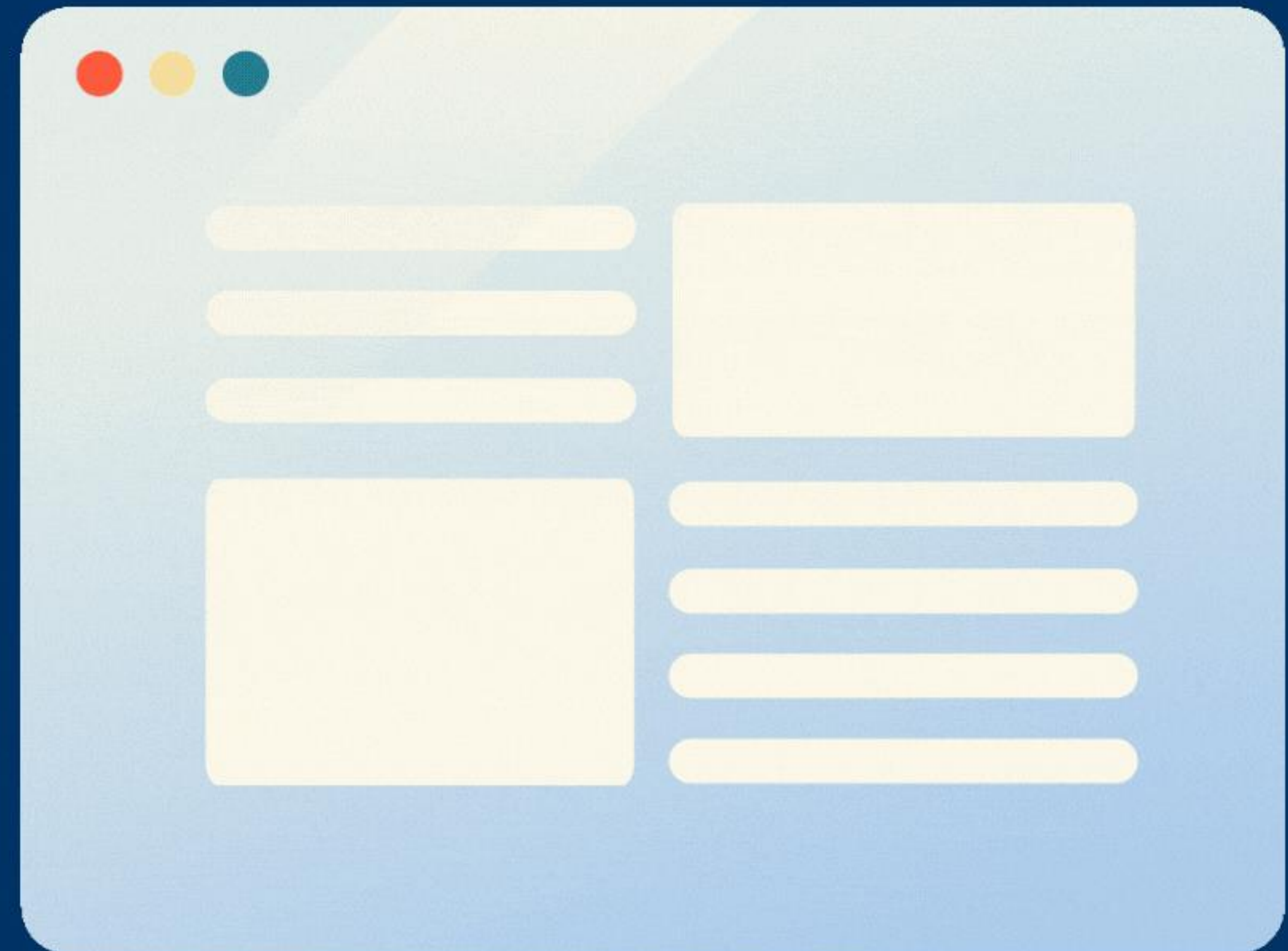
**WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH**

**HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION**

**COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDING**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS  
& ORGANIZATIONS**



**[tinyurl.com/lookatCEM](https://tinyurl.com/lookatCEM)**



# PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE



This guide is designed to accompany the webinar Workforce Development focusing on Pre-Apprenticeships as pathways to economic mobility shaping a brighter future not only for individuals but

In today's rapidly evolving job market, workforce development is essential for building strong, resilient families and fostering long-term economic growth. Simply filling job vacancies, it's about creating meaningful opportunities that drive long-term economic growth. By investing in workforce development, we can empower individuals to:

- **Increase Earning Potential:** Skilled workers can improve financial stability.
- **Enhance Job Security:** In-demand skills provide job security in a competitive market.
- **Contribute to Community Prosperity:** A skilled workforce drives growth and strengthens local economies.
- **Break Cycles of Poverty:** Access to quality training leads to upward mobility.

# APPRENTICESHIP WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE



This guide is designed to accompany the webinar Innovative Approaches to Workforce Development focusing on Registered Apprenticeships as pathways to economic mobility. This resource is designed to deepen your understanding of Registered Apprenticeships and provide you with additional resources to support your next steps, whether you're launching a program, expanding an existing program, or exploring how Registered Apprenticeships can strengthen your Workforce Development program goals.

**What is a Registered Apprenticeship?**  
 A Registered Apprenticeship is an industry-vetted, structured, work-based learning model that combines on-the-job training (OJT) with related instruction (RI). These programs are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) or a State Apprenticeship Agency, ensuring they meet specific quality standards.

Feature	Registered Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Pre-Apprenticeship
Registration	Registered with DOL or State Apprenticeship Agency and abides by 23 established standards	Any apprenticeship that is not formally registered with DOL	Not necessarily registered
Wage	Paid employment	May be paid a stipend, starting hourly wage, or unpaid	May be paid a stipend, starting hourly wage, or unpaid
Credential	Nationally recognized credential upon completion	May or may not lead to credential, but not always nationally recognized	May or may not lead to credential, but not always nationally recognized
Duration	Typically 1-5 years depending on chosen industry	Typically 1-5 years depending on chosen industry	Shorter term, often a few weeks to months
Purpose	Provides industry-vetted, paid job training that leads to full occupational proficiency while earning a portable, nationally recognized credential	Offers structured, paid or unpaid job training to prepare individuals for skilled careers, potentially leading to industry-recognized credentials	Foundational program designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in Registered Apprenticeships

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Dive deeper into apprenticeship pathways with the Workforce Development webinar series!

Explore action steps, strategies, and resources to strengthen your understanding and implementation of Pre-Apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships through this two-part webinar series and accompanying companion guides from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility.

**EXPLORE MORE HERE!**



<https://tinyurl.com/WORKFORCE-DEVELOPMENT1>



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WEBINAR SERIES



**Discover how Community Action Agencies can reimagine and strengthen strategic partnerships to deepen trust and align goals for lasting community impact.**

**Unlock your potential and advance economic mobility by exploring this two-part webinar series with supplemental companion guides from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility.**

**EXPLORE HERE!**  
[bit.ly/STRATEGIC-PARTNERSHIPS](https://bit.ly/STRATEGIC-PARTNERSHIPS)



Promising Practices for Building & Sustaining Strategic Partnerships **1**

## BUILDING & REIMAGINING ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS

**Re-imagining What Partnerships Can Be**

Partnerships can extend far beyond the familiar when we broaden the circle of who we consider as potential partners and reframe partnerships as relationships that contribute to building a connected community of support. This network can be fostered with diverse partnerships such as community colleges, hospitals, public health departments, small and large businesses, trade unions, cultural organizations, and alumni associations to actively support and amplify each other's shared community goals. These partnerships can bring valuable resources like funding, support, job training opportunities, and spark program innovation. Re-imagining your existing and future partnerships encourages both partners to think beyond their own scope and work towards change that will benefit the entire community.

**Building on Established Partnerships**

Don't start from scratch! Your Community Action Agency (CAA) likely has a network of existing partnerships. The key is to strategically expand and deepen these connections to pursue innovative economic mobility initiatives.



BUILDING & REIMAGINING ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS | COMMUNITYACTIONPARTNERSHIP.COM | 1

Promising Practices for Building & Sustaining Strategic Partnerships **2**

## STRENGTHENING & SUSTAINING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

**i Introduction**

Whether formed across sectors, within the community, or among other mission driven organizations, strategic partnerships are built on shared values, trust, and commitment to collective impact.

But building these partnerships is just the first step. Sustaining these partnerships requires you to go deeper in your relationship with your partners and build a shared sense of purpose that drives you to adapt and innovate. This ongoing effort is what transforms simple connections to collaborations that are capable of driving impact.

It is through nurturing and strengthening these relationships that partnerships can unlock their full potential and create lasting change.



STRENGTHENING & SUSTAINING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS | COMMUNITYACTIONPARTNERSHIP.COM | 1



# FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WEBINAR COMPANION GUIDE

This webinar companion guide highlights best practices for Community Action Agencies to further develop innovative financial empowerment programs and integrate them into other human service programs.

This companion guide outlines strategies that both public and private Community Action Agencies can take advantage of to help individuals and families achieve financial success!

**CHECK OUT THE GUIDE TODAY!**



<https://tinyurl.com/FINANCIAL-EMPOWER1>

## ADVANCING ECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

### **i** Introduction

A stable financial foundation is fundamental for upward economic mobility. Financial stability allows individuals and families to fully benefit from programs that support employment, education, housing, health, and overall well-being. Financial stability is more than simply getting by day to day; it is about being able to sustain a household for months and years to come. Long term financial stability depends on both financial knowledge and access to affordable financial products and services. These services can help individuals and families to plan and prepare for financial emergencies and setbacks to ensure that financial goals and outcomes are not only achieved but also maintained.

Financial empowerment strategies are designed to help individuals and families build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed financial decisions. These strategies include financial education and coaching,



supportive policies and practices, and improved access to safe and affordable financial products such as affordable banking, credit unions, and savings accounts. By reimagining the approach to financial empowerment, Community Action Agencies can implement integrated services to help individuals and families manage finances, reduce debt, improve credit scores, build



**Agency Context**

**Organizational Capacity**

Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) is a local Community Action Agency located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They serve over 56,000 people annually through five program areas including: Housing, Weatherization, Food, Income Tax Preparation, and Economic Self-Sufficiency. The annual budget is approximately \$15 million which consists of 67% public funding and 33% from private and other funding sources. The work is led by a 21-person tripartite Board of Directors and a 17-person leadership team including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), three Directors (Development, Compliance, and Client Services), six Housing Site Supervisors, and six Managers (Human Resources, Volunteer and Community Connections, Self-Sufficiency Program, Food Program).

BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL



**Agency Context**

**Organizational Capacity**

North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) is a Community Action Agency, a Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Rural LISC) grantee, and a NeighborWorks chartered agency located in Bowling Green, Missouri. The service area spans across 12 counties in Northeast Missouri, including three counties that are part of the metropolitan statistical area adjacent to St. Louis, as well as nine rural counties. The agency's annual budget is approximately \$26 million. This includes over 30 different funding sources, including a mix of both state and federal funding. NECAC is governed by a 30-person volunteer Board of Directors which includes three representatives from each of the 12 counties in the service area. The representatives from each county

include an Elected Official Representative, a Civic Interest Representative, and a Low-Income Representative. The agency has approximately 95 full-time staff and 100 part-time staff. The management team is comprised of 10 individuals including the President/CEO, Deputy Director of Housing Development Programs, Finance Operations Director, Personnel Officer and Assistant Deputy Director, Executive Secretary and Office Manager, Public Relations Officer, Information Technology (IT) Operations Director, Rent Assistance Programs Director, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Operations Director, and Weatherization Director.

**Service Delivery**

NECAC operates over 60 different programs across the areas of Community Service, Housing Development, and Community Health. Programs within the area of Community

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION | COMMUNITYACTIONPARTNERSHIP.COM | 1

# Spotlight On: Economic Mobility in Action

## Collaborative on Economic Mobility Case Study Series

This series of case studies highlights innovative economic mobility initiatives transforming communities across the country. Discover the journeys of local Community Action Agencies as they work toward lasting economic mobility.

[tinyurl.com/lookatCEM](https://tinyurl.com/lookatCEM)



**EXPLORE THE CASE STUDIES TODAY**

Each Case Study Explores:

PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDING

LESSONS LEARNED

SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES



# FRESH FINDS

**DISCOVER THIS RESOURCE!**

**LEARN**

**EXPAND**

**IMPLEMENT**

The “Fresh Finds” Newsletter is offered quarterly through the Collaborative on Economic Mobility (CEM). Sign up and be the first to know about new tools, resources, and training opportunities!

Are you interested in expanding the capacity of your organization to implement innovative programs and services?

Are you interested in improving outcomes for the individuals, families, and communities in your service area?

Are you interested in learning from the experiences of other community leaders across the country?



**TINYURL.COM/FRESHFINDS25**



# **TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT: IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

**Part 1 - April 15<sup>th</sup>    Part 2- May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00pm ET/1:00pm CT/12:00pm MT/11:00am PT**

**Advancing economic mobility requires Community Action leaders to implement innovative solutions to address complex challenges. This two-part webinar series explores practical strategies for transforming innovative ideas into measurable community impact. Participants will gain insight and advice from peers in the Community Action network, along with tools and resources to foster innovation, align resources, build capacity to adapt and scale approaches over time.**

**REGISTER TODAY!**



**[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CEMIDEAS](https://tinyurl.com/cemideas)**

# We want to hear from you!

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We would love to hear about your experience in today's conference training. Please take a moment to complete the survey.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DrivingChng>