

## BEVERLY FOUNDATION

### A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE DO

Located in Pasadena, California, the Beverly Foundation was organized in 1979 as a non-profit, operating foundation. Its initial support was provided by the Beverly Enterprises. Today, the Beverly Foundation generates the financial resources necessary for its operations and programs from its investment portfolio and from partnerships and consultations with other organizations.

While its early program focused on reinforcing and extending the health potential of the frail elderly residing in institutions, today, the Foundation undertakes research, demonstration and assistance to encourage senior mobility and transportation within and beyond the immediate community. The senior mobility agenda emphasizes transportation options for seniors who find it necessary to “give up the keys.”

#### THE BEVERLY FOUNDATION

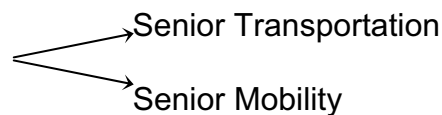
Experience: 29+ years

Philosophy: Transportation Promotes Quality of Life

Activities: Research and Demonstration

Targets and Topics:

Policy Makers  
Professionals  
Providers



*At the Beverly Foundation, new ideas and options are fostered to enhance mobility and transportation for today's and tomorrow's older population.*

The Beverly Foundation began its work in senior transportation in 1995. Its early milestone projects included qualitative research on at-risk drivers, a newsletter on Safe Mobility of Older Persons, a pilot for detecting and safeguarding at-risk senior drivers, and piloting a senior driver safety program.

**PARTNERSHIPS** While the Beverly Foundation plans and initiates many of its own projects, since 1998, it has developed numerous partnership agreements for undertaking research, demonstration and technical assistance projects. These partnerships supplement the financial support, technical capacity and dissemination capabilities of the Foundation and its staff. National organizations with which the Foundation has developed partnerships include the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Easter Seals, the Independent Living Partnership, the Community Transportation Association of America, *Faith in Action*, the American Public Transportation Association, and the National Center on Senior Transportation.

**PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS** The Beverly Foundation's activities emphasize qualitative and quantitative research, demonstration, technical assistance, information communication and awards for excellence. Key examples are included below.

**QUALITATIVE RESEARCH** A Focus Group Inquiry on "giving up the keys". The project included 22 focus groups in 3 states and a report on responses from participant discussions and written surveys. Focus Groups with volunteer drivers and riders in volunteer driving programs have produced reports that provide guidance on how to organize volunteer driving programs and how to support, recruit and recognize volunteer drivers. Key Informant Interviews with researchers, policy makers, and transit providers provide information about senior transportation innovations in rural America.

**SURVEY RESEARCH** STAR Search 2000-2007. This annual survey of Supplemental Transportation Programs for Seniors (STPs) has resulted in a database of more than 800 organizations that provide transportation to seniors. A Survey of Innovations for seniors in public and community transit produced data on innovative methods used by transit agencies and programs for improving their services to seniors. Informational reports and technical materials were produced and distributed from both projects.

**DEMONSTRATIONS** A successful 18-month demonstration of the Beverly Foundation's Volunteer Friends model for senior transportation was conducted in Pasadena, California. The model was demonstrated for the second time in 2006 in conjunction with a California congressional office.

**AWARDS** The Beverly Foundation has given twenty-nine STAR Awards for Excellence to STPs in America. The selection of award winners is based on their "senior friendliness". The foundation also has conveyed three Awards for Innovations of Excellence to community transportation agencies.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** In addition to providing technical assistance to organizations interested in initiating transportation programs for seniors (especially volunteer transportation), the Beverly Foundation also develops technical assistance materials. Examples include a "drop in the facts" CD for creating a booklet of transportation options for seniors, and a Volunteer Driver Turn Key Kit that includes assistance materials for planning, implementing, and evaluating volunteer transportation program.

**NEW APPROACHES AND MODELS** In the course of its work, the Beverly Foundation has developed new approaches such as The 5 A's of Senior Friendly Transportation as criteria for judging senior friendliness, the Volunteer Friends model for low cost, low maintenance transportation services, a "drop in the facts" CD for identifying transportation programs in a community, the concept of supportive transportation, and risk management approaches for volunteer driver programs.

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

Beverly Foundation has developed a wide range of informational and technical products related to mobility and transportation. Most are available in hard copy and on the Foundation's website.

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#### **The STP Exchange is sponsored by:**

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