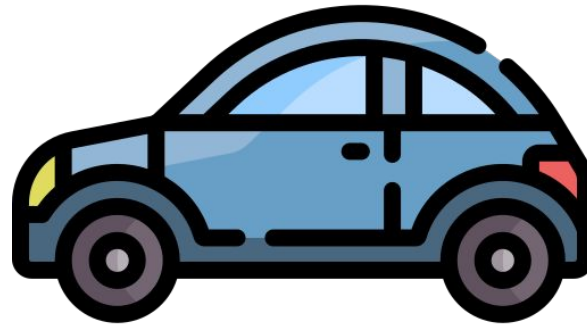




Veteran Access to Transportation

Barriers and Solutions



Chessa Emmons

Be Connected Program Coordinator

&

Transportation Project Manager

Good morning!



- **Background on Transportation Insecurity**
- **Barriers**
 - Identification (*How did we know?*)
 - Significance & Correlation (*Why?*)
- **Solutions**
 - Acute & Ongoing Support
 - Be Connected Door-to-Door
- **Getting Involved**
 - Yes, **you** can help; *here's how!*
- **Discussion**
 - Your Community

Poll #1:

*Where are you
joining us from?*

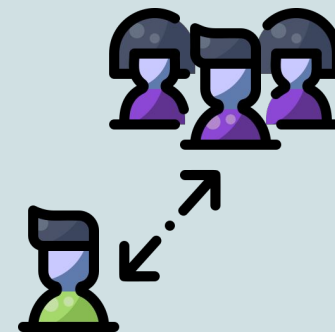
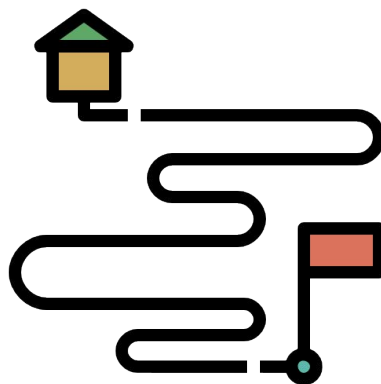
- **Request from the Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22, which includes Arizona**
 - Notified of veterans within the Show Low area who are unable to reach the designated pickup locations to receive transportation assistance to their medical appointments within their local (or further, if needed) clinics
- **Be Connected team travelled to area to discuss issues with veterans**
 - Navigator who assisted is now coordinator assisting in transportation project and working with partners to contribute to the mission



Travel to and from designated pickup & drop-off location



Access to waypoints
(Pharmacy, Grocery store, etc.)



Feelings of isolation

Poll #2:

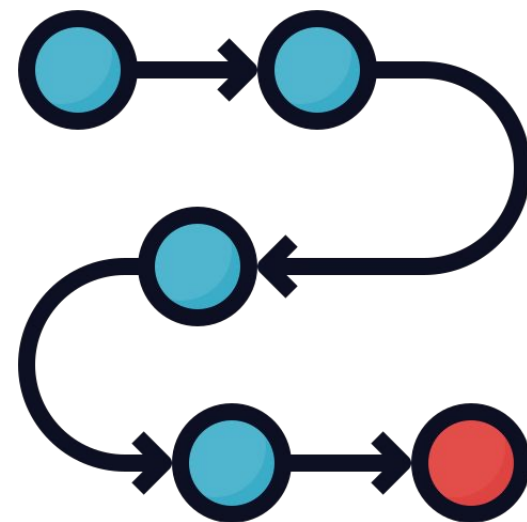
*Does your community
experience
transportation
barriers?*

Plan of Action



- Provide **acute support** to address immediate needs while building a system for **long-term resolution**
- Develop a program, **prepare for launch** and anticipate *longevity*
- Connect with Be Connected partners to assist--**NARBHA Institute and Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)**

- Facilitate transportation opportunities through volunteer drivers
- Pilot specific areas across Northern Arizona
- Organize procedures for onboarding volunteers, connecting with veterans, their families and caregivers and tracking impact



PIVOT! PIV-OT!



Volunteer driver program to bring essentials to the veteran community (e.g. food, appts, etc.).



- Received a separate grant to address COVID-related issues, primarily food insecurity
- Get food to veterans & their families who need it, through the delivery program
- Collect data on these specific populations to inform continued and future projects

Volunteer driver program to bring essentials to the veteran community (e.g. food, appts, etc.).

Current: COVID relief food insecurity project to identify food and transportation insecurities in veteran households in project areas.

- Served **118 households; 293 veterans & family members**, mostly in rural and tribal communities.
- **26.2%** reported need for ongoing food assistance.
- **36.4%** of those with recurring food needs reported consistent transportation insecurity.

Next: Partnering with local partners to serve the high-risk populations identified through the food insecurity effort and utilize volunteer drivers and navigators to facilitate connection between service providers and recipients.

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Focus Communities

Volunteer recruitment and services are currently launching in the following areas:



- Show Low
- Weaver Mountain
- Payson
- Mohave County
- Maricopa County
- Prescott
- Yuma
- Tucson
- Sierra Vista
- Pinal County

Don't see your community listed? Let's chat!

- **Consistent Support** to Food Insecure Veterans across Northern AZ
 - Including wraparound Be Connected support
- **2nd Phase** of COVID Community Support
 - Replicating Northern AZ pilot in Southern AZ
- **Statewide** Food Pop-up Project
- VA Food Pantry and Event Coordination
- **ADVS Transportation Survey**
 - *50% of respondents have reported at least one barrier to consistent transportation.*

Poll #3:

How will you help?

Three easy ways to get involved:

- **Nominate** a family member, friend, colleague or client
- **Share** on social media, email and through word-of-mouth
 - Internally and externally
- **Volunteer** as a driver
 - No-cost training
 - Paid mileage reimbursement



Learn more at:

www.arizonacoalition.org/transportation

Let's talk about you...

What is going on in **your** community?

What have you noticed over the **past year?**

How can you **get involved?**

Thank you for joining us!

Please feel free to reach out:

Email

connect@arizonacoalition.org

Be Connected Website

www.beconnectedaz.org

**Be Connected: Door-to-Door
Transportation Project**

www.arizonacoalition.org/transportation