

Transportation Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility 2024 Action Agenda

Introduction

The **2024 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Action Agenda** outlines a strategic framework aimed at advancing the mission of the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC). Rooted in collaboration, this agenda seeks to engage stakeholders, including experts in aging, disability, diversity, and transportation across local, state, and national levels in guiding NADTC's efforts towards fostering accessible transportation, coordination, and diversity initiatives. These collaborations will serve as a platform for vibrant discussions, the exchange of innovative ideas, and the discovery of promising practices that positively influence accessible transportation for marginalized and underserved older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers and communities.

Key Action Steps for 2024

- Targeted Technical Assistance and Support
- Education and Awareness Building
- Effective Coordination and Collaborative Partnership Strategy

Activity Area 1

Targeted Technical Assistance and Support: A key activity of the action agenda is to provide targeted technical assistance and support to communities, providers, and stakeholders. This includes offering resources, conducting data analysis, and cultivating relationships with national stakeholders to facilitate vibrant discussions, idea exchange, and the discovery of promising practices.

- *Identify areas that need additional analysis from the DEI Responses to the 2023 Provider Survey. NADTC will collect and organize data from the survey related to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in response to questions and issues raised by constituents at virtual and in-person events focused on the survey findings and in consultation with FTA. NADTC will analyze survey responses to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities, to inform decision-making and strategy development, share insights with relevant stakeholders and identify the most appropriate methods for sharing additional insights and findings.*
- *Develop a Transportation Equity Conversation Toolkit for Providers. Based on the National Symposia conducted in year 3.*

- *The toolkit will provide guidance on how to hold a community meeting with various transportation and non-transportation stakeholders to discuss transportation equity and create an action plan for further work.*
- *Expand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Experts Resource List and Create a DEI Peer Resource. NADTC will continue to recruit transportation providers with DEI experience who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. NADTC will connect them with transit providers who are seeking help with DEI challenges.*
- *Track and respond to individual requests for information and technical assistance on DEIA.*

Activity Area 2

Education and Awareness Building: The action agenda underscores the importance of education and awareness building efforts, particularly through the development of webinars, technical assistance briefs, and community transportation forums. These initiatives aim to educate transportation providers about available DEIA resources, promote understanding of DEIA principles, and foster engagement with marginalized and underserved populations.

- *Develop a Webinar and/or Technical Assistance Brief. The purpose is to educate transportation providers and stakeholders about available DEIA resources provided by NADTC. In addition, the product(s), including a case study of how transportation providers address DEI issues, will foster awareness and understanding of DEIA principles and practices within the field.*
- *Conduct Community Transportation Forums. NADTC will work with two communities to convene forums of transit providers and human services transportation providers to discuss with local stakeholders their challenges and potential solutions to improve transportation access and equity for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers who historically have been underserved and marginalized.*
- *Plan and convene DEIA learning opportunities that may include lunch and learns, office hours, on-line discussion forums, and conference presentations. These events will be developed in response to issues that arise from NADTC's other work.*

Activity Area 3

Effective Coordination and Collaborative Partnership Strategy: The action agenda focuses on effective coordination and collaboration emerges as a recurring theme, highlighted by activities such as organizing DEI Advisory Committee Meetings. The agenda emphasizes the importance of developing and implementing a partnership strategy to engage stakeholders at various levels, including local, state, and national, is a key activity. Collaboration is highlighted as essential for guiding NADTC's work on accessible transportation, coordination, and diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives.

- *Engage National DEIA Advisory Committee: NADTC will continue its work with the National DEI Advisory Committee whose role is to advise NADTC on DEIA issues, help the Center make connections to grassroots organizations and community providers that directly serve the diverse populations we want to reach, and guide development of a DEIA statement. The Committee will meet at least 3 times during the grant year. These meetings will provide an opportunity to align strategies, share insights, and address challenges related to coordination and partnership development for local transportation providers.*