

August 14, 2020

Mayor Patricia Beyers
City of Yakima
129 North Second Street
Yakima, WA 98901



PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE

Dear Mayor Beyers,

People For People is requesting your support for our application to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Transportation services that People For People provides will terminate on June 30, 2021. The current transportation service provides over trips for individuals with special needs, allowing them to remain independent in their communities and access critical health and human services. It also supports the preservation of Mobility Management with the coordination of transportation services for individuals to access transportation options.

Our WSDOT application will provide grant funding from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025 to sustain transportation services in the rural and remote areas of Yakima County. The focus of the projects is to ensure that vulnerable citizens have access to basic services; That elderly individuals can remain independent in their own homes; That individuals with special needs can access dialysis, cancer treatment, and other health care services; That individuals have access to employment, job training, educational opportunities, social services, nutrition, and shopping.

The funding is extremely competitive. With that in mind, People For People would appreciate a letter of support in order to continue providing transportation services. Some facts that you may consider mentioning in your letter include the following:

- The lack of transportation options for many of our residents.
- The critical need to provide transportation service for individuals to access health care, education, employment, social services, nutrition, shopping, and other basic services.
- The rising cost of fuel has a dramatic impact on low-income and fixed-income individuals that live in remote rural locations.
- Your interest in coordinating services and opportunities that you provide to the public.
- Any other information that would demonstrate the value of this service to the communities or specific customer needs.

I have enclosed an Executive Summary and a Sample Letter of Support. In order to meet the deadline for the application, **please return your letter of support by Tuesday, September 1, 2020 to People For People, 304 West Lincoln Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902 or mcarlson@pfp.org**. If you should have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at mcarlson@pfp.org or (509) 248-6726.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Carlson
People For People, CEO

Enclosures

304 West Lincoln, Yakima, WA 98902, (509) 248-6726

We are an Equal Opportunity Agency. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



Executive Summary People For People Transportation Service



PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE

People For People is submitting an application to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to sustain and expand transportation services in Yakima County. The funds we seek will allow People For People to provide transportation services to individuals that have special transportation needs with the purpose of providing access to basic services such as health care, education, social services, and employment.

Transportation Projects

People For People is requesting WSDOT funding to support:

Yakima County Replacement Vehicles to Sustain Special Needs Transportation: This request is to replace aging ADA accessible vehicles that are past their useful life to preserve the much-needed demand response, route-deviated, and fixed route services to individuals with special needs. The replacement vehicles will provide needed transportation service for our elderly and persons with disabilities to access nutrition, health care, employment, and other community activities. The vehicles will transport low-income individuals to access employment and employment related services as well as transporting children with special needs to therapeutic child care. The project replaces the aging *Community Connector* vehicle that provides fixed-route service between Prosser and Yakima for special needs individuals and the general public, connecting riders with Ben Franklin Transit, Yakima Transit, *Pahto Public Passage*, and the Yakima Ellensburg Commuter service.

The projects will preserve transportation services to special needs populations in addressing the transportation needs that are identified in the 2018 Yakima Valley Region Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan:

- **Persons with disabilities** lack access to employment, health care, social services, recreation, and social events.
- **Older adults** seek access to health care, as well as, shopping, nutrition, and socialization with friends and family.
- **Low-income individuals** lack access to social services, health care, job search, employment, education, and taking children to childcare.
- **Youth** lack transportation for after-school activities, summer activities, recreation, child care, alternative schools, and post-secondary education.
- **Veterans** lack transportation for health care, employment, employment related services, education, and other vital services.

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