FY27 Community Service Grant Application Form

Please complete and return this form to DSelf@DriggsIdaho.org or to City Hall, 60 S Main St by 6/11/26

Organization Name and Address:

Seniors West of the Tetons
60 S. Main
PO Box 871
[address redacted]

Organization Mission:

Enriching seniors' lives through advocacy, diverse programming, and wellness and nutrition opportunities.

Funding Request Amount:

$10,000

Funding Request Purpose:

Older adults in Teton Valley face transportation barriers that limit access to meals, medical care, and community connection. While many seniors currently drive, that independence is often fragile and seasonal, particularly during winter months, after health changes, or as driving confidence declines. In a rural valley with long distances and limited public transportation, transportation often determines whether seniors can remain independent and engaged.

Seniors West of the Tetons is piloting a transportation service to address these barriers to access. While our daily interactions with seniors, as well as a recently conducted transportation survey, make it clear that transportation is a major concern for our seniors particularly in the winter months, we feel a pilot program is warranted to determine which types of transportation services are both feasible and in demand. (See attached project description for details.)

Percent of Funding for this Purpose Requested from City: 40%

Sources of Other Funding for this Purpose:

Community Foundation of Teton Valley ($3500 grant)
Individual Donations to Seniors West of the Tetons
Seniors West of the Tetons Fundraising Activities (Black Tie Bingo, Farmers' Market Sales)

Informational attachments:

Project Description: Transporting Seniors in Teton Valley: A Pilot Program

Transporting Seniors in Teton Valley: A Pilot Program
Seniors West of the Tetons

Community Need

In Teton Valley, seniors are scattered over a wide area, which makes accessing services and activities challenging. Our three routes for home-delivered meals, for instance, total over 70 miles, which our volunteer drivers navigate three times a week in all sorts of weather. To access medical care, shopping and community activities, seniors must often travel over 10 miles. Especially when winter weather or a health issue limits driving, these distances can present severe challenges for seniors and the family and friends who assist them. Too often, seniors find they must forego a service or activity that may help them remain healthy, independent and engaged.

Through its daily interaction with seniors participating in its meal, fitness and recreational programs, Seniors West of the Tetons has identified transportation as a recurring concern. To better understand the scope of the issue, the organization conducted a community transportation survey that received 104 responses from across the valley. Over 65% of respondents were 70 or older, and nearly 30% live alone. While most currently rely on a personal vehicle, respondents reported significant transportation barriers, including winter road conditions, reduced daylight, long distances, and limited infrastructure.

Survey results showed that transportation challenges prevent seniors from going where they need or want to go at least occasionally, and more than half indicated they would be likely to use transportation services if expanded. Written responses reflected concern about winter driving, medical appointments outside the valley, and uncertainty about future ability to drive safely. These findings confirm that transportation challenges are already affecting seniors and are expected to grow as the population ages.

The severity of this issue lies in its impact. Even occasional transportation barriers can lead to missed meals, delayed healthcare, reduced participation in programs, and increased isolation. Such transportation challenges have existed in Teton Valley for many years but are becoming more pressing as the senior population grows.

Currently, there is no coordinated transportation program serving seniors in the valley. Informal support from friends or family is inconsistent, and while Seniors West of the Tetons owns a van, it has been used primarily to transport seniors from the Senior Community Center to an activity.

Addressing this need is critical to supporting seniors' health, independence, and connection. Transportation is a gateway to food, healthcare, and community. This project aligns directly with the mission of Seniors West of the Tetons by reducing barriers to

participation, preventing isolation, and supporting aging in place using existing staff and infrastructure.

Project Description

Seniors West of the Tetons proposes to pilot senior transportation program to reduce transportation barriers for older adults living in Teton Valley. Transportation will be coordinated by our Community Engagement & Operations Assistant and provided using the organization's existing van and staff and volunteer drivers. Services will focus on transportation to senior center meals and programs, medical and wellness appointments, and short-term needs related to weather or temporary health limitations. Requests will be scheduled in advance when possible, with flexibility to respond to time-sensitive needs as capacity allows.

Seniors West of the Tetons has the capacity to carry out this project successfully. As the primary senior center serving Teton Valley, the organization has established relationships with older adults across the community. It has an experienced staff, dedicated volunteers, and systems in place to manage scheduling and track participation. Grant funds will support staff time for coordination and driving, vehicle fuel and maintenance, and basic program tracking and evaluation.

The project's impact will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative methods, including the number of seniors served, rides provided, miles driven, volunteer and staff time expended, types of trips requested, and seasonal patterns of use. Informal feedback from participating seniors will help assess changes in access to services and community connection. This program will reduce transportation barriers for seniors while generating data to guide future transportation planning and sustainability into the future.

Why a Pilot?

While the survey data cited above clearly supports the need for this transportation service, we know that there is often a gap between what is needed and what can be provided and used. Transportation services are logistically difficult to provide. To transport a senior to a medical appointment, for instance, many availabilities must align: the driver's, the healthcare provider's, the vehicle's, the senior's. Bringing a group of seniors to the Senior Community Center for a program may involve a pick-up and drop-off route that takes more than an hour to drive each way. Offering this as a pilot will allow us to experiment with different kinds of services and scheduling procedures and assess demand feasibility and sustainability.