

TOWN OF



PLAINVILLE

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Dear Transportation Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as a formal request to re-consider funding SB-1093 – An Act Providing Funds for Municipal Matching Grants for Demand-Responsive Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities. The Plainville Senior Center has received funding under this Act for three years. The monies have allowed us to increase services for elders, as well as to provide much needed transportation for persons with disabilities.

Although the amount funded in Plainville is less than \$19,000, we have been able to expand our daily Dial-A-Ride when necessary, adding another driver when the requests for services are great. Additionally, we have added trips for our social-day program which serves the most frail elders in our community. They have been able to ride handicapped accessible buses to social events, lunches and educational programs.

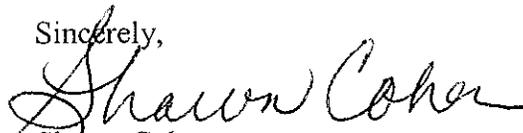
For those unable to take long trips or unable to afford travel, we have instituted a number of short excursions to nearby locations. One lady went to a movie – the last time she had been to a theatre was 40 years ago. Another went to the park for a picnic. She enjoyed the swings for the first time in 50 years.

The funding has also allowed us to provide transportation to both children and adults with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. As part of the grant, we contacted any organization in Plainville serving disabled individuals offering transportation services. We are able to transport children attending summer day camp, adults to social programs, adults and children to recreational activities and families to special events.

Another group using the transportation monies is grandparents raising grandchildren. The grant has allowed us to plan recreational trips for those unable to afford travel or for those that cannot drive. We were also able to provide buses to educational programs, support groups and to a conference.

This funding has made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals in Plainville. Please consider continuing this valuable program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Shawn Cohen