

Mojatu Foundation

Case Study

Assessing the Effect of a Community Transport Association-Funded Transport Reimbursement Project on Maria Fontes, an Elderly Participant with Difficulty Accessing Weekly Community Sessions

Introduction

This case study examines the impact of a transport reimbursement project funded by the Community Transport Association on Maria Fontes, an 83-year-old participant facing mobility challenges and difficulty accessing weekly community sessions. The project aimed to address transportation barriers for elderly individuals and combat loneliness. This study focuses on Maria Fontes, who requires assistance from her caregiver to overcome mobility limitations, and evaluates the effectiveness of the project in enhancing her access to community sessions and reducing social isolation.

Participant Profile

Maria Fontes is an 83-year-old woman living with her grandson, who is also her caregiver, in an urban area. Due to her age and limited mobility, she relies on her caregiver for assistance with daily tasks. Maria highly values social interactions and recognizes the importance of community engagement for her overall well-being. However, transportation challenges and her limited mobility had hindered her regular attendance at community sessions, resulting in feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The Transport Reimbursement Project

The transport reimbursement project, funded by the Community Transport Association, aimed to address transportation barriers faced by elderly individuals like Maria Fontes. The project provided financial assistance to eligible participants to cover transportation expenses associated with attending weekly community sessions. The reimbursement covered costs such as public transportation fees, mileage reimbursement for private vehicles, and even provided dedicated transport services for individuals with mobility challenges.

Methodology

To assess the effect of the transport reimbursement project on Maria Fontes, a qualitative approach was employed. The following methods were utilized:



- In-depth interviews: Multiple in-depth interviews were conducted with Maria Fontes and her caregiver to gain insights into their transportation challenges, previous attendance patterns, and expectations from the project. These interviews helped understand the specific difficulties they encountered in accessing community sessions and the potential impact of the project on their lives.
- Observations: The researcher observed Maria Fontes's attendance and engagement levels in community sessions before and after the implementation of the transport reimbursement project. The observations focused on her overall participation, social interactions, and emotional well-being during the sessions.

Results

The results of the case study indicate several positive outcomes of the Community Transport Association-funded transport reimbursement project for Maria Fontes:

- Improved attendance: Before the project, Maria Fontes faced significant challenges in attending weekly community sessions due to transportation barriers and limited mobility. After the implementation of the transport reimbursement project, she reported a substantial increase in attendance. The availability of financial assistance and dedicated transport services facilitated her regular participation, as she could rely on reliable transportation solutions tailored to her needs.
- Enhanced social engagement: Regular participation in community sessions allowed Maria Fontes to interact with fellow participants and engage in social activities. The project provided her with opportunities to forge new friendships and establish connections with like-minded individuals. The increased social engagement positively impacted her well-being, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- Improved emotional well-being: The transport reimbursement project significantly improved Maria Fontes's emotional well-being. By participating in community sessions, she experienced a sense of belonging and purpose. The opportunity to engage in meaningful activities, despite her mobility limitations, boosted her self-esteem, confidence, and overall happiness.
- Support for the carer: The transport reimbursement project also alleviated the burden on Maria Fontes's caregiver. The availability of dedicated transport services relieved the carer of the responsibility of arranging and facilitating transportation, allowing them to focus on other aspects of caregiving. This indirectly contributed to a more positive environment for Maria Fontes and improved the overall quality of care.

Conclusion

This case study demonstrates the positive impact of a Community Transport Association-funded transport reimbursement project on Maria.

