

**Contact: Susan Haas**  
Nevada Rural Counties  
RSVP, Inc.  
Phone: (775) 687-4680 ext.2  
Fax: (775) 687-4494

2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 6  
Carson City, NV 89706  
[www.nevadaruralrsvp.org/](http://www.nevadaruralrsvp.org/)  
[shaas@nvrsvp.com](mailto:shaas@nvrsvp.com)

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## NEWS RELEASE

### RSVP ANNOUNCES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXPANSION

RSVP has received additional funding for transportation services from the Fund For A Healthy Nevada and State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services which enables us to expand our services to include younger persons with a disability, veterans, and seniors that have been on a wait-list. Volunteers are able to provide transportation services at no charge throughout Carson City and Nevada's rural communities, as well as the ability to drive long distances, to access essential services in urban areas which provide the services they desperately need to maintain quality of life and independence. Volunteers utilizing their own vehicles receive mileage reimbursement at \$0.40 per mile and donations are gratefully accepted. No one is turned away because of an inability to contribute.

The Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program, Inc. (RSVP) has been serving seniors for 43 years. "We are able to help even more people now and can provide persons with disabilities aged 18 and older with free escorted transportation services provided by volunteers." said Susan Haas, Executive Director and CEO of RSVP. "We need more drivers to help us to deliver these services, and we provide mileage reimbursement or offer our vans (when available) to transport those in need. I encourage volunteers to come forward and help fill the gaps for seniors, veterans and disabled persons who just need a little help to get to their doctor's appointments. If you can volunteer a couple of hours a week or even once a month, you will be providing a tremendous service to your community," said Haas.

Transportation for essential medical and dental trips for frail, homebound, transit dependent seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities who live in rural Nevada, and Carson City is a critical need in our state. RSVP provides door to door escorted transportation services and the emotional reassurance so necessary for our homebound population. This service is for those who may not see well enough to drive themselves anymore or don't have the needed resources to access the goods and services necessary to maintain their independence. Rides are also provided for shopping, to pick up prescriptions, to attend church and socialization.

RSVP's Veterans "Volunteers In Partnership" (VIP) Program is a dedicated program which offers support and assistance to Veterans in need, recruits Veterans to volunteer to help other seniors and Veterans, provides suicide prevention and awareness support, and trips to VA Centers. All veterans are encouraged to call if they need assistance or can volunteer to help other veterans and seniors get to their critical appointments. This assistance helps to allay the terrible fear that they will not be able to remain in their own homes where their possessions, family, and memories all help improve their quality of life.

Family members, friends, and acquaintances from the faith-based community can serve as a RSVP volunteer who will provide them with escorted transportation services. RSVP performs a national sex offender and state background check on the prospective volunteer and trains the individual in their service delivery to elders, veterans and adults with a disability. Volunteers utilizing their own vehicles will receive mileage reimbursement at \$0.40 per mile.

Isolated homebound elderly, veterans and disabled persons are more vulnerable to depression which can easily lead to suicide. In fact, the elder suicide rate in Nevada is nearly three times the national average according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who report that elderly Americans continue to remain the population at highest risk for suicide.

Help us get the word out about RSVP's lifesaving transportation services! For a list of volunteer opportunities, or for information about qualifying for RSVP services, contact Sandy Severance, RSVP Program Director @ 775-687-4680 x 6. Visit our website at [www.nevadaruralrsvp.org](http://www.nevadaruralrsvp.org).