



# Bearing Down on Transportation Needs



The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services is excited to collaborate with the University of Arizona to conduct a study regarding the transportation needs of veterans within our state. Transportation plays a vital role in the veteran community. Access to transportation provides veterans with the ability to obtain things like healthcare services, employment, and an overall sense of independence.

However, a lack of access to transportation can lead to veterans missing doctor's appointments, not being able to shop for groceries and various other opportunities that would allow them to appropriately take care of themselves and thrive. In an effort to prevent more veterans from experiencing the effects of not having access to transportation, we are tapping into resources across the state to identify gaps and apply appropriate solutions.

The transportation study, beginning August 1, 2020, will take place over a one-year time span, surveying veterans from Arizona's 15 counties, 91 cities and towns, including 21 American Indian Tribes. We will communicate with federal, state, and local government offices, veteran organizations and groups, as well as private and non-profit organizations to access information regarding the current transportation needs of veterans. In addition to surveying these groups, we will also conduct a variety of focus groups to further analyze the information gathered. The information will be used to develop solutions to address the transportation needs of Arizona's veterans. We look forward to working with the University of Arizona to bring our veterans improved access to transportation services.

We will make the findings of the transportation study public once complete. The University of Arizona is also one of our 38 certified Arizona Veteran Supportive Campuses.