

## **Background for the Development of the Program Development Resources Toolkit**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recognizes that seniors are at risk due to age-related and medical conditions that can result in impairments which may affect safe mobility. While NHTSA acknowledges the contribution occupational therapy practitioners make to older issues, they also understand there are not sufficient practitioners or programs to respond to and meet the emerging driving-related needs of seniors. In recognition of the professional and programmatic capacity issues, NHTSA has funded this project to identify the barriers to developing and sustaining driving/community mobility programs and subsequently create a resource toolkit to facilitate program development.

Phase 1 of the project was a study to identify the barriers. The study included an in-depth review of the literature to determine barriers. Those barriers were incorporated into a questionnaire which was distributed nationally to occupational therapy practitioners, managers, and administrators. The study yielded 2,869 respondents representing an 11.5% response rate. The distribution of the respondents included all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The respondents identified a total of 19 barriers, which tended to be contextual in nature and were then analyzed and found to be highly associated with each other ( $r_s = 0.503$  to  $0.810$ ). The 19 barriers were also analyzed against the respondent (practitioner level, decision-making power and program development experience) and setting characteristics (facility type and location) using Cramer's V. No statistically significant differences were found in barriers experienced by respondents with different characteristics or from different settings. Therefore, the researchers concluded that the identified barriers were equally discriminating, which would mean that the resolution of one barrier may resolve other barriers. Additionally, program development barriers were found to differ from practice-related barriers.

Phase 2 of the project consisted of an expert panel meeting convened in September 2007. The panel was presented with the study findings and asked to provide suggestions concerning the development of a resource toolkit. The panel helped identify specific content areas to be used in the resource toolkit.

Content areas:

- Model Program
- Risk Identification and Management
- Capacity Building
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Funding Resources
- Message Promoting Participation
- Strategic Alliance

After the content areas were identified, Phase 3 of the project began. The development of the resource toolkit, designed to provide guidance and resources for those developing driving and community mobility programs, is currently underway and will be available on AOTA's Older Driver Microsite. As the resource toolkit is developed, it will be evaluated for utility and effectiveness to maximize its usefulness.