



Transportation crisis fact sheet

What reporters and community partners need to know about Silver Key

SEPTEMBER 2026

Beginning in January 2027, Silver Key expects a transportation funding reduction of approximately \$36,000 per month. Community support is needed to help protect rides for older adults while Silver Key develops a sustainable model for the future.

Key number	What it means
\$36,000 per month	Projected transportation funding reduction beginning in January 2027
\$432,000 per year	Annualized impact of the projected funding reduction
\$50,000	Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation challenge grant
34,000 rides	Approximate number Reserve & Ride provides each year
1,500+ older adults	People served annually by Reserve & Ride
5,000+ requests	Rides Silver Key could not accommodate during the past year
11,000+ older adults	People served annually across Silver Key programs

What Reserve and Ride provides

Reserve & Ride connects older adults to destinations that support health, independence and connection, including:

- Physicians, dialysis and other healthcare appointments
- Grocery stores and food resources
- Community activities and places of worship
- Other destinations that help older adults remain connected and independent

Who the program serves

Silver Key serves older adults whose mobility needs may require more than a traditional ride. Trained staff provide assisted transportation for individuals using wheelchairs, walkers, oxygen and other supportive devices. Volunteer drivers are an invaluable part of the program, but they cannot replace the trained staff, accessible vehicles and operating infrastructure needed to serve people with more complex mobility needs safely.

Why the funding loss matters

The January 2027 reduction does not create a new transportation challenge. It deepens an existing gap between the rides older adults need and the resources available to provide them. Demand already exceeds capacity, as shown by the more than 5,000 ride requests Silver Key could not accommodate during the past year.

Why transportation supports health

Silver Key views health and independence as connected to both medical and nonmedical needs. Transportation, nutrition, housing, behavioral health, social connection and access to care all influence whether an older adult can continue living safely and independently in the community.

The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that insufficient social connection can increase the risk of premature death to levels comparable with smoking as many as 15 cigarettes per day.

How the community can help

The Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation has provided a \$50,000 challenge grant to encourage community support. Silver Key is asking foundations, businesses, healthcare partners, donors and community members to help meet the challenge and protect transportation access for older adults.

Support will help preserve transportation capacity while Silver Key:

- Develops new partnerships
- Explores service-model innovations
- Diversifies resources for long-term sustainability
- Builds a model capable of meeting the needs of a rapidly aging community

Suggested interview topics

- How the projected funding reduction will affect transportation capacity
- Why assisted transportation requires trained staff and accessible vehicles
- The effect of unmet transportation needs on health, independence and connection
- How community partners and donors can respond to the Kaplan Foundation challenge
- Silver Key's work to build a sustainable transportation model

About Silver Key

Since 1970, Silver Key has worked alongside older adults throughout the Pikes Peak region to support independence, health, dignity and connection. Through transportation, nutrition, health and wellness, behavioral health, housing, community navigation and other services, Silver Key helps ensure older adults have the resources and relationships they need throughout their Journey of Aging.