

NEW FREEDOM FACT SHEET

New Freedom 2013

Highlights

- » More than \$660,000 in New Freedom funds supported ten projects.
- » Grant recipients provided more than 41,000 rides.
- » New Freedom-funded projects included mobility management, vanpool, and volunteer driver programs.

Find a ride by calling Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT) at (888) 924-3228 or visit factsd.org

Overview

New Freedom is a federally-funded grant program that provides financial support to local agencies and nonprofit organizations to offer specialized transportation services for individuals with disabilities that exceed the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Under MAP-21, the new law authorizing transportation funds, federal transportation programs have been reorganized and consolidated. The New Freedom program

has been consolidated with the Section 5310 program to form a new Section 5310 program, which is now called Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Services once eligible under the New Freedom Program are now eligible under the new Section 5310. SANDAG continues to provide administrative support to grantees awarded New Freedom funds from previous competitive grant cycles.

The Need

Individuals with disabilities are identified as
(Continued on reverse)

Agency	Accomplishments in 2013
City of La Mesa – Rides4Neighbors	Provide a total of 10,919 one-way trips for over 910 riders with the help of 56 volunteer drivers. Of these, 952 one-way trips were completed by wheelchair transport for non-ambulatory clients.
City of San Marcos – On the Move Transportation Program	Provided 3,130 one-way trips for medical appointments to seniors over 60 years who do not have any other means of transportation.
FACT – Mobility Management Center	Provided transportation to disadvantaged individuals with nearly 24,200 telephone and web-based transportation referrals – a fourfold increase from the previous year.
Jewish Family Service On the Go – North County Inland and Eastern San Diego Rides & Smiles	Provided 15,272 rides to 1,427 enrolled riders using 405 volunteer drivers. Achieved its 150,000th ride as an organization in April 2013.
Jewish Family Service On the Go – Northern San Diego Rides & Smiles	Provided 8,617 rides to 791 riders using 405 volunteer drivers. Achieved its 150,000th ride as an organization in April 2013.
Peninsula Shepherd Center – Out and About Peninsula	Provided 2,251 rides to seniors who live in the neighborhoods of Point Loma, Ocean Beach, and Midway/Sports Arena. Acquired a new wheelchair-friendly van.
Renewing Life	Provided over 3,600 one-way passenger trips to seniors, disabled individuals, and families in domestic violence shelter in the South Bay with 100% customer satisfaction.
San Ysidro Health Center	Coordinated transportation services for patients with disabilities to get to appointments and pick up prescriptions at the pharmacy so these patients can maintain continuity of care.
Senior Transportation Network	Provided 1,526 one-way passenger trips to seniors and adults with visual impairments.



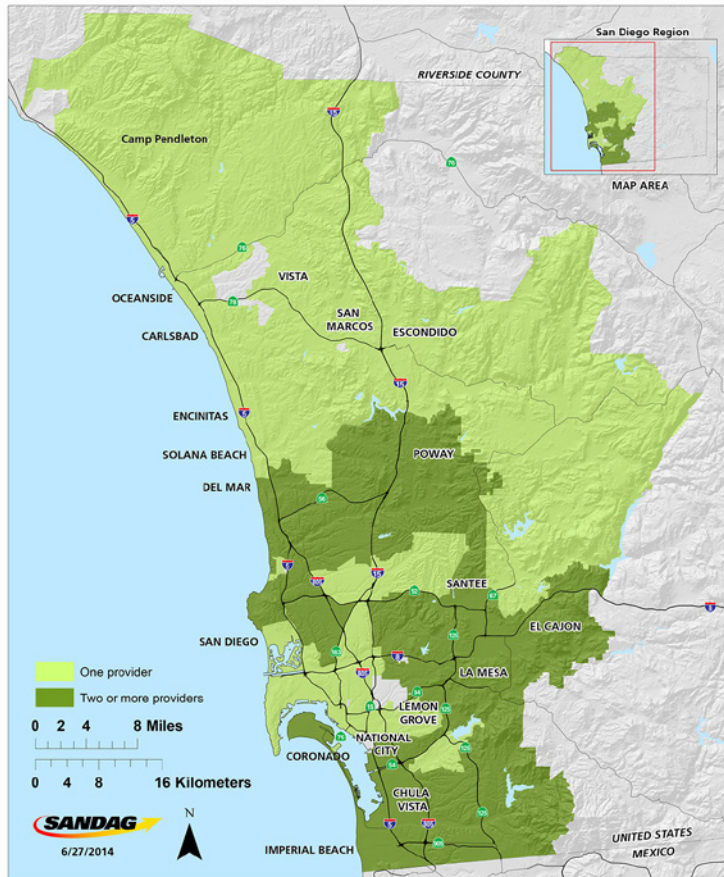
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Specialized Transportation Providers Funded Through the New Freedom Grant Program (2013)



To see a bigger version of this map, visit sandag.org/NFmap.

Eligible Applicants:

- » Local government agencies
- » Tribal governments
- » Social services agencies
- » Private and public operators of public transportation
- » Nonprofit organizations

Eligible Projects Include:

- » Transit vouchers
- » Mobility management
- » Volunteer driver programs
- » Fixed-route transit
- » Rideshare/vanpool programs

any persons with any physical, developmental (behavioral), visual, and/or hearing impairment(s). According to the 2012 American Community Survey, 9.6% of San Diego County residents identify themselves as disabled. Accessible transportation is a basic necessity to maintain a high quality of life, which includes fulfilling basic daily needs, access to healthcare, education, and work, as well as improving/maintaining mental and physical well-being. Local nonprofits and other agencies have used New Freedom funding administered by SANDAG to address the growing needs of the region and improve existing services.

The Competitive Grant Application Process

In previous years, about \$800,000 in New Freedom funds have been distributed annually through a competitive grant process. The grant program is funded by federal dollars apportioned to SANDAG to award to local,

eligible applicants. A committee composed of non-applicant agency representatives and expert community members reviewed, scored, and ranked the applications. A list of projects recommended for funding was then presented to the SANDAG Transportation Committee and Board of Directors for final approval.

Eligible Projects

New Freedom grants fund innovative and flexible programs that support the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities. New Freedom funds are directed toward meeting the needs of new or expanded programs (those in operation prior to August 2005 are not eligible). SANDAG required that New Freedom-funded projects address a very high or high priority as stated in the Coordinated Plan (sandag.org/coordinatedplan). The Coordinated Plan identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, among others, and provides strategies for meeting those needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Grant funding may be used for capital, operating, or mobility management projects.

Program Requirements

Applicants were permitted to request funding amounts between \$30,000 and \$200,000 per project. Passengers who are not disabled may be transported through the project, but at least 80 percent of trips are provided to disabled riders. Projects serve residents of San Diego urbanized areas.

All projects have cost-sharing requirements. Projects are funded on a reimbursement basis, with grantees required to submit backup documentation along with progress reports. In addition to the progress reports, grantee performance is monitored through data collection and site visits.

For More Information

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