

SENIOR MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

Senior Mini-Grant 2013 Highlights

- » More than \$1.2 million in Senior Mini-Grants supported 14 projects in San Diego County.
- » Grant recipients provided more than 110,000 rides to seniors.
- » Projects funded by Senior Mini-Grants included shuttles, volunteer driver programs, and travel training on how to use public transit.

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

Overview

The Senior Mini-Grant (SMG) program provides financial support to local agencies and nonprofit organizations to offer specialized transportation services for seniors age 60 and older. The program is funded by TransNet, the regional half-cent sales tax for transportation projects. SANDAG allocates

funds for the program through a competitive, countywide grant process.

The Need

For the senior population, transportation is a crucial factor in maintaining quality of life and an active lifestyle. With the senior

(Continued on reverse)

Agency	Accomplishments in 2013
City of La Mesa – Rides4Neighbors	Provided a total of 18,557 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 Oceanside – Solutions for Seniors on the Go	Provided over 11,000 low-cost or no-cost trips to over 1,200 Oceanside seniors through van service, Taxi Scrip, and volunteer driver services. Expanded its boundaries to include transportation to all medical facilities within North County.
City of Vista - Out & About Vista	Provided 5,576 low-cost one-way shuttle trips and 3,293 one-way volunteer driver trips for Vista seniors. Reimbursed for 41,659 volunteer driver miles and provided 492 Taxi Scrip rides in the first full year offering Taxi Scrip.
ElderHelp – Seniors-A-Go-Go	Provided 5,329 trips to over 200 seniors and used its partnership with ElderHelp to launch bi-weekly shopping shuttle services to reach even more seniors residing at two local senior housing buildings.
FACT – RideFACT	Provided nearly 14,470 one-way trips across the 18 cities in San Diego County – a fivefold increase from the previous year. Performed its 10,000th ride in September 2013.
Friends of Adult Day Health Care Centers – TransMed for Seniors	Provided 1,979 non-emergency medical transport trips through TransMed to 188 low-income seniors in collaboration with the Poway Adult Day Health Care Center.
Jewish Family Service On the Go – North County Inland and Eastern San Diego Rides & Smiles	Provided 15,272 rides to 1,427 riders using 405 volunteer drivers. Provided 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. Provided its 150,000th ride as an organization in April 2013.
Mountain Health Community Services	Provided free non-emergency transportation to medical appointments and shopping trips for senior and disabled persons in the Mountain Empire region of San Diego County.
North County Transit District (NCTD) – Transit Buddy/ Travel Training Program	Trained 60 North County seniors on the use of public transit with the help of 12 volunteers who donated more than 1,000 hours valued at \$34,000. Provided an additional 2,300 seniors with valuable information on travel training options.
Redwood Senior Homes and Services - Out & About Escondido	Provided free transportation to medical appointments and shopping trips for seniors in Escondido.
Redwood Senior Nutrition Program	Provided free transportation for seniors to the Escondido Joslyn Senior Center where lunch was provided.
Travelers Aid Society- SenioRide	Added nearly 200 clients to a roster of 800, and increased volunteer pool to 220. Provided more than 26,500 rides.



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Specialized Transportation Providers Funded Through the *TransNet* Senior Mini-Grant Program (2013)



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

Eligible Applicants:

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

Eligible Projects Include:

- » Senior shuttles
- » Training programs to encourage regular use of public transit
- » Volunteer driving programs
- » Centralized ride scheduling and dispatching
- » Vehicle purchase

population age 60 and older in San Diego County projected to increase by 29 percent from 2013 to 2020, nonprofits and other agencies are encouraged to apply for Senior Mini-Grant funding to address the growing needs and improve existing services and programs in the region. While fixed route and paratransit services continue to meet the region's needs, transit is not always available or appropriate for each passenger. Specialized transportation programs help to bridge gaps in service or meet needs that public transit is unable to fulfill.

The Competitive Grant Application Process

Each year, about \$1 million in Senior Mini-Grant funds are distributed through a competitive grant process. A committee composed of non-applicant agency representatives and expert community

members reviews, scores, and ranks the applications. A list of projects recommended for funding is then presented to the SANDAG Transportation Committee and Board of Directors for final approval.

Eligible Projects

Senior Mini-Grants are intended to fund innovative and flexible programs that support the transportation needs of older adults. SANDAG requires that grant-funded projects to address a very high or high priority in the Coordinated Plan (sandag.org/coordinatedplan). The Coordinated Plan identifies transportation needs of seniors, among others, and provides strategies for meeting those needs and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Grant funding may be used for capital expenses or operating costs. Grant applications that offer new programs or expanded services are encouraged.

Program Requirements

Applicants may request funding amounts between \$30,000 and \$200,000 per project. Passengers who are not seniors may be transported through the program, but no more than 20 percent of the trips provided may be to riders younger than 60. Seniors must be given priority to use transportation services funded by Senior Mini-Grants.

All projects have cost-sharing requirements. Funds can be used to support up to 80 percent (80 grant/20 match) of operating projects and no more than 20 percent (20 grant/80 match) for capital projects. 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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