

# SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

## Specialized Transportation Grant Program

- » Since 2009, \$17.7 million in Senior Mini-Grant funds have supported 81 projects in San Diego County.
- » Since 2015, nearly \$12 million in FTA Section 5310 funds have supported 143 projects in San Diego County.
- » Projects funded by the STGP included: volunteer driver programs, shuttle services, accessible vehicles, and mobility management.
- » Transportation programs funded through the Specialized Transportation Grant Program are able to provide more than 400,000 one-way passenger trips per year.

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## Overview

The Specialized Transportation Grant Program (STGP) funds local agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide specialized transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The program has two funding sources: *TransNet* and Federal Transit Administration Section 5310. *TransNet*, the regional half-cent sales measure for transportation projects, funds specialized transportation services for seniors aged 60 and older through the Senior Mini-Grant program. The Federal Transit Administration apportions funds made available under the FAST Act called Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. These funds are awarded to projects that provide specialized transportation services to seniors and disabled persons when services are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting their needs. SANDAG allocates funds for the program through a competitive, countywide grant process.

## The Need

Specialized transportation is a crucial need in the region today. With the senior population aged 60 and older in San Diego County projected to increase to approximately 1.1 million people by 2050, it is vital to maintain and enhance the current senior-focused transportation network today. While fixed route and paratransit services continue to be an option for 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

Every two years, approximately \$7 million in Senior Mini-Grant and Section 5310 funds are distributed through a competitive grant process. Eligible applicants submit project applications during the 'Call for Projects' and 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 presented to the SANDAG Transportation Committee and Board of Directors for final approval.

(Continued on reverse)



### Eligible Applicants:

- » Local government agencies
- » Tribal governments
- » Social services agencies
- » Private and public operators of public transportation
- » Nonprofit organizations
- » Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA)

### Eligible Projects Include:

- » Vehicle purchase
- » Shuttle programs
- » Volunteer driving programs
- » Centralized ride scheduling and dispatching
- » Training programs to encourage regular use of public transit
- » Specialized transportation information and referral services

### Eligible Projects

The STGP grants are intended to fund innovative and flexible programs that support the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. SANDAG requires that grant-funded projects address a very high or high priority described in the Coordinated Plan ([sandag.org/coordinatedplan](http://sandag.org/coordinatedplan)). The Coordinated Plan identifies transportation needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other transportation disadvantaged populations; provides strategies for meeting those needs; and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Grant funding supports capital, operating, and mobility management projects.

### Program Requirements

Applicants may request funding amounts between \$30,000 and \$200,000 per project. Passengers who are not seniors and not disabled may be transported through the program, but no more than 20 percent of the trips provided may be to riders who are not older than 60 or disabled. Seniors and those with disabilities must be given priority to use transportation services funded by the STGP.

All projects have cost-sharing requirements. Senior Mini-Grant funds can be used to support up to 80 percent (80% grant/20% match) of operating and mobility management projects. Section 5310 funds can be used to support up to 80 percent (80% grant/20% match) of capital and mobility management projects and up to 50 percent of operating projects. Projects are funded on a reimbursement basis, with grantees required to submit backup documentation along with progress reports. Grantee performance is monitored through data collection and site visits.

### Further Reference

For more information on STGP, visit [sandag.org/stgp](http://sandag.org/stgp).

### Contact Information

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For media inquiries, please contact the SANDAG Public Information Office at (619) 699-1950 or [pio@sandag.org](mailto:pio@sandag.org).

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