

# SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM FACT SHEET



## Specialized Transportation Grant Program

- » Nearly \$22 million in Senior Mini-Grant funds have supported 90 San Diego County projects since 2009.
- » Nearly \$15 million in FTA Section 5310 funds have supported more than 160 specialized transportation projects since 2015.
- » Transportation projects funded through the Specialized Transportation Grant Program provided over 400,000 one-way passenger trips each year in 2019 and 2020.

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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 STGP is crucial in meeting the increasing mobility needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. In the San Diego region, senior mobility needs are expected to increase as the population aged 60 and older is projected to increase to approximately 1.1 million people by 2050. 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. 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.

## 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 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.



\*These images were photographed before COVID-19.

## Eligible Projects

The STGP grants fund innovative and flexible programs that support the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Grant funding supports capital, operating, and mobility management projects. 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 mobility impairments, and other transportation disadvantaged populations; provides strategies for meeting those needs; and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

(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

**Cost-Sharing Requirements**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Senior Mini-Grant</b> | <b>80 percent (80% grant/20% match)</b> of operating and mobility management projects  |
| <b>Section 5310</b>      | <b>80 percent (80% grant/20% match)</b> of capital and mobility management projects and up to 50 percent of operating projects |

**Program Requirements**

Applicants may request funding amounts between \$30,000 and \$250,000 per project. Seniors and individuals with disabilities are given priority to use transportation services funded through STGP, but no more than 20 percent of the trips provided may be to riders who are not older than 60 or have mobility impairments.

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 and reported on a quarterly basis to the SANDAG Transportation Committee.

**Further Reference**

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

**Contact Information**

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