



COUNTY of VENTURA

MELISSA LIVINGSTON
Director

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-477-5100

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Deputy Director
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Aging & Disability Services

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Children & Family Services

MARISSA MACH

Deputy Director
Community Access & Engagement

JAIMÉ DUNCAN

Interim Deputy Director
Community Services

Subject: Ratification of the Submission of an Application to the Ventura County Transportation Commission for a Transit Grant in the Amount of \$748,736 for the ElderHelp Transportation Program; and Authorization for the Human Services Agency Director to Accept Funding and Sign Any Related Grant Agreements.

Recommendations:

1. Ratify the submission of an application to the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for a transit grant in the amount of \$748,736 for the ElderHelp Transportation Program to provide no-cost transportation services to seniors and adults with disabilities.
2. Authorize the Human Services Agency (HSA) Director, or designee, to accept funding and sign any related grant agreements, upon the review and approval of the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Reason for Ratification:

VCTC released its Call for Projects on June 7, 2024, with applications due to VCTC by July 26, 2024. Due to the short turnaround timeframe to prepare the application documents and your Board's meeting schedule, HSA was unable to come to your Board for approval prior to submission of the application. HSA received approval from the County Executive Office to apply for this grant opportunity and subsequently provided County Executive Office with all final application documents. We are before your Board today at the earliest date possible for ratification of the submission of the application as required by the County grants policy.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Federal (through VCTC)
Funding Match Required:	Yes, \$186,884 provided through the Older American's Act Title III Supportive Services and the California

Department of Aging (CDA) Aging and Disability
Resource Center Services.

Impact on other Departments: None

Summary of Revenue and Costs:

	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
Revenue:		
Direct	\$374,368	\$374,368
Total Revenue	\$374,368	\$374,368
Costs:		
Direct	\$374,368	\$374,368
Indirect	Minimal	Minimal
Total Costs	\$374,368	\$374,368
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

There is no Net County Cost associated with this action. There are sufficient revenues and appropriations in the HSA Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. If awarded funding, it is anticipated the program will allow reimbursements back to July 1, 2024.

FY 2024-25 Budget Projections for HSA Area Agency on Aging – Div. 3500				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$14,581,959	\$17,026,188	\$17,026,188	\$0
Revenue	\$13,388,687	\$13,388,687	\$13,388,687	\$0
Net Cost	\$1,193,272	\$3,637,501	\$3,637,501	\$0

Strategic Plan Priority:

The ElderHelp Transportation Program contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority to 'Address Homelessness and Lift Up the Most Vulnerable', Goal (2) Meet/sustain basic needs and be a reliable safety net for our vulnerable populations.

Discussion:

HSA's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has been assisting seniors (aged 60 and older) and adults with disabilities with transportation services for over 20 years through the ElderHelp Transportation Program. ElderHelp includes three types of transportation services:

- 1) Fixed-Schedule Bus Routes provides rider tickets to those who wish to maintain their independence by using public transportation.
- 2) Dial-A-Ride provides curb-to-curb transit service to eligible riders who are unable to use fixed route buses.
- 3) Medi-Rides provide door-through-door transportation to medical appointments for those individuals who are living at home, are unable to take a fixed-schedule bus or dial-a-ride transportation and have no other way to get to medical appointments. Medi-Rides are gurney and wheelchair accessible.

In addition to assisting clients who contact the program directly, many social service agencies and senior centers throughout the County also refer clients for help with their transportation needs, including those who can access the fixed-schedule bus services but are unable to afford them. By providing these transit options we are assisting those most in need to remain independent in their communities, sustain and enhance their mobility, and attend medical appointments and social activities.

VCTC is a designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) annual apportionment of funds. VCTC distributes those funds on a competitive basis through the Transit Grant which aims to support the special needs of seniors beyond traditional public transportation services and for those with disabilities beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If selected for funding, AAA will purchase the necessary bus passes and will contract with specialized transportation services to provide Dial-A-Ride and Medi-Ride services for an estimated 123,000 one-way trips during the two-year grant period.

We ask that your Board ratify the submission of the application to VCTC and authorize the HSA Director to accept funding and sign any related grant agreements, upon the review and approval of the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-477-5301, or Elaine Martinez Deputy Director, Aging & Disability Services, at 805-477-5401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa Livingston".

Melissa Livingston
Director

Attachment:
Exhibit 1 – VCTC Grant Application