



## VCTC 2024 CALL-FOR-PROJECTS FOR FTA 5310, FTA 5307 JARC, and CPUC AFA Funds Project Application

### Project Applicant Information

|   |                                       |                            |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Lead Agency or Organization:</b> County of Ventura Human Services Agency, Area Agency on Aging |                                       |                            |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b> 646 County Square Drive, Suite 100  |                                       |                            |
| <b>City:</b> Ventura  | <b>State:</b> CA                      | <b>Zip:</b> 93003          |
| <b>Contact Person Name:</b> Monique Nowlin  |                                       | <b>Phone:</b> 805-477-7309 |
| <b>Title:</b> Division Manager  | <b>E-mail:</b> HSA-Grants@ventura.org |                            |

#### **Applicant Eligibility (check all that apply):**

- ☐ Private Non-Profit Organization
- ☒ State or Local Government
- ☐ Public Transportation Operator
- ☐ Other:

**APPLICATION SIGNATURE (Required)** The undersigned affirms that the statements contained in the application package are true and complete to the best of their knowledge.

**Name:** Melissa Livingston

**Title:** Director

**Phone Number and Email:** 805-477-5301 HSA-Grants@ventura.org

**Authorizing Signature – Applicant:**

### Project Information

#### **1. Project Title:**

Human Services Agency – Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (HSA-VCAAA) ElderHelp Transportation Program

#### **2. Brief Project Description:**

For more than 20 years, the VCAAA's ElderHelp Program has supported the special needs of older adults (including veterans), and adults with disabilities, above and beyond what the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prescribes. These clients have come to rely on VCAAA's ElderHelp program for their transportation needs, at no cost to the client. These transportation services are needed now more than ever, as demonstrated by the increasing demand for rides, magnified by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation.

ElderHelp provides two types of transportation services.

- 1) The Medi-Ride program provides non-emergency medical ride services, primarily **rides to medical appointments** and includes transportation services with varying levels of support (including gurney and wheelchair accessible) to clients as needed.
- The highest level of support is provided by A to B Transport, LLC. Based on the expressed and assessed needs of clients, trained drivers provide door-through-door transportation to medical facilities including Kaiser and the Veterans Administration in neighboring Los Angeles County for clients without an escort. Some clients require help getting ready to leave, help throughout the trip, as well as help in getting settled after they return home.
  - HopSkipDrive provides scheduled rides through drivers with newer cars, 5+ years of caregiving experience, and a successful multi-agency background check including fingerprinting. HopSkipDrive allows us to match clients with lower assistance needs with a much lower transportation cost, tailoring the support level to each client.
  - Scheduled and on-demand rides with Uber provide the lowest cost transportation for clients who do not require special assistance. While fewer clients are comfortable using Uber, those who do report a high level of satisfaction with the service.
  - We continue to provide rides to low-income individuals, not eligible for Medi-Cal funded rides, who are discharging from the hospital, and/or who need non-emergency rides to medical appointments through appropriate vendors.
- 2) ElderHelp also provides **fixed schedule and Dial-A-Ride (DAR) tickets** to low-income older adults and adults with disabilities, who wish to maintain their independence by using public transportation services.

With renewed FTA Section 5310 funding, we will be able to continue to serve the growing population of older adults and adults with disabilities as well as providing more services in the historically underserved/fragmented transportation service areas of East Ventura County (including Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks). In 2023, the VCAAA moved under the umbrella of the Human Services Agency, forming a new Aging and Disability Services Department, unifying all programs and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers throughout Ventura County. Adult Protective Services and In-Home Supportive Services are two large programs within this department, and frequently refer to the transportation services provided by VCAAA ElderHelp.

**3. Project Type: (Check all that apply)**

**Traditional Section 5310 project examples include:**

- ☐ buses and vans
- ☐ wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- ☐ transit-related information technology systems, including scheduling/routing/one-call systems
- ☐ mobility management programs which can include travel training and volunteer driver programs
- ☐ ☒ acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Nontraditional Section 5310 project examples include:**

- ☐ travel training
- ☐ volunteer driver programs
- ☐ building an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features
- ☐ improving signage, or way-finding technology

- ☐ incremental cost of providing same day service or door-to-door service
- ☐ purchasing vehicles to support new accessible taxi, ride sharing and/or vanpooling programs
- ☐ mobility management programs
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**JARC project examples include:**

- ☐ projects designed to transport low-income persons or welfare recipients to jobs and employment-related activities.
- ☐ projects designed to transport workers to suburban employment opportunities.
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Access-for-All project examples include:**

- ☐ Wheelchair accessible vehicle(s)
- ☐ WAV service
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Is the proposed project consistent with the VCTC Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan <https://www.goventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ITEM-10-ATTACHMENT-COORDINATED-PUBLIC-TRANSIT-HUMAN-SERVICES-TRANSPORTATION-PLAN.pdf>**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

**Check all Coordinated Plan Prioritized Strategies that this Project Addresses (page 84):**

|                  |                  |                  |           |           |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.1 _____        | 1.2 _____        | 1.3 _____        | 1.4 _____ |           |
| 2.1 <u>  x  </u> | 2.2 <u>  x  </u> | 2.3 <u>  x  </u> | 2.4 _____ |           |
| 3.1 _____        | 3.2 _____        | 3.3 _____        | 3.4 _____ | 3.5 _____ |
| 4.1 <u>  x  </u> | 4.2 _____        | 4.3 <u>  x  </u> | 4.4 _____ |           |
| 5.1 _____        | 5.2 _____        | 5.3 _____        | 5.4 _____ | 5.5 _____ |
| 6.1 _____        | 6.2 _____        | 6.3 <u>  x  </u> | 6.4 _____ |           |

**5. US Census Urbanized/Rural Areas served by the project (see map and check all that apply):**

- ☒ Oxnard/Ventura/Port Hueneme/Ojai/Point Mugu/Ojai Valley
- ☒ Thousand Oaks/Moorpark/Conejo Valley/Santa Rosa Valley/CSUCI
- ☒ Simi Valley
- ☒ Camarillo/Somis
- ☒ Rural (includes Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, Upper Ojai)

Note: if the project will expand your current service area, please explain how: N/A

**6. If selected for funding, will the applicant sign an agreement to meet all reporting and other requirements of the grant, (for example for FTA funding activities such as record keeping, reporting, civil rights, ADA, preventative maintenance, competitive procurement, and Buy America, plus allowable overhead rate of 10% for private non-profits only) for items funded through this grant?**

- ☐ ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**7. Financial Request Information:**

|                 | <b>5310</b> | <b>JARC</b> | <b>AFA</b> | <b>Matching Funds</b> | <b>Other Funds</b> | <b>Total Project Cost</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>FY 24/25</b> | \$374,368   | \$          | \$         | \$93,442              | \$                 | \$467,810                 |
| <b>FY 25/26</b> | \$374,368   | \$          | \$         | \$93,442              | \$                 | \$467,810                 |
| <b>Total</b>    | \$748,736   | \$          | \$         | \$186,884             | \$                 | \$935,620                 |

Source of Local Match: Title III – Supportive Services (Older Americans Act/Federal Funding), ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) (State of California)

**Public Agency Transit Operators (For 5310 Projects Only):**

Do you know of any nonprofit organizations that are readily available in your service area to provide the proposed service?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ ☒ No / NA



## **Project Screening Information**

### **I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES** *(Maximum 20 points)*

1. Briefly describe how your project addresses the gaps and barriers identified in the VCTC Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan (reference item or page number):

VCAAA has utilized FTA 5310 transportation funding to provide transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities for many years. Additionally, FTA 5310 funding allows us to leverage existing Federal funding (Title IIIB) passed through the California Department of Aging, to expand these much-needed services to try to meet the ever-growing demand. Our program is highly regarded and relied upon by both our clients and the many social service agencies that refer clients to us.

Three of the gaps identified in the VCTC Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan are directly addressed by VCAAA’s ElderHelp transportation services and remain ongoing gaps in the VCTC Coordinated Plan Update 2022. All four of the proposed transportation goals in the VCTC Coordinated Plan Update are supported by the VCAAA ElderHelp transportation program.

Goal 1: Enhance mobility of key communities (e.g., individuals with disabilities, senior, people with low incomes, and veterans).

Goal 2: Improve connections and access to transit and services.

Goal 3: Expand transportation options.

Goal 4: Prioritize convenience.

#### **A. *Gap: Demand Response Travel to Out of Area Destinations***

Since many of our clients are unable to use fixed schedule transportation services due to their medical conditions, including dementia and infirmity, we provide them with door-through-door services, including wheelchair and gurney transportation. Our clients have benefited from the enhanced transportation services provided by the ElderHelp program, to access their health care providers both within the county and in neighboring counties.

People over the age of 65 make up 17.5% of the population in the county versus 15.8% of the state population (2022 American Community Survey). While the number of seniors in the county has increased by more than 44.8% since 2010, the number of low-income seniors has increased by more than 50%. Over half of people over the age of 75 report having some kind of disability, and the percentage of older adults reporting difficulty in independent living, ambulation or self-care continue to increase. (Source: [https://data.census.gov/cedsci Table 51810](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/Table/51810)). Some seniors and adults with disabilities can access curb-to-curb service without assistance, by using a vehicle that is easy to board. However, many others require assistance in using curb-to-curb service. Our program helps to address these needs.

#### **B. *Gap: Transit Affordability***

In addition to age and disability, demographics show that poverty is a barrier to accessing public transit. Many of the referrals for service that we receive are for people who can access fixed route and paratransit services but are unable to afford them. In response to this demand for increased access to existing services, the VCAAA began providing transit tickets to seniors and adults with disabilities in need, a service that is above and beyond



what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA dictates that people who cannot access a fixed-route public transit system due to cognitive and/or physical challenges must have access to a comparable transit system (i.e., paratransit). However, the law does not make provisions for those who are incapable of accessing the existing system for whatever reason. The Coordinated Plan strives to address the transit needs of “seniors, persons with disabilities and persons of low-income.”

There is no charge to the client for our Medi-Ride program, however, other eligibility criteria, such as age, and ADA certification apply. Since income is not an eligibility criterion, this program continues to help bridge the transportation affordability gap.

C. Gap: Information Gap

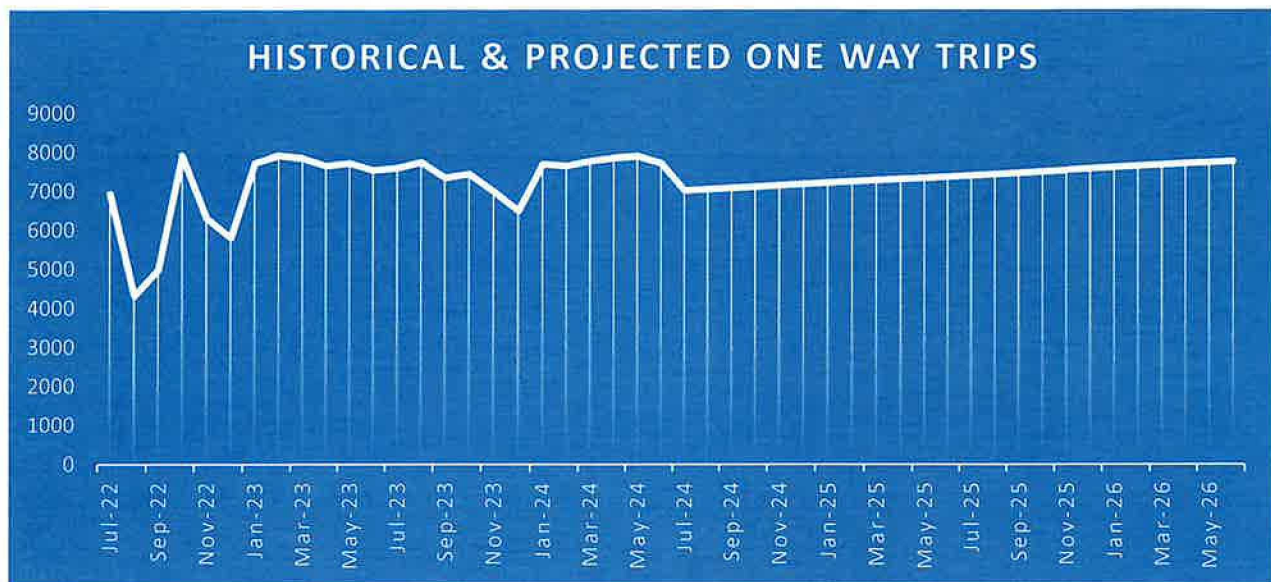
The complex system of reservations and transfers required to utilize the current countywide transit system is beyond the physiological, financial and/or cognitive abilities of many of the clients served by this proposal. This creates a significant problem for seniors and adults with disabilities, as this population is least able to negotiate such a complex network of fares and fare instruments, eligibility rules, reservation requirements and different hours and days of operation.

The lack of specialized transit services for the populations served by the VCAAA is evidenced by the relative absence of this type of service in the transit inventory section of the VCTC Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan and is further identified as a service gap our Medi-Ride program helps to bridge.

2. Briefly explain how the project increases or enhances availability of transportation specifically for the targeted population. An estimate of the total number of trips provided or the total number people assisted by this project is required.

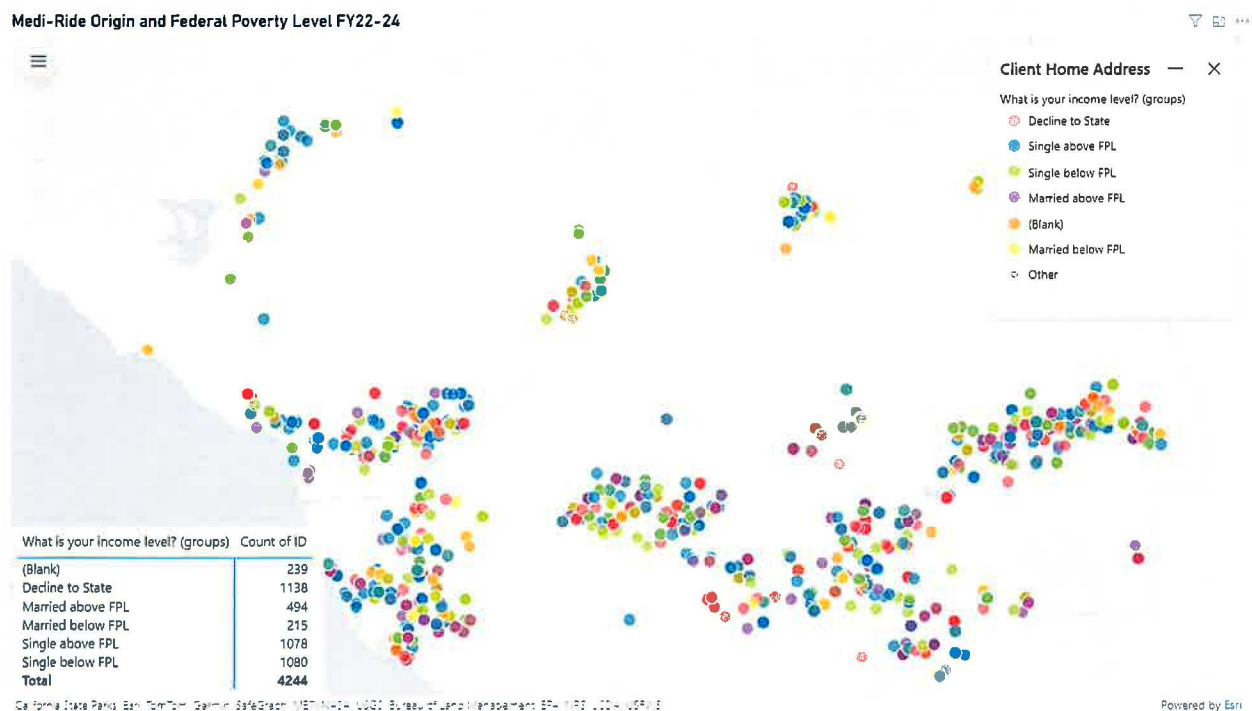
Last grant cycle, we reported a significant decrease in trips during the COVID-19 pandemic, with projected recovery post-pandemic and increased demand through 2024. In late 2022, we piloted the VCTC reloadable bus pass, replacing multiple varieties of reduced and full-fare paper tickets for fixed-route transportation and one paratransit provider (Camarillo Dial-A-Ride). Usage dropped during the initial implementation period but rose after riders learned (and much preferred) the bus pass. The chart on the following page displays the combined total of all one-way trips during FY22-23 and FY 23-24, along with a straight-line projection (with seasonal adjustment) for the next two fiscal years.





Since implementation in October 2022, ElderHelp has provided reloadable bus pass cards to 540 unduplicated clients, taking approximately 73,000 one-way trips (the UMO reporting system does not allow us to filter reports by ElderHelp clients, but with an average ride cost of \$1, the \$72,481.67 loaded via monthly passes and stored value represents a significant service across Ventura County). This is the most cost-efficient service and has slowly but steadily grown in monthly usage after the initial implementation stage. We (conservatively) project another ~80,000 one-way trips made by 550 unduplicated clients during the next two years.

Our client demographics broadly match the County; one illustrative visualization of the origin of Medi-Rides within Ventura County during FY 22-24 by Federal Poverty Level depicts the diversity of need.





As described above, Medi-Rides are provided based on client need, destination, and availability. The main vendors are listed below, along with average cost and projected one-way trips (OWT) for the grant period.

| <i>Vendor</i>             | <i>Average Cost</i> | <i>Projected OWT</i> | <i>Cost</i>          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A to B Transport          | \$151.00            | 1,936                | \$ 292,336.00        |
| HopSkipDrive              | \$110.00            | 2,106                | \$ 231,660.00        |
| Gold Coast Dial-A-Ride    | \$ 4.00             | 27,000               | \$ 108,000.00        |
| Thousand Oaks Dial-A-Ride | \$ 4.00             | 4,124                | \$ 16,496.00         |
| Simi Valley Dial-A-Ride   | \$ 2.00             | 7,722                | \$ 15,444.00         |
| Uber                      | \$ 48.00            | 100                  | \$ 4,824.94          |
| VCTC Bus Pass             | \$ 1.00             | 80,000               | \$ 80,000.00         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$ 45.69</b>     | <b>122,988</b>       | <b>\$ 748,736.00</b> |

Section 5310 funding allows us to continue providing these services and to increase the available transportation options in Ventura County by leveraging Older Americans Act Title IIIB funding. This funding enables the VCAA to continue to provide non-emergency wheelchair/gurney transportation as appropriate so as clients can access specialty medical services in neighboring counties, including Los Angeles County.

The administrative support needed to manage the door-through-door and prepaid ticket services is already well established. The VCAAA continues to leverage its current resources to manage the transportation services, yet the demands of clients continue to become more complex. VCAAA staff have been trained in ADA eligibility requirements and our program receives referrals for transportation services from multiple sources:

- 211
- County of Ventura Human Services Agency (HSA)
- County of Ventura Behavioral Health
- Mobility Management Partners (MMP)
- Gold Coast Transit
- Various Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Senior Centers
- Nonprofits including CV Senior Concerns, Catholic Charities of LA/Oasis, Lutheran Social Services, Hospices, The ARC, HELP of Ojai, Camarillo Health Care District.

With the array of organizations listed above and the complex transit concerns of the clients we are serving, this program is taking an increasing amount of time to manage appropriately. Our ElderHelp Transportation Coordinator handles almost all our transportation referrals and is match funded at \$100,000 (Title III B) in this proposal, which represents 50% of the full-time position.

## **II. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (Maximum 30 points)**

3. Describe your operational plan, including a breakdown of the project tasks, staffing, deliverables, costs per task, and timeline. This is required for all projects, new as well as on-going projects and for all funding types. (If the grant funds will be used to pay for





staff time, please use a separate line for each staff person making sure to note the tasks they will be performing, deliverables, hours, costs and start and completion dates.)

The Medi-Ride program is an established and critical service, currently available to older adults and adults with disabilities. The availability and continuation of services rely greatly on 5310 funding from the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA). The quantity and frequency of services will diminish or increase commensurate with the amount of this funding.

FTA 5310 funding for the provision of Medi-Ride services under this proposal, (leveraged with matching Title IIIB and ADRC funds) will allow us to provide an estimated 122,988 one-way trips in a combination of Medi-rides, ride hail service, fixed-route tickets, and demand responsive public transit over the two-year grant period. These outcomes will continue to be tracked in a legacy database scheduled for replacement this calendar year and reported quarterly to VCTC.

*Program Monitoring and Evaluation:*

VCAAA has been tracking its transportation program data (client demographics and services provided) for many years. We will continue to do this.

Clients may request transportation themselves through our website or call and their application will be processed through our Call Center, and they will be directed to one of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Social Workers. VCAAA staff speak with the client, or the referring agent, to establish the most appropriate transportation option for the senior or rider with disabilities. Once eligibility criteria are satisfied, one (or more) of the following actions will occur:

- Rider will be referred for ADA certification, and/or travel training.
- Rider will receive prepaid tickets for existing fixed-route and/or demand-response services
- Rider will be qualified for door-through-door non-emergency medical transport
- Rider will be qualified for gurney transport

VCAAA Staff will record the client/agent interaction in an electronic application form and the services will be tracked in a database. An operations report from the database will be provided each quarter to VCTC and will identify the services provided for the past quarter. A fiscal report will detail the dollars expended for that same quarter.

Performance and outcomes will be measured by the VCAAA's ability to provide the stated services and meet the goals of this project. Additionally, the VCAAA solicits rider feedback, using client surveys, to determine any changes in client needs.

Our concern is that if the requested funding will not be available, given the reduction in available 5310 funding, we will have to reduce the transportation services provided by this program to the thousands of clients served last year.



| <b>SCHEDULE</b><br>(month/year)   |   |   |                   |                        |
|---|---|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Project Tasks and Key Personnel</b>  | <b>Deliverables</b>   | <b>Cost</b>   | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
| <i>Services by Vendor</i>   | <i>One-Way Trip</i>   | <i>Total Cost</i>                                     |                   |                        |
| A to B Transport  | 1,936   | \$ 292,336.00   | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| HopSkipDrive  | 2,106   | \$ 231,660.00   | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Gold Coast Dial-A-Ride  | 27,000  | \$ 108,000.00   | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Thousand Oaks Dial-A-Ride   | 4,124   | \$ 16,496.00  | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Simi Valley Dial-A-Ride   | 7,722   | \$ 15,444.00  | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Uber  | 100   | \$ 4,824.94   | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| VCTC Bus Pass   | 80,000  | \$ 80,000.00  | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| <b>Total Services by Vendor</b>   | <b>122,988</b>  | <b>\$ 748,736.00</b>                                  | <b>4/1/2025</b>   | <b>3/31/2027</b>       |
| Information and Assistance/Aging and Disability Resource Center Administrator, Denise Noguera | Oversee program operations, reporting, and funding  | \$86,884 (24-month match from ADRC Funds)             | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Transportation Coordinator, Maricela Pardo  | Fulfill program service referrals and manage ticket inventories; maintain program handbook; communicate with vendors and VCAAA I&A staff          | \$100,000 (24-month match from OAA Title III B funds) | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |
| Information and Assistance staff (Celeste Lopez, Sheryl Miller, Jocelyn Mungaray)             | Take client calls & inquiries; and prepare transportation referrals. Provide up to date information to clients regarding availability of services | Not charged to this program                           | 4/1/2025          | 3/31/2027              |

### III. **PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS** (Maximum 20 points)

4. What are the performance goals of this project? Provide the following for all fields that apply to your project and proposed funding type:

- Total Amount of Grant Funds Requested divided by the total number of estimated one-way trips provided over the life of the project: **\$748,736.00/122,988 = \$6.08**



- (Note: for vehicle purchase projects the total life of the project is defined as the useful life of the vehicle e.g. 5 years for a van or 12 years for a bus).
- Total Amount of Grant Funds Requested divided by total number of trips to jobs to be provided over the life of the project: N/A
- Schedule Coordination and Service Level Projects:
  - Current number of one-way trips provided (per month): N/A
  - Total Amount of Grant Funds Requested divided by the Total number of estimated one-way trips provided over the life of the project: N/A
  - Other: N/A
- Requested grant funds divided by revenue miles: N/A
- Total grant funds divided by the number of seniors and persons with disabilities provided with transportation assistance over the life of the project (e.g. Travel Training projects, Trip-Planning projects, schedule coordination assistance, Voucher/Ticket Programs etc...): N/A
- Total Grant Funds divided by other indicators (as appropriate):

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH** (Maximum 20 points)

5. Briefly describe the public outreach activities undertaken to develop the scope of work for the proposed project. Also, list and attach letters of support for the proposed project (e.g. Health and Human Services Agencies, public and/or private sector, non-profit agencies, transportation providers, seniors and the disabled, employee groups, etc.).

Our website at [vcaaa.org](http://vcaaa.org) provides general information about the ElderHelp transportation services, including ticket types and Medi-Ride eligibility criteria, as well as an online application form in both English and Spanish. Clients may also call our direct line to request assistance in completing the application form.

Our staff members provide regular outreach meetings at various venues (such as at the Goebel Center in Thousand Oaks, CHCD etc.) throughout the county, and regularly attend the CTAC and VCTC Commission meetings.

Additionally, we have an annual publication in both Spanish and English titled “Live Well” which provides contact information for all the transportation providers throughout the county.

Letters of support have been received from the following:

- A to B Transport
- City Of Camarillo
- City Of Simi Valley
- Help of Ojai
- Hop Skip Drive
- Independent Living Resource Center
- Senior Concerns
- Service recipients (clients)

Letters of support have been requested from the following organizations:





- Food Share
- City of Thousand Oaks
- Gold Coast Transit District

**V. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** *(Maximum 5 points)*

6. Describe the emergency planning and drill activities within your agency and in cooperation with the county. Indicate the drill(s) you have participated or are scheduled to participate.

The VCAAA is a leader in disaster preparedness efforts for social service organizations and for the vulnerable populations we serve in Ventura County. VCAAA staff and volunteers engage in disaster preparedness activities and conduct emergency drills at least twice annually. The VCAAA has developed a disaster plan that follows the National Incident Command System (ICS). Additionally, VCAAA staff members represent seniors and adults with disabilities at the Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and on the WEB EOC during and after a disaster.

As a County Agency, the VCAAA has a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) in place that is updated, reviewed, and sanctioned annually. In conjunction with Homeland Security, Ventura County Sheriff's Department, Red Cross, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman of Ventura County, the VCAAA has conducted and/or sponsored disaster preparedness training for board and care, assisted living and long-term care facilities, and all of our Older Americans Act (OAA) contractors. All Home-Delivered Meals participants and other elderly shut-ins are given the opportunity to enroll in a voluntary disaster registry for vulnerable populations. A VCAAA employee is a standing member of the County of Ventura's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and attends the multiple required training sessions each year. As part of the Ventura County Human Services Agency, VCAAA clients are part of their disaster registry, emergency outreach communications plan, and conducts wellness checks as needed – several staff are CERT certified.

**VI. MATCHING FUNDS** *(Maximum 5 Points)*

7. A maximum of 5 points will be awarded to projects providing 20% or more in matching funds. Private nonprofit organizations will automatically be awarded five (5) points for match under these scoring criteria. Please identify below your proposed project's match strategy or your non-profit status:

VCAAA will provide a match of \$186,884 (20%)

**Bonus Points for Non-Transit Operator Applicants:** Eligible projects submitted by non-profit transit operators will receive an additional five (5) points in the scoring criteria. For the purposes of this criterion "transit operators" are defined as agencies that receive from VCTC as a matter of course, a share of 5307 funds for on-going transit services.

- ☐ **Applicant is a non-profit and non-transit operator**
- ☐ **Applicant is a private or public transit operator**



## Application Submittal Instructions

### Submission Deadline:

Completed applications along with all the required materials must be received at the VCTC by e-mail to [gvelasquez@goventura.org](mailto:gvelasquez@goventura.org) by **July 26, 2024, at 5:00 pm.**

### Application Form:

The application is formatted for applicants to write and work directly in the document; however the applicant may make minor formatting adjustments to the document as necessary for the purpose of including tables, photos, or other materials that aid in completing each section. Alternatively, labeled photos or other information may also be attached to the back of the application. Be sure to reference the Application Question Number on the Attachment

### For Electronic Submission:

- Please combine all pages of the application into one PDF.
- Submit the PDF of the application to [gvelasquez@goventura.org](mailto:gvelasquez@goventura.org)
- The pdf must be able to be printed on 8.5" x 11" paper.
- The application must be signed.
- Please label the e-file beginning with the name of your organization and the project title.  
For example: ABCOrganization\_Wheelchair\_Accessible\_Van\_Purchase\_Project
- If you are submitting more than one application, please submit one PDF for each application.





Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Subject: Recommendation letter for Funding VCAAA Transportation Program

To Whom it May Concern,

This recommendation letter is prepared in support of funding for VCAAA transportation services.

My name is Farzad Darabi. I am the CEO OF A to B Transport, LLC based in Ventura County. I have owned and operated healthcare organizations, in County of Ventura, for nearly 3 decades. I have collaborated with County of Ventura and the community it serves since year 2000, both as a contracted provider and as a resource for our community residents.

As a healthcare provider, serving this community, I can attest that access to care is fundamental to living a healthier lifestyle and improving population health. VCAAA transportation program is an absolute necessity for keeping Ventura County seniors healthy and vibrant. It provides our community members improved access to their medical providers, screening facilities, and rehabilitation centers. Many residents would delay or avoid getting necessary and preventive screenings and physician visits due to lack of access to affordable transportation. This program fills that gap.

Funding for VCAAA transportation services is a prerequisite for improving Ventura County aging population's health outlook. It provides preventive measures and improves access to care for our seniors. I strongly recommend approval of the funding for VCAAA programs. Our seniors need it.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,  
  
Farzad Darabi

1235 FLYNN RD. UNIT 405, CAMARILLO, CA 93012  
(805) 389-1600  
FAX: (888) 551-1288  
WWW.ATOBTRANSPORT.COM





# *City of Camarillo*

## *Department of Public Works*

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601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010  
Office: 805.388.5340 - Fax: 805.388.5387

Ventura County Area Agency on Aging  
Attn: Victoria Jump  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100  
Ventura, CA 93003

**Re: VCAAA Letter of Support - Transportation Grant Funding**

Dear Ms. Jump

This agency supports the VCAAA's application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to the seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. We recognize and appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Sincerely,

Shaun Kroes  
Public Works Administrator



Victoria Jump  
Ventura County Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Victoria,

This agency supports the VCAAA's application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to the seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. We recognize and appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Ben Gonzales  
Deputy Public Works Director (Transit)

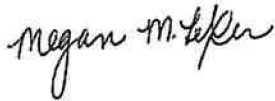
July 17, 2024

Ms. Victoria Jump  
Ventura County Human Services  
Agency, Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100  
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Ms. Jump,

HELP of Ojai supports the Ventura County Human Services Agency Area Agency on Aging's application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to aging adults and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. HELP of Ojai recognizes and appreciates the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs, including transportation, that allows for aging adults and persons with disabilities to live better in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Telfer".

Megan Telfer  
Co-Executive Director  
HELP of Ojai




Maricela Pardo  
Ventura County Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive.  
Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Maricela,

This agency supports the VCAAA's application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to the seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. We recognize and appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
FE98484B88EE40C...

Saad Shahzad  
HopSkipDrive Inc.



INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER, INC.

**Santa Barbara Office**

423 W. Victoria Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Phone/TTY: (805) 963-0595  
FAX: (805) 963-1350  
VP: (805) 284-9051

**Santa Maria Office**

218 Carmen Lane #109  
Santa Maria, CA 93458  
Phone/TTY: (805) 925-0015  
FAX: (805) 332-3213  
VP: (805) 354-5948

**San Luis Obispo Office**

51 Zaca Lane #140  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone/TTY: (805) 462-1162  
FAX: (805) 752-1261  
VP: (805) 464-3203

**Ventura Office**

702 County Square Drive #105  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Phone/TTY: (805) 650-5993  
FAX: (805) 650-9278  
VP: (805) 256-1036

**Thousand Oaks Office**

1429 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd #202  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone: (805) 849-3650  
FAX: (805) 456-7867

Victoria Jump

Ventura County Area Agency on Aging

646 County Square Drive, Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Victoria,

The Independent Living Resource Center, Inc supports the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging's application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities throughout Ventura County. We recognize and appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that are essential in enabling seniors and individuals with disabilities to maintain their independence and access necessary services.

Sincerely,

Alexa Martin

Program Director

Independent Living Resource Center, Inc

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401 Hodencamp Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
Telephone (805) 497-0189  
Facsimile (805) 373-6880  
SeniorConcerns.org

Take a Virtual Tour of Senior Concerns here:  
[TinyURL.com/SCVirtualTour](http://TinyURL.com/SCVirtualTour)



July 16, 2024

Victoria Jump  
Ventura County Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Victoria,

Please accept this letter of support of the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging' (VCAAA) application for Section 5310 funds to assist in providing targeted transportation services to the seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County.

Seniors are the top priority at Senior Concerns, a private nonprofit organization located in Thousand Oaks and serving eastern Ventura County and western Los Angeles County. For the past four decades, Senior Concerns has provided high-quality, affordable support services to seniors and their families through innovative and effective programs aimed at fostering independence, well-being and self-esteem.

Providing transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities is vital, as our County is large and accessing resources and programs often requires transportation. Whatever we can do to ease the stress of finding affordable and reliable transportation options will help reduce overall stress, reduce social isolation, and ensure seniors receive the services and support they need.

We recognize and appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gallagher, President, Senior Concerns

Four Star Charity Navigator rating is the highest possible rating and indicates that Senior Concerns adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.



2021 NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR



LEGACY AWARD  
2021 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Community Leaders  
Association



2021 WILLIAM E. HAMM AWARD

7-16-24

Victoria Jump  
Ventura County Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100 Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Victoria,

I wish to support VCAAA's application for Section 5310 funds to continue to provide critical transportation services such as transportation tickets (and rides to medical appointments) to older adults and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. I really depend on these services to get around and help maintain my independence.

I appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

JESUS P. HERNANDEZ 



July 24, 2024

Ms. Victoria Jump  
Ventura County Human Services  
Agency, Area Agency on Aging  
646 County Square Drive, Suite 100  
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Victoria,

I wish to support VCAAA's application for Section 5310 funds to continue to provide critical transportation services such as transportation tickets (and rides to medical appointments) to older adults and persons with disabilities throughout Ventura County. I really depend on these services to get around and help maintain my independence.

I appreciate the valuable work that your organization's staff and volunteers perform in providing many programs (including transportation) that make life easier for seniors and persons with disabilities in your community.

Billie Monk

Everyone here Always goes  
out of there way to help.  
Thank~~to~~ You