

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 4

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO EXTEND EXISTING SERVICES FOR THE NO-COST TRANSPORTATION FOR OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took critical action to advance support to San Diego County residents by approving the framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Several projects were approved under the Senior and Youth Services component of this framework including the No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program.

The No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program created by the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) provides an equity-centered approach to transportation services for vulnerable low-income older adults residing in priority communities. These older adults are provided with up to 100 miles of transportation to and from much needed medical appointments, social engagements, and necessary errands like grocery shopping. Many of the older adults enrolled in this program would otherwise not have a mechanism to engage in their daily activities due to the cost and limited accessibility of transportation services. Importantly, these critical transportation services help reduce social isolation for program participants, allowing them to retain their independence and access community resources.

On June 25, 2024 (9), the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-25 County budget including a Change Letter addendum that allocated an additional \$250,000 to the No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program. This funding will be leveraged to increase the contract amount and extend the contract term to support current program participants who may benefit from the No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program services, including curb-to-curb, door-to-door, and wheelchair accessible transportation.

Today's action requests the Board authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to amend contract #567644 with Jewish Family Service of San Diego to extend the contract term for one year and an additional six months as needed, and amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by supporting older adults through providing safe and reliable transportation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to amend contract #567644 with Jewish Family Service of San Diego to extend the contract term for one year and an additional six months as needed, subject to the availability of funds; and amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

As adults age, they face unprecedented challenges in maintaining their quality of life. These challenges are only heightened for lower income older adults. They become more dependent on social safety net programs like Social Security and less dependent on career growth for increases in income. This may lead to challenges in affording basic necessities like housing, transportation, food, and healthcare. Lacking the ability to maintain a quality of life that supports the ability to have access to food and healthcare, or stable access to transportation and housing, greatly increases health disparities and reduces quality of life. The No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program was created with equity at the forefront, to ensure low-income older San Diegans living on fixed incomes and residing in health equity zip codes and the California Healthy Places Index least healthy quartiles for San Diego county, continue to have access to basic services when they require it most. Accessible and reliable transportation ensures older adults are able to go grocery shopping, get to medical appointments, or attend social gatherings which reduces social isolation. This program supports the County of San Diego's commitment to equitable practices for all San Diegans by restoring independence for older adults who do not have access to basic public transportation and who might otherwise fall into isolation.

The No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program is evaluated monthly. Participants complete the survey outlining the strengths and challenges encountered by riders. Since the inception of the program in October 2022, more than 95% of survey participants indicated the program increased their ability to complete routine or social activities independently.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Working with partners to provide programs and services that contribute to the safety and welfare of older adults will advance the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community in meaningful ways; Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services; and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. Specifically, the No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program provides older adults living on a low-income with access to safe and reliable transportation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs of \$250,000 in FY 2024-25. The funding source is supported by resources budgeted in Countywide Finance Other. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Vargas

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter