

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Southwest Outreach for Older People, dba Ride Connect Texas		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 45-5521039		<b>Are you a 501(3)(c) charity?</b> Yes	
<b>Address:</b> 517 SW Military Drive		<b>City:</b> San Antonio		<b>State:</b> TX	
				<b>Zip Code:</b> 78221	
<b>Website:</b> www.rideconntecttexas.org		<b>Fax:</b> (210) 558-0007			

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Jane Paccione		<b>Title:</b> President/CEO	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> jane@rideconnecttexas.org		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 725-5263	

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Martha Bryant	<b>Title:</b> Contract Grantwriter	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> marthasb@juno.com	<b>Phone:</b> (620) 518-2733
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

**Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**

No

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b>	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b>	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b>
\$10,000	\$48,000	\$468,950

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Ride Connect Texas is to promote independence, preserve dignity, and enhance the quality of life of older adults and people with disabilities by coordinating and providing transportation to access resources and services needed to maintain independence, promote healthy aging, and live a good quality life.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**

Mobile Rides: Opening more than car doors

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
01/01/2020	12/31/2020

**Program / Project Description:**

Driving is key to independence in San Antonio and much of the rest of the U.S. Currently 79% of Americans live in neighborhoods where residents depend on personal vehicles for transportation. For those with disabilities, including disabilities that come with aging, the lack of transportation can have a devastating impact on independence. Without your car, how would you get to work? See a doctor? Purchase groceries and prescription drugs? And even attend a worship service or visit friends? As most Americans live 7 to 10 years beyond their ability to drive and by age 75, more than half have disabilities, transportation collaboratives may allow people to stay in their homes.

In January 2018, two transportation collaboratives on San Antonio's southside merged. Southwest Outreach for Older People (SWOOP) and Southeast Community Outreach for Older People (SCOOP) became Ride Connect Texas. The new organization was able to do more than drive seniors. The new organization added services to individuals with disabilities and in 2019 will provide more than 8,000 rides to 1,000 individuals. Almost immediately, the organization recognized a need to purchase a family-sized van with ramp access for riders in wheelchairs and those with other durable medical devices that did not fit in a passenger car--from wheelchairs and walkers to oxygen tanks. With generous support from Andeavor (now Marathon) and San Antonio Area Foundation, Mobile Rides was launched in June 2018. Of the more than 1000 individuals served by all Ride Connect Texas programs, a varying number need this service. For some, it is temporary as they recover from surgery. For others, it has been a lifetime disability, or become a disability that will not improve.

As one might suspect with the number of older adults served, mobility is a significant challenge. But Ride Connect Texas also serves individuals with an array of disabilities:

236 riders use durable medical equipment from wheelchairs to oxygen tanks

127 have visual problems from blindness to other diseases of the eye

35 have neurological problems from Alzheimer's to seizures

338 have cardiovascular diseases from congestive heart failure to high blood pressure

127 have diabetes

23 have cancer

223 have some orthopedic issues, from arthritis to spinal stenosis

For some of the riders, these disabilities are temporary. Following knee and hip replacement surgery a number of the older adult riders have spent time using Mobile Rides. The most fortunate are able to go back to a more independent mode of transportation, many able to return to driving themselves after surgery and rehabilitation. Others have problems that present with age. National statistics report that half of adults age 75 or older have a disability, many related to mobility. As San Antonio continues to age, these services will be needed for more and more individuals.

#### **Evaluation Plan:**

Ride Connect Texas is committed to evaluation of all programs. Numeric goals are set and tracked for all programs and reviewed weekly by the President/CEO and monthly by the board. In 2020, the goal includes providing 1,000 Mobile Rides. Number of rides, destinations (healthcare, shopping, work, worship, and more), distances driven, and disabilities are traced through Ride Assist software. Within 24 to 72 hours of each ride, a "reassurance" phone call is made to ensure the experience was professional, compassionate, and met with the particular mobility needs of the individual rider. The satisfaction of riders is exceptional. In 2018, the most significant complaint was that doctors made patients wait. The gratitude of riders makes the mission of Ride Connect Texas one that numerous volunteers are able to embrace.

The request for rides in a family-sized, wheelchair accessible van, was heard frequently during the reassurance phone calls. It is a service that has been met with enthusiasm and the goal of 1,000 Mobile Rides in 2019 has exceeded expectations and is beginning to suggest that a second van of similar size may be needed to meet demand in 2020 or 2021. Ride Connect Texas will be tracking this service through the evaluation plan outlined above, and will continue to offer services as widely as possible.

Jane Paccione, the president/CEO of Ride Connect Texas, has spent much of her life in a wheelchair. Although she drives with hand controls in her personal vehicle, she is both a leader and inspiration to the individuals with disabilities who come to Ride Connect Texas seeking assistance. In addition to being a visionary leader for transportation services, she understands needs on a very personal level. She is perhaps the most effective person to recruit those with disabilities. She is active in SALSA (Successful Aging and Living in San Antonio), Connect 2020, and other organizations where she can contact prospective riders.

#### **Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

Sustainability is often the most difficult question to answer. A worthy mission, dedicated staff and volunteers, visionary leadership are not enough to guarantee success in the future. Ride Connect Texas has a track record of innovation that suggests it will be able to sustain itself into the future. First, the merger of two nonprofit entities is uncommon, but the merger between SWOOP and SCOOP that created Ride Connect Texas immediately provided economies of scale for the new organization. Shared software, shared office space, and the combined efforts of staff and volunteers have helped make Ride Connect Texas more successful than the sum of its parts. Leadership has also determined that a more aggressive approach to seeking funding has led to finding new funders that care about older adults and individuals with disabilities. Plus the organization is working to develop relationships with businesses and agencies that serve a similar demographic. Ride Connect Texas also asks every rider if they are able to make a donation. Each one is given a donation envelope. Some are unable to assist. A few tuck a dollar or two in the envelope. Those riders who are able, make significant donations. One rider regularly donates \$50 with each ride. He could obviously use other transportation services, but says he enjoys the connection with volunteer drivers and staff of the organization and is grateful that he can help Ride Connect Texas serve others.

#### **Line item Budget:**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation</b>
Salaries	\$24,000	\$0
Payroll Taxes	\$2,000	\$0
Insurance	\$4,000	\$4,000
Vehicle Expense	\$14,000	\$6,000

In-Kind Expenses (office space)	\$4,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Sonia Imperial, Chair	River City Federal Credit Union
Dr. Dottye Williams, Vice Chair	Retired Professor abd Dean, OLLU
Marina Golzales, Secretary	Child Advocates of San Antonio
Judy Trevino, Treasurer	CCVI Ministries
Ethel Nelson	Retired Military
Barbara Villarreal	Beacon Hospice
Belia Gonzalez-McDonald	Providence Catholic Schools
Andy Mota	Frost Bank
Gerald Lee, Jr.	Andrade-Van de Putte & Associates
Whitney Thomas	Johnny Thomas Law Office