



Providing EV Rides, Independence and Access for Low-Income Vermonters

NEED A RIDE? GOPHER IT!

Gopher is a 501(c)(3) non-profit transportation service based in Barre, operated by Community Rides Vermont, whose mission is to meet Vermonters' everyday needs through convenient, shared mobility in a zero-emissions fleet. Gopher is celebrating one year of providing subsidized door-to-door rides for low-income residents in Washington and neighboring towns in Orange County.

Gopher offers three programs:

- 1. Mobility For All:** A transportation and equity-based, free-fare service for low-income Vermonters.
- 2. Contracted Services:** For businesses and institutions interested in a long-term service agreement.
- 3. Vehicle For Hire:** A market-rate service for individuals, similar to a taxi.

"Gopher is outstanding! The drivers are respectful. Being able to combine rides has been really helpful. I live out in the country so combining rides when I get picked up from work and then running an errand on my way home has been super helpful."

— Susan F., Plainfield

How Gopher is funded

Community Rides Vermont, DBA Gopher, partners with Green Mountain Transit and the Vermont Agency of Transportation to offer subsidized rides to the public. As a new nonprofit, Gopher has startup costs that are not covered by state grants. We rely on and are grateful for donations from individuals and foundations to help bridge those gaps.

Some ways that donor funds are used:

- To meet our match requirements for state grants.
- To fund the cost of rides that do not meet the criteria for Mobility For All.
- To build administrative capacity to effectively manage the organization.
- To pay other business costs that revenue does not yet cover.

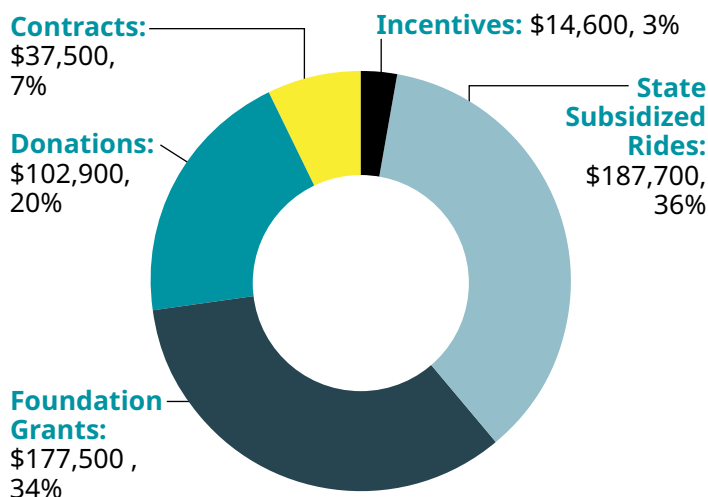
Dad, Jerry, on a Gopher ride to drop off their kiddo at child care.



As told to the operations supervisor, *"My experience with both Les and Rachel was very positive—both were very kind. Our service means a lot to her and her experience with Amanda on the phone was also very encouraging. She appreciates what we do and how we do it!"*

— Anna A.

Revenues by Source May 2023 - April 2024



Outcomes like this would not be possible without donor support.

With a year of service in the rear-view mirror, Gopher has seen the vital role it plays in helping people navigate their everyday needs—sometimes acting as a transportation stopgap until a longer-term solution is found. Simply getting people to where they need to go, when they need to go, is an essential service that connects people to the community and helps them to access and fulfill everyday needs. Your gift helps make this work possible.

The flexibility and responsiveness of Gopher's service is vital for families in transition and those experiencing difficult challenges in their lives.

For example:

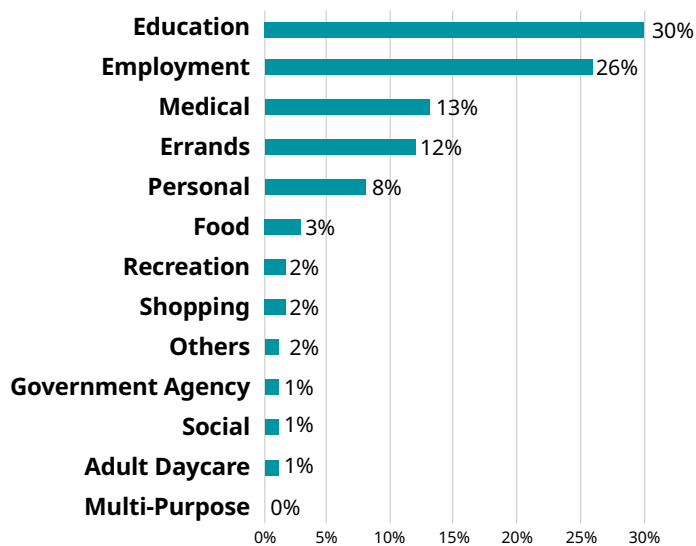
🕒 Rides that made a difference in a family's world.

When a local family was exited from a hotel, Gopher helped move them to permanent housing. The next day we took them for a large grocery run which would have taken six hours to accomplish by bus. The following week we helped the mother get a to a last-minute job interview, and the next day started transporting her to her new job!

🕒 A ride that made a forever difference to a couple.

Gopher was able to help a woman we met though a contracted ride after she received a call from the nursing home saying her husband was reaching the end of his life. We were able to pick her up within an hour and transport her to the nursing home to spend their final hours together.

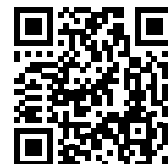
Snapshot of Trip Purpose



Special thanks to the Vermont Community Foundation, the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLite), and other generous donors.

Help improve the daily lives of your fellow community members!

Your donation will help Gopher say YES when someone calls for a much-needed ride. Various ways to donate to our mission are listed on our website at GopherVT.org/donate. If you have questions, please contact our team at rides@communityridesvt.org or call 1-855-GOPHER5.



With Gopher Gratitude

Gopher's accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication and generous support of partner organizations, individuals, businesses, and grant donors who recognize Gopher as an opportunity to provide life-changing transportation services to rural Vermont communities.