



EV Rides Provide Independence and Accessibility 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. Our mission is to meet Vermonters' everyday needs through convenient, shared mobility in a zero-emissions fleet. Launched in May 2023, Gopher provides subsidized door-to-door rides for low-income residents in Washington County and neighboring towns.

Gopher offers three programs:

- 1. Gopher-It Rideshare:** Discounted service for eligible Vermonters
- 2. Contracted Services:** For businesses and institutions interested in a service agreement
- 3. Market Rate Rides:** Ride 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, Plainfield

Weathering the Changes

Due to reductions in State funding, Community Rides Vermont's funding for Gopher's free rides program, Mobility For All, ended July 1, 2025. Knowing the community still needs affordable rides, Gopher shifted gears providing a new subsidized rides program called Gopher-It Rideshare.

Some ways that donor funds are used:

- To fund the Gopher-It Rideshare program to help provide affordable rides for our neighbors.
- To build administrative capacity to effectively manage the organization.
- To pay other business costs that revenue does not yet cover.



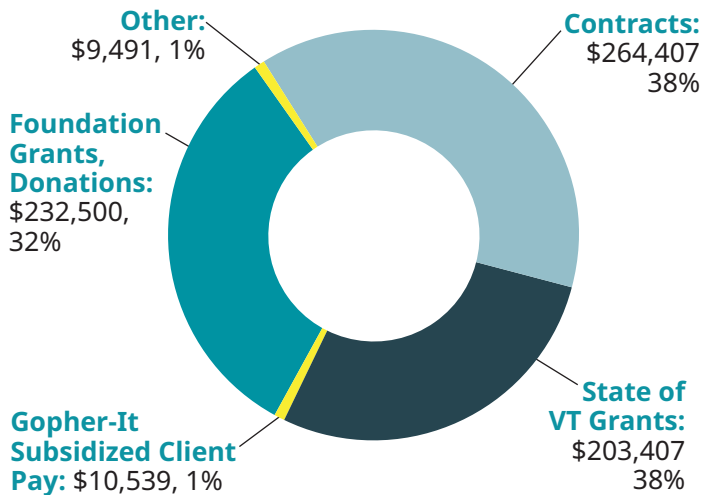
Gopher driver, Les, greets a passenger as he brings her and her child to a local daycare.

As told to the operations supervisor,
"My experience with both drivers was very positive – both were very kind. [Gopher] means a lot and the experience on the phone was also very encouraging!"

— Anna, Barre



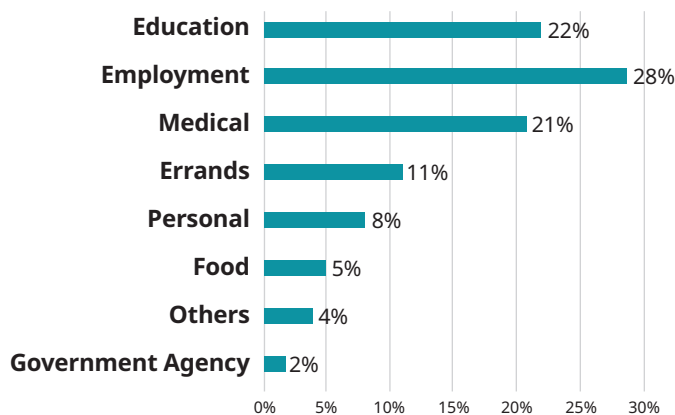
Revenues by Source, 2025



Outcomes like this would not be possible without donor support.

After more than two years of service, Gopher has seen the vital role it plays in helping people navigate their everyday needs. To help subsidize our work, we partner with donors, foundations, and businesses. As a young nonprofit, Gopher is reliant on and grateful for donations from individuals and foundations to help cover operational costs, not yet fully covered by revenues, to make our work possible.

Snapshot of Trip Purpose



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

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 to a last-minute job interview, and the next day started transporting her to her new job!

🕒 Rides for students provided on short notice.

Gopher was able to help out a school district after being notified that two students needed rides to school due to an accident incurred by their transportation service. We were able to respond within one business day to provide them with reliable rides to school.

Help improve the daily lives of your fellow community members!

Your donation helps 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@gophervt.org or call 1-855-467-4375.

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 Vermont communities.