



GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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www.gcrpc.org

Golden Crescent Economic Development District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2020

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Michael Ada

Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's Response to COVID-19

GCRPC Direct and Indirect Services Updates.

GCRPC is responding to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), in adherence to guidance from federal, state, and local officials; its contractual obligations; and in accordance with the law. GCRPC is in, and will maintain, constant communication with public health, emergency management, and its various partners in order to limit any disruptions in its provision of services.

GCRPC provides the following direct and indirect services through its departments:

Aging and Community Services Department

- Area Agency on Aging; i.e. Senior Center Meals and Home-delivered meals
- Ombudsman Program
- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- 2-1-1

Transportation Services Department

- (Victoria Transit) Fixed Route
- (Victoria Transit) Para Transit
- Rural Demand Response
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Senior & Disabled Transportation
- Rural Commuter Transportation

For the safety of our staff and clients, the following **general activities** have been implemented in response to COVID-19:

- Organizational preparedness and response coordination;

Serving Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

- Staff's strict adherence to partner state agency, medical facility, healthcare provider, and nursing home protocols;
- Communication and implementation of containment, mitigation, and monitoring protocols; and
- Development and implementation of continuity of operations action plans.

The following **specific activities** have been implemented in response to COVID-19:

Aging and Community Services Department

Area Agency on Aging: Senior Nutrition Services – For the week of March 16-20, most Senior Citizens Centers in the region are not serving congregate meals in their dining rooms. Home delivered meals are continuing, although participants may receive a combination of hot and frozen/shelf stable meals with limited delivery days. We encourage residents to check with their local senior center as schedules may vary.

Ombudsman: Advocacy for Nursing Facility Residents – Ombudsmen may only enter a facility with approval by the State Ombudsman. Local staff Ombudsman can arrange to participate and investigate any complaints by telephone and email. The contact for the local staff Ombudsman is Christina Guajardo 361-578-1587, ext 217, christinag@gcrpc.org

Aging & Disability Resource Center: Specialized Information & Referral – Service continues with no change. Call 1-855-937-2372

211 Information & Referral: Statewide Information & Referral – Beginning March 14, 2020, 2-1-1 Texas initiated OPTION 6 for COVID-19 inquiries. By dialing 2-1-1 and pressing option 6 when prompted, inquirers will be directed to a Call Specialist who will provide the most current information available to anyone seeking resources or answers to frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19, throughout the State.

Transportation Services Department

In order to ensure confidence in the **Golden Crescent Regional Transportation System** the following procedures are being utilized to sanitize and disinfect our busses:

- Pre- and post-trip sanitizing and cleaning of handrails, fareboxes, and passenger seats;
- Pre-trip mopping and disinfecting of Floors;
- Additional sanitizing and cleaning as required throughout the day;
- Management team compliance monitoring;
- Drivers safety and compliance briefings; and
- Provision of additional supplies to meet increased cleaning and sanitizing schedule.

GCRPC's Transportation Services Department will follow the direction of local and state public health and emergency management in regards to any potential suspension of operations. At this time, normal Golden Crescent Regional Transportation System operations will continue until further notice.

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Please direct any questions or concerns regarding GCRPC and its response to COVID-19 to Michaela Ada, Executive Director, at michaela@gcrpc.org.