

Bolivar County Council on Aging, Inc. (BCCOA Transit)

Healthy Destination Access Transportation

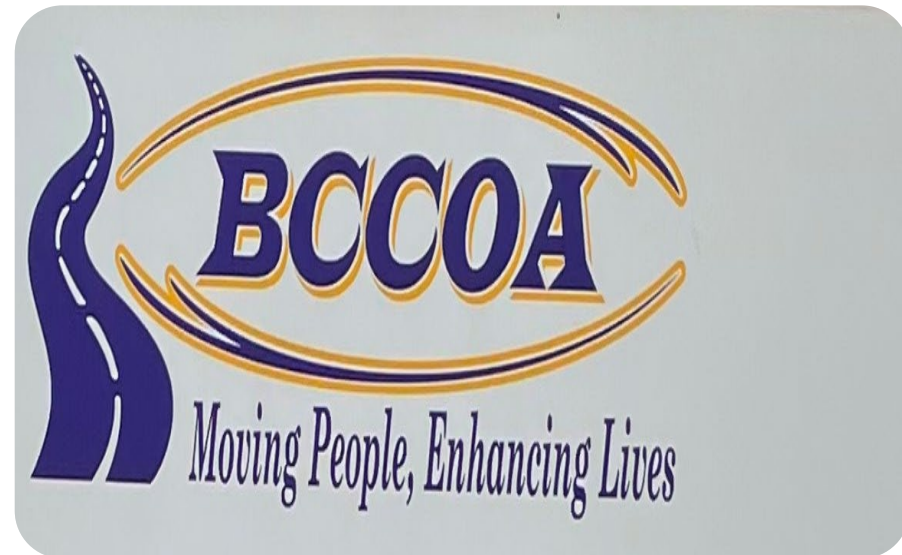
NATIONAL RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY RIDES GRANT

APRIL 2023

BCCOA Agency Background

- ▶ 5311/5310 Rural Transit and Specialized service provider for over 45 years
- ▶ Provides varying levels of demand response/ commuter employment transportation for 10 MS Counties
- ▶ Operates a fleet of 63 vehicles ranging from 6-36 passenger capacity sizes
- ▶ Pre-Pandemic averaged over 140,000 trips yearly
- ▶ Trips are on the rise again– approx. 90,000 in 2021-2022



Service Area Facts

According to census data , almost 24% of the 514,000 people in BCCOA's service area live in poverty (more than double the USA rate of 11.4%). Nine of the ten counties exhibit persistent child poverty. Feeding America estimates that their service area is home to more than 100,000 food insecure people, including almost 30,000 children. The nine rural counties have a population density of just over 50 people per square mile, about half that of the USA.



What we believe?

Our Vision

We envision a community where everyone has access to good quality, nutritious food, and is committed to creating a stronger, healthier Mississippi Delta region.

Our Mission Statement

Healthy Destination Access-Rideshare is working to improve the health and well-being of Mississippi Delta communities through access to healthy and nutritious foods, community education and advocacy.

Our Guiding Principals

We believe in engaging the communities that we serve in finding solutions to access good quality, nutritious food.

We believe the access to good quality, nutritious food must be addressed in order to have a stronger, healthier Mississippi Delta region.

We believe collaboration and partnerships are essential to fulfilling our mission.

We recognize the dignity of all people and believe food is an essential right.

Services Provided

- ▶ Access to healthy food options (grocery stores and food pantry);
- ▶ Employment and/or employment related destinations;
- ▶ Educational institutions;
- ▶ Non-emergency medical facilities including dialysis units;
- ▶ Mental Health;
- ▶ Congregate meal sites;
- ▶ Adult daycare centers; and
- ▶ BCCOA is also an authorized ticket agent for Intercity Bus carrier Delta Bus Lines.



Partners



National Rural Transit Assistance Program (NRTAP)

Mississippi State University Extension – Aim for Change

Hearty Helping Food Pantry

Arcola, MS

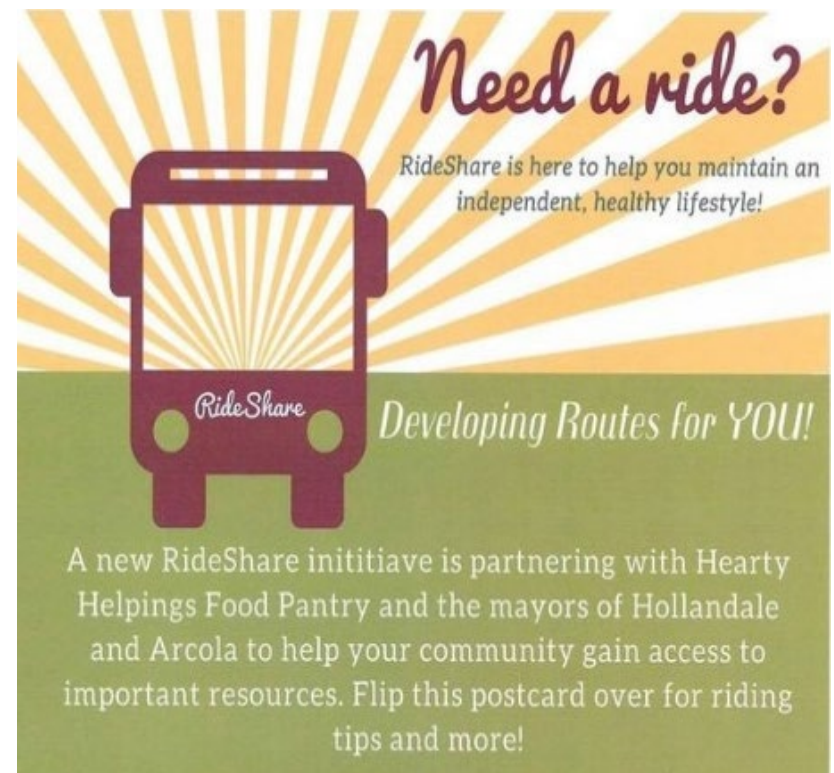
Feonix Mobility Rising

MS Department of Transportation

Hollandale, MS

Healthy Destinations Access Transportation (HDAT/Rideshare)

► The Healthy Food Access/Rideshare initiative prioritizes healthy, affordable food options and increase food access in the MS Delta. The collaborative project is focused on improving health outcomes through building relationships and leveraging public and private resources, capacity building and information sharing. It is the purpose of this initiative to improve the health outcomes and actively address food insecurity in the Mississippi Delta.



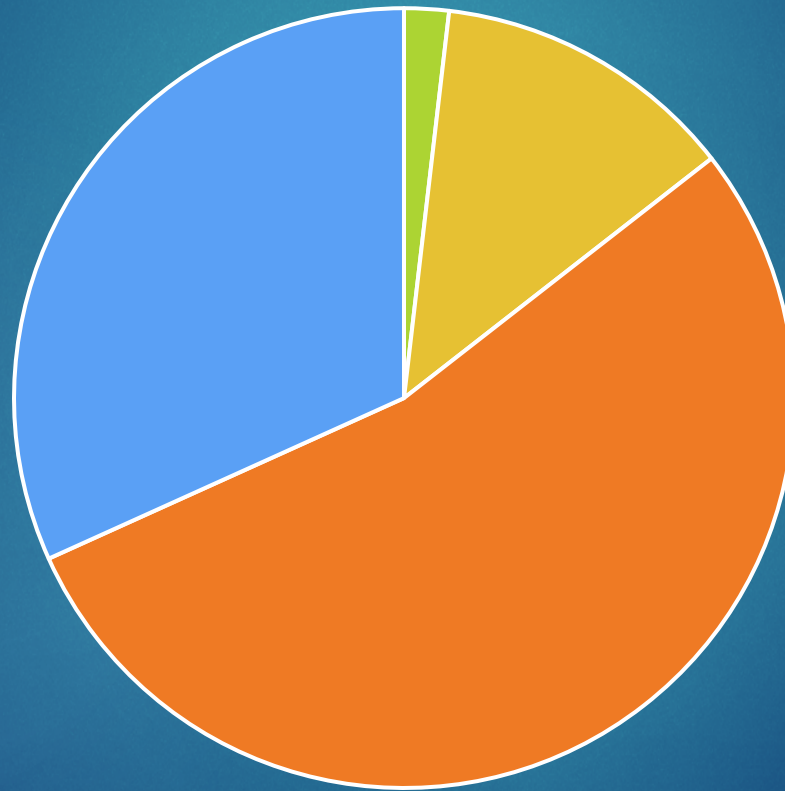


LaSHONDA McKINNEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, BIRMINGHAM

Encounters/Rides/Deliveries

October 2021-March 2023



■ Oct 2021- Feb 2022 ■ Mar 2022-July 2022 ■ Aug 22-Dec 2022 ■ Jan2023-Mar 2023

The program is a keeper for me, love the service and food being delivered “

**Rosie
Arcola, MS**

“This is a great program and hope it continues”

**Bertha
Arcola, MS**

“Excellent program because it helps the people of Hollandale to have more healthier foods in their homes and not have to travel thirty miles to receive them.”

**Margaret
Hollandale, MS**

*“This program is a absolute blessing for the citizens of Hollandale,
we are thankful for this program ; it is greatly needed in this area.”*

**Patricia
Hollandale, MS**

*“The program helps a lot of people because I have to pay for everything I get, I don’t get food stamps
, thanks for the programs and the people who thought enough of Hollandale to bring it here”*

**Bobbie
Hollandale, MS**

PARTICIPANTS' S FEEDBACK

Need a Ride?

BCCOA offers reliable transportation for Mississippians with limited mobility options. Rideshare offers trips that promote rural to urban connectivity and allow citizens to stay connected to the people and places that are most important.



THANK YOU!

BCCOA Healthy Destination Access

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