AACOG Overview

Programs Serving our Community

Mission

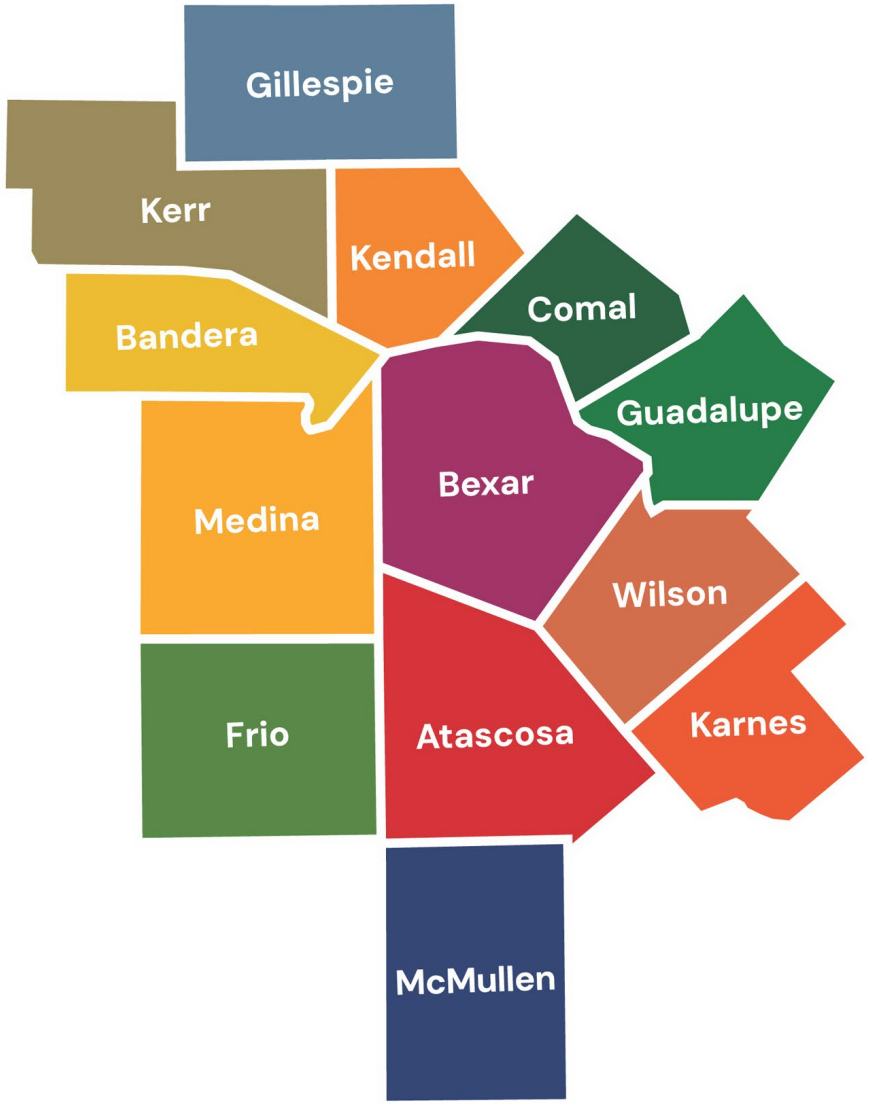
- To enhance the quality of life of all residents of the Alamo Region in partnership with elected and appointed officials, funders, community partners, and beneficiaries

- Your Partner in Serving Seniors, Veterans, and Persons with Disabilities

What is AACOG?

- Organized in 1968 as a regional planning commission under Chapter 391, Local Government Code. Exists in all States in some form
- AACOG is a political subdivision of the State, which can plan, assist local governments, and deliver public services, but does not possess statutory authority to tax or regulate
- State law requires the governing body of AACOG be comprised primarily of local government officials

The Alamo Area



AACOG serves the Alamo Area State Planning Region 18, which is comprised of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson counties

The AACOG 13-County region covers 12,585 square miles and with a population of approximately 2.9 million

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Government Services

- **Regional Services** – Provides technical assistance and advocacy in economic & community development and leadership development. The program also supports member governments with natural disaster recovery and technical grant application support
- **Environmental Conservation** – Promotes meaningful solutions to reduce solid waste disposal, and facilitates the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program between member governments and Texas PACE Authority
- **Natural Resources** – Monitors local air quality and promotes meaningful solutions to reduce pollution throughout the region
- **Military & Veteran Affairs** – Facilitates communication and collaboration between local Joint Base San Antonio military installations and city, county, & community stakeholders

Environmental Conservation

AACOG's Environmental Conservation Program provides educational and financial resources to local governments to enhance their solid waste management practices and reduce the amount of waste that goes to area landfills.

What we do:

- Update the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
- Conformity reviews of new or expanded solid waste operations
- Administer the AACOG Resource Recovery Committee (RRC)
- With guidance from the RRC, distribute funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to member governments to expand waste diversion
- Host trainings, such as Illegal Dumping Enforcement Training
- Maintain web resources for residents to help them recycle

Natural Resources

AACOG's Natural Resources Department engages in outreach, education, awareness, and technical studies in support of clean air.

Natural Resources Programs:

- Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition – work with local public and private stakeholders to reduce dependence on foreign petroleum, support regional economic investment, and decrease transportation related emissions
- Regional Energy Management Program – educate local governments about the benefits of energy efficiency and promote funding opportunities for energy retrofits
- Property Assessed Clean Energy – allows commercial property owners to finance energy and water saving retrofits with little to no capital outlay
- Technical Studies – monitor and analyze air pollution; use predictive modeling to estimate ozone impacts from implementing pollution control strategies

Regional Energy Management Program

AACOG is partnered with the Texas **State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)** to help support the advancement of energy efficiency, conservation, and resilience across its 13-county region

Program Goals and Objectives:

- Identify regional energy management needs
- Deliver workshops and trainings on energy management, energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy topics.
- Provide technical assistance to region on energy reporting requirements, grant applications, project planning, and other areas.
- Track and promote new local state, and federal opportunities and programs that hold regional significance in weekly newsletter.
- Seek opportunities for cooperative projects among local governments and local partners to save energy and tax dollars.

Energy Management Trainings + Webinars

Previous in-person and virtual events (2023-2026)

Regional Energy Management Program:

- Backup Battery Bootcamp
- Smart Campus, Smart Communities Workshop
- Local Government Energy Reporting Workshop
- Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Training
- Funding Energy Projects for Budget Constrained Entities
- ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Workshop
- SolSmart Solar Training Series

Register Here

- **Up Next: All About SECO Workshop**
  - **August 28th, 2026, at 10:00 AM-11:10 AM**
  - **Virtual**

Grant Notification and Assistance Outcomes

Abstract 1

Abstract 2

Abstract 3

UTSA was awarded the 2025 **Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Research (CINR) Grant** for three projects

1. **Targeted Materials Characterization and Testing of Additively Manufactured Metals and Ceramics to Inform Print/Build Data Analytics**
    - **$800,000, Crosscutting Technologies**
    - Supply materials testing and characterization data sets to inform build/print data analytics
2. **International Collaboration to Advance the Technical Readiness of High Uranium Density Fuels and Composites for Small Modular Reactors**
    - **$800,000, Fuel Cycle Research and Development**
    - Advance technical readiness of UN, UB2, and their composites for fuel forms
3. **Active Learning Estimation and Optimization of Irradiation Experimental Design for Efficient Accelerated Fuel Qualification**
    - **$997,247, Reactor Development and Plant Optimization**
    - Creates AI/ML models and algorithms integrated with knowledge and expertise to calculate irradiation temperatures and burnups

Contact Us: Regional Energy Management

Email:
nr@aacog.gov

Please call:
(210) 461 8770

Government Services

Public Safety

- **Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy –** Offers basic, intermediate, advanced, and master certification courses for new and experienced corrections officers, police officers, and telecommunications personnel
- **Criminal Justice –** Facilitates planning, implementation and assessment of regional criminal justice initiatives
- **Homeland Security** – Provides regional planning and coordination of emergency management training for first responders
- **Regional 911** – Administers certifications, emergency dispatch call processing, and mapped Automation Location Identification throughout the region

Resident Services

- **Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging** (AAA) – Plans and administers programs designed to improve the quality of life for Older Adults (60 years and over), individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers through the Older Americans Act

- **Alamo Veterans Network** (AVN) – Assists service members, veterans, and their families in the Alamo Area. The program creates a coordinated network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations serving service members, veterans, and their families

Resident Services

- **Energy Conservation** (Weatherization) – Provides weatherization assistance to help low-income residents overcome the high cost of energy through the installation of energy conservation measures. It is **not** a Home Repair Program and **does not** provide roofing, electrical, or house leveling repairs

- **Alamo Regional Transit** (ART) – Provides public transit for 12 rural counties, and provides **limited** medical appointment transport within Bexar County

Aging Services: Care Coordination

The Care Coordination program assesses the needs of an individual **60 years of age and older** by **planning, arranging, and coordinating local resources** to **support independent living.**

Care Coordination Services Include

Income Support – assistance with utilities, propane, etc.

Health Maintenance – eyeglasses, dental, incontinence supplies, etc.

Residential Repairs – minor repair or modification of home

Priority is given to those who have recently suffered a major illness or health crisis

Aging Services: Caregiver Services

The Caregiver Services program provides **support to adult family members or other informal caregivers** aged 18 and older who provide care to individuals **60 years of age and older** or individuals with **dementia of any age**.

The Caregiver Support Program Includes:

- Information about available services & assistance in gaining access to services
- Support groups and training to assist caregivers in making decisions and solving problems
- Respite care to temporarily relieve caregivers of their caregiving duties and responsibilities
- Limited supplemental services that complement the care provided by caregivers, such as Income Support, Health Maintenance, Residential Repair, Emergency Response Systems, Chore Maintenance, & Mental Health Counseling

Aging Services: Benefits Counseling

The Benefits Counseling program **provides information, counseling, and advocacy** to **older adults**, and **Medicare beneficiaries of any age**, on their **public benefits**, and **legal rights**. Benefits Counselors also provide public education on topics impacting older adults.

Benefits Counselors:

- Provide information, counseling, and advocacy on public benefits and program entitlements
- Are trained, certified, and independent of insurance affiliation

Additional Benefits Counseling Services:

- The Benefits Counseling Program can provide Legal Assistance to limited-income adults 60 or older
- Legal services are made possible through partnership with the independent registered attorneys

Aging Services: Benefits Counseling

Benefits Counselors consult on the following topics:

Medicare

Supplemental Security Income

Social Security

Senior Medicare Fraud/Scams

Medicare/Appeals/Hearings

Benefits Counselors assist with applications in the following programs:

Low Income Subsidy

Medicare Cost Sharing/Medicare Savings Program

Legal services that can be referred to an attorney by AACOG:

Simple Wills

Medical/Durable Power of Attorney

Advanced Directives

QIT- Qualified Income Trust

TODD - Transfer on Death Deed/Lady Bird Deeds

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) **helps provide access to long-term services and resources** for **older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, and their families.**

Information Assistance and Referrals to Services Include:

Prescription Assistance Programs

Individual Rights

Transportation

Housing

Institutional/Facility Care

Nutrition

Utility Assistance

Provider Services

Support Groups

Contact Us: ADRC

Please call:

Alamo: (866) 231-4922

Bexar: (210) 477-3275

Online:

aacog.gov/aging-services

Aging Services: Ombudsman

Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman listen to and **address the concerns of nursing home and assisted living residents**. They serve residents by **informing them about their rights** and empowering and supporting residents and their families to **discuss concerns with staff**.

Services Provided by LTC Ombudsman

Advocate for quality of life and quality care

Explains resident rights

Supports resident-directed care

Helps to ensure residents are treated with dignity

Identifies and resolves concerns that affect residents

At all times, residents decide on the LTC Ombudsman's level of involvement. They can be counted on to respect residents' privacy and confidentiality.

Contact Us: Ombudsman

Please call:

Alamo: (210) 362-5209

Bexar: (210) 362-5236

Email:

Alamo.Ombudsman@aacog.gov

Bexar.Ombudsman@aacog.gov

Alamo Veterans Network (AVN)

The Alamo Veterans Network (AVN) **assists service members, veterans, and their families in the Alamo Area** (AACOG 13-County Region) **get connected to network providers who can help**. The program creates a coordinated network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations serving service members, veterans, and their families

Alamo Veterans Network Helps by:

- Coordinating **service and care delivery** with over 300 partner organizations
- **Streamlining referrals & identifying appropriate services** for clients from providers that can *actually* meet those needs
- Ensuring a **positive connection** between the client and providers and confirming that the client's needs are addressed

Services Offered by AVN

AVN assists service members, veterans, and their families in the Alamo Area (AACOG 13-County Region) get connected to network providers who can help. The program creates a coordinated network of public, private, and nonprofit organizations serving service members, veterans, and their families

Housing and Shelter	Mental & Behavioral Health	Transportation
Employment	Physical Health	Food Assistance
Benefits Navigation	Substance Abuse Disorder	Sports & Recreation
Money Management	Wellness	Income Support
Individual & Family Support	Utilities Assistance	Spiritual Enrichment
Legal Assistance	Education	Entrepreneurship
Social Enrichment	Clothing & Household Goods	Health & Wellness

Contact Us: Alamo Veterans Network

Please call:

(888) 724-8387

Online/Email:

aacog.gov/veteran-services

avn@aacog.gov

Weatherization Assistance

AACOG Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help low-income households overcome the high cost of energy, **by installing energy conservation measures that reduce utility bills**. It can help lower the amount of energy used in a home by improving the structure's thermal boundary, ultimately helping a home stay warm in the colder months and cold in the warmer months.

Three-Step Qualification Process:

- The applicant's total household income must meet federal income eligibility requirements
- The person completing the application must be a U.S. Citizen or show proof of eligible Resident Alien Status to receive federal benefits. Renters are also eligible to apply with landlord approval
- The home must be structurally sound (no major roof repairs, plumbing leaks, foundation problems, faulty electrical wiring, or similar structural issues)

Weatherization Assistance

Energy conservation measures may be provided free of charge to eligible clients	Who Can Apply?
Attic, Wall, and Floor Insulation	Homeowners
Caulking	Renters
Duct Sealing	Single Family Homes
Pipe Insulation	Multi-Family Homes
Weather Stripping	Mobile-Homes
Furnace Cleaning/Tune Up	
Energy Efficient Bulbs	

Contact Us: Weatherization Assistance

Please call:

(210) 362-5282

Email:

wap@aacog.gov

Alamo Regional Transit (ART) Overview

PRESENTED BY:

Joseph Briones | *Mobility Coordinator*

February 20, 2026

What is ART?

- Alamo Regional Transit (ART) is a program of the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) that provides rural public transportation and regionally coordinated public transportation planning

Mission Statement

- To provide safe, reliable, professional and courteous transportation at the lowest cost to people in our service area.

Vision Statement

- To be a public transportation agency that is known for our professionalism, safety, and is the transit provider of choice by the residents throughout our service area.

Advanced Demand Response | Information

What is “Demand Response?”

- Advanced Demand Response is a reservation-based, shared ride service. You schedule your trip ahead of time, and ART provides curb-to-curb transportation, meaning we pick you up and drop you off at your location.

- Because it is a shared service, you may ride with other passengers going in the same direction

- ART’s buses are equipped to transport wheelchairs and other mobility devices, ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities

- Trips are first-come, first-served and can be scheduled up to 30 days in advance. ART operates demand response services Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- The fares for ART’s Demand Response services vary based on the distance and number of county lines crossed:
  - $2.00 within town
  - $6.00 for out-of-town trips within the same county
  - $8.00 for trips crossing one county line
  - $12.00 for trips crossing two or more county lines

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ART Alamo Regional Transit AACOG

Advanced Demand Response | Information

How to Schedule a Ride

BE READY for pickup 30 minutes before your scheduled pickup time

Inform dispatch if:
If you are using a wheelchair, scooter, or walker.
If you will be having a Personal Care Assistant (PCA); Limit 1 PCA. PCA rides free of charge

- Call **866-889-7433** by noon at least 24 hours before your trip. We recommend scheduling at least three days ahead when possible
- Trips are first-come, first-served and can be scheduled up to 30 days in advance
- Be ready to provide Dispatch with:
  - Your name
  - Pickup and drop-off address (including zip codes)
  - Date and appointment/arrival time
  - If you use a walker, scooter, or wheelchair
  - If you need a return ride
  - If a personal attendant will ride with you (attendants ride free)
- Dispatch will give you a pickup time and call you the day before your trip to confirm arrival time
- The driver will wait up to 10 minutes for you
- To cancel or reschedule, call dispatch at **866-889-7433** at least two hours before your scheduled pickup time. If you do not cancel in time and the driver arrives, it is considered a **no-show**.

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ART Alamo Regional Transit AACOG

Advanced Demand Response | Information

Nondiscrimination Commitment

ART services are available to all residents of our service region without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, gender, age, or religion.

Fare Schedule

Fares for ART's services are based on pick up and drop off points *(prices shown are one way)*:

In Town	$2.00
Out of Town (same county)	$6.00
One County Over	$8.00
Two or More Counties Over	$12.00

Fares are subject to change. Exact fare is due upon boarding. For your convenience, ask your driver about purchasing one or more $20 books of ***Speedy Bucks.***

ART's Service Area

Alamo Regional Transit
8200 Perrin Beitel, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78218
aacog.gov/art

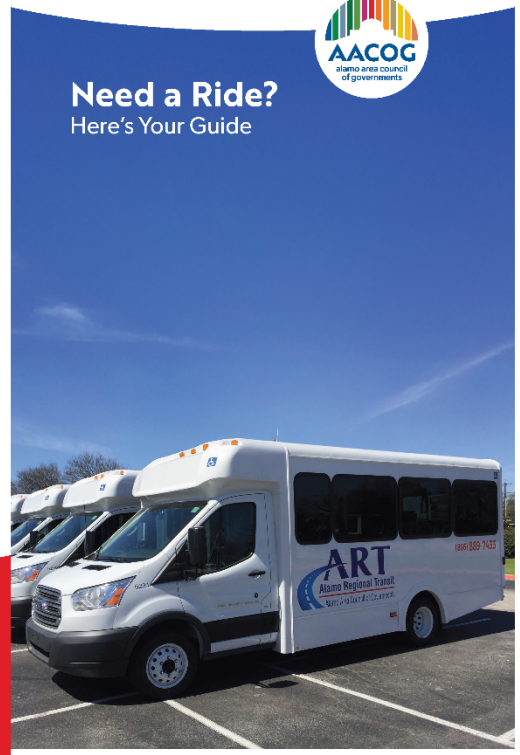
ART vehicles are wheelchair accessible

The mission of the Alamo Area Council of Governments is to enhance the quality of life of all residents of the Alamo Region in partnership with elected and appointed officials, funders, community partners and beneficiaries.

Alamo Regional Transit

Need a Ride?

Here's Your Guide



Call Toll Free:
866-889-7433
TTY Users may call 711

Advanced Demand Response | Information

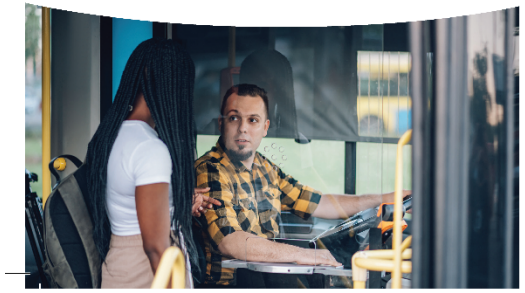
Who We Are and How We Serve You

Alamo Regional Transit (ART) is a service of the Alamo Area Council of Governments that provides public transportation for travel originating in the following counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson.

ART can fit your needs by offering a fleet of smaller buses and vans, as well as school and larger charter style school buses.

Use ART services for:

- **Medical** - Non emergency doctor appointments, picking up prescriptions and visits to the Veterans Administration
- **Work** - getting to and from work or job interviews
- **School** - getting you or your children to and from school, college, or vocational school
- **Daycare** - getting children or adults to and from their daycare
- **Personal needs** - shopping trips, going to restaurants and nutrition centers, hair appointments, library visits, or just visiting friends



How the Service Works for You

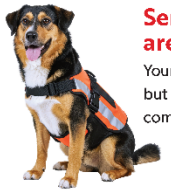
1. Schedule your ride with a dispatcher ***(see Scheduling your Ride)***. The dispatcher will set a pick up time and you will receive a call on the day before your trip to let you know what time we will arrive.

2. On the day of your trip, our vehicle will arrive to pick you up at the curb and will wait up to 10 minutes for you to come out to board. **You must be capable of getting yourself and your belongings to and from the vehicle**. You will be transported to your destination and dropped off curb side.

3. To return home, call the dispatch number and we will send a driver to come pick you up within an hour unless you have a preset return time.

Wheelchair/Scooter Accessibility

ART vehicles are accessible for wheelchairs, scooters, and other mobility aids. Our lifts meet ADA standards, however, we may have to decline service if you and your mobility device will not fit properly on the lift or weigh more than is safe. The lift is also available for those who may have difficulty boarding.



Service Animals are Always Welcome

Your service animal may ride with you but must be restrained. No pets or comfort animals allowed.

Scheduling Your Ride

To schedule a ride, call toll free 866-889-7433 by noon with at least 24 hour advance notice. Trips can be booked up to 30 days in advance and are on a first come basis. We recomend scheduling your trip at least three days in advance.

Trips may also be scheduled using:
Self Service Portal https://art.ecolane.com/selfservice

Mobile App. Please call dispatch to set up account for Ecolane/ART Mobile App.

(Available only for Pronto service in Kerrville and Seguin)

Call dispatch at **866-889-7433**
Monday - Friday: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
and provide the following information:

- Your name
- Complete address for pick up and drop off, to include zip codes
- Appointment and/or arrival time
- Date you are requesting the ride
- If you will be using a mobility device *(walker, scooter, wheelchair)*
- If you need a return ride and an approximate return time
- If you will have a personal attendant riding with you - **Attendants ride FREE**

Cancellation and No Show

To cancel or reschedule a ride, call dispatch at 866-889-7433 no later than two hours prior to the scheduled pick up time. When a trip is not cancelled with prior notice, it is considered a no show and could result in suspension of service, if repeated.

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ART Alamo Regional Transit AACOG

Alamo Regional Transit (ART)

ART provides **transportation to residents in AACOG's 12 rural counties** for medical appointments, employment and job training, nutrition support, and before and after school programs.

Anyone residing in a rural AACOG region county is eligible

- Rides are shared; first-come, first-served
- Transport can be anywhere in our region
- Service hours: Monday – Friday, 7:00am – 6:00pm

Fare (based on one-way travel)

In-Town: $2.00

Within the County: $6.00

One County Over: $8.00

Two Counties Over: $12.00

Limited grant funding is available to provide free transportation for Older Adults (60+) and Veterans

Although the service is open to the general public, when demand for service exceeds available capacity, priority is given to older adults, low-income individuals & families, people with disabilities, and veterans.

How to Schedule a Ride:

Call Dispatch (1-866-889-7433)

Call in your request ASAP (5 business days or more is ideal).

Cut-off time is 12 PM the day prior to the requested trip

Alamo Regional Transit Mobile App

Call dispatch and setup account with a valid e-mail address

Rides can be scheduled via smartphone with app

Rider Reminders:

- **Inform the dispatchers:**
  - If you are using a **wheelchair, scooter, or walker**.
  - If you will be having a **Personal Care Assistant** (PCA); Limit 1 PCA. PCA rides free of charge.
- **Be ready for pickup** 30 minutes before your scheduled pickup time

Contact Us: Alamo Regional Transit

Please call:

ART Dispatch

1-866-889-7433

Joseph Briones – ART Mobility Coordinator

(210) 830-4989

jbriones@aacog.gov

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Thank You