

# **Texas Ramp Project**

## **Fact Sheet – January 10, 2024**

**Year Established:** 2006

**EIN No:** 33-1139484

**State of Texas Comptrollers Account No.:** 133-11394848.

**D-U-N-S No.:** 969581003

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**Web Site:** [www.texasramps.org](http://www.texasramps.org)      **Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/TexasRamps](http://www.facebook.com/TexasRamps)

**Twitter:** @TexasRamps      **LinkedIn:** Texas Ramp Project      **Instagram:** @tx\_ramp\_project

**Local Organizations:** Over 40 regions incorporating 22 Texas Councils of Government

**Ramps Built:** 2,371 in 2023 in 134 counties; total builds since 1985 = 26,168 (133.8 miles)

**Referrals:** 6,609 in 2023 in 202 Texas counties; current rate of referrals 550 per month

**2022 Revenues:** \$1,807,560 (audited)

**2023 Budget:** \$1,630,000 to build 1,900 ramps

**2024 Budget:** \$1,842,000 to build 2,300 ramps

**Functional Expenses (2022 Audited Financial Statements):** Program Service Expenses 93.7%,  
Management and General Expenses 5.7%, Fundraising Expenses 0.6%

**Approximate Number of Volunteers:** 3,500 statewide

**Mission Statement:** The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free wheelchair ramps to low-income older adults and people with disabilities identified by local health care providers. Ramps are built exclusively with volunteer labor, keeping costs to a minimum. Ramps are built without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, age or gender.

**Vision Statement:** Our vision is that no Texas resident shall lack safe access because of financial limitations.

**Executive Director (Interim) and Director of Administration:** Sandra Knutson

Sandra Knutson joined staff in 2021 as the Texas Ramp Project's director of administration. She had been a board member since 2015 as well as an original board member in 2006. Ms. Knutson is responsible for TRP operations, including strategic planning, marketing and communications, budgeting and fundraising. She also writes grant reports and edits TRP's monthly newsletter. Ms. Knutson is a retired research analyst and specialist on traumatic brain injury. She is retired from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, better known as NORC.

## **Texas Demographics**

Over 4 million Texans—13.4%—are age 65 or over, and over 23% report an ambulatory disability. Nearly 1.7 million Texas men, women and children have a disability that may require a wheelchair or walker. Many of them are veterans. With Texas' poverty rate at 14.0%, it is likely that there are a large number of people who need safe access to their homes but lack the means to obtain it.

## **How to Get a Ramp**

TRP does not accept direct referrals from clients or their families. Referrals must come from a third-party health care provider via the TRP website. (The provider qualifies the client as being in financial need.) The provider fills out the online referral form available on the "[Request A Ramp](#)" page of the TRP website. The form is sent to the region coordinator. A trained surveyor will visit the client and design a ramp at the preferred entry/exit that is appropriate in length, slope and direction. Based upon the survey, a volunteer construction crew led by a trained leader will then implement the design in four to five hours.

## **Why Texas Ramp Project?**

Many of TRP's clients have been housebound for months or years, or have been negotiating either steep steps or dilapidated or unsafe ramps, which puts them in harm's way whenever they leave home. With a free ramp from TRP, these people gain independence, improved quality of life, and safe exit in the event of a fire or other emergency. In addition, their families and caregivers attain welcome relief. Many of the caregivers are elderly spouses and risk a fall whenever they assist their patient on steps.

We have also found that most older adults prefer to age in place in their own home, surrounded by friends and family. But if their home is not accessible, they may end up in a nursing facility. An \$850 ramp built by the Texas Ramp Project can save taxpayers up to \$100,000 per year for an uninsured client to be housed in a nursing home.

TRP ramps follow ADA guidelines of 1 foot of slope for every inch of elevation. The ramps are built of pressure-treated lumber and are 48 inches wide, with a 3-1/2-inch kickboard and handrails to prevent tipping. The finished product is safe, strong and durable.

**GuideStar:** 2023 Gold Seal of Transparency

**Donate:** Send check to Texas Ramp Project, P.O. Box 832065, Richardson, TX 75083-2065 OR online at: <https://donorbox.org/texasrampgeneralcampaign>