

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Communication

DATE: 11/12/2021
TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: Milwaukee County's 2022 Section 85.21 Grant Application Information and Public Hearing Notice
FILE TYPE: Informational Report

REQUEST

POLICY

Wisconsin Section 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties

BACKGROUND

State financial aid is available to counties through the 2022 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties, as authorized by Section 85.21, Wisconsin Statutes. This aid is allocated according to each county's share of the state's elderly and disabled population.

A county may use its allocated aid in a variety of ways. It may directly provide specialized transportation service. It may purchase service from, or assist, any other public or private organization that supplies such service or it may directly subsidize elderly or disabled persons for their use of existing services such as taxis. Both equipment acquisitions and operating expenses are eligible, as are the related expenses of coordination, technical studies, and in-service training.

In order to receive its allocation, a county must provide a 20 percent cash match, conduct a public hearing, and submit an application. The due date for submission of the 2022 application is December 31, 2021.

Milwaukee County is scheduled to receive \$2,288,868 in 2022, a 1.82 percent decrease over the 2021 allocation. The funds will provide support to Transit Plus (\$1,636,458) and the Department of Health and Human Services Division on Aging's Specialized Transportation Program (\$652,410). There is a slight bottom-line financial impact to the County as the estimated program funds in the 2022 operating budgets for the respective departments are based on the prior year actuals (approx. \$42,448 decrease).

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the strategic plan:

- 3A: Invest "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities – Transit is an upstream investment.
- 3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability – State grant funds help to support services within Milwaukee County.
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities – The availability of transit provides for a healthier community by bridging the gap between where our passengers live and where they need to go to live happy and healthy lives. .

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed

FISCAL EFFECT

TERMS (If applicable)

Funding is for 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Julie Esch, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation, julie.esch@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Anthony Geiger, Sr. Manager Grants Development

APPROVED BY:

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Donna Brown-Martin
Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk