

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to retroactively apply for and accept a federal grant requiring a match as well as execute contracts to support transportation coordination and operations, and the acquisition of Human Services Vehicles to serve older adults ages 60 and over

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS is seeking retroactive approval to apply for and accept funding with a match requirement from the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for Federal Transit Act Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Funds. Due to the tight grant deadline, DHHS-Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS) proceeded with applying for a two-year Federal Transit Act Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program grant for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. DHHS submitted the application in a timely manner, but a grant award has not yet been received.

POLICY

Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances 56.06, Review and Approval of Federal and State Grant and Funding Applications, requires Milwaukee County department heads to receive approval from the County Board to accept a grant with a match requirement.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	56.06
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BACKGROUND

The Federal Transit Act provides for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310 Program). This program (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides formula funding to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The program aims to improve mobility for older adults and people with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. This funding can be used for capital projects including vehicle

acquisition and operating projects that go beyond the scope of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services or public transportation alternatives designed to assist older adults and people with disabilities. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Council (SEWRPC) administers a biennial 5310 grant application process for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. SEWRPC is responsible for ensuring a fair distribution of Section 5310 funds to recipients and subrecipients throughout the Milwaukee Urbanized Area. DHHS-ADS submitted an application in September with SEWRPC for transportation coordination, program operations, and human service vehicle acquisition for the grant period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

According to FTA requirements, at least 55 percent of the Section 5310 funding apportionment must be used for capital expenses for public transportation projects that are planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The remaining 45 percent of the funds may be used for operating or capital expenses associated with alternatives to public transportation that assist older adults and individual with disabilities.

Through this program in the last grant cycle, Milwaukee County DHHS-ADS established the position of Transportation Coordinator in the Area Agency on Aging and purchased eight accessible Human Services Vehicles that will enhance operations and lower costs of the Older Adult Transportation Service (OATS) operated by DHHS-ADS. The need for alternative accessible and available transportation options for older adults remains very high. Throughout the recent public input process for the 2025-27 Area Aging Plan, accessible transportation options, particularly for access to healthcare and food was identified as a key priority.

Milwaukee County DHHS-ADS's 2025-2026 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program application requested funding for three items:

- Up to \$83,184 in 2025 and up to \$84,712 in 2026 for continued support of the Transportation Coordinator position within the Area Agency on Aging, which facilitates, promotes, and expands access for county residents with disabilities and older adults to available, accessible, transportation options, manages transportation programs, and represents DHHS on state and regional specialized transportation advisory groups;
- Up to \$9,590 in each year for mileage reimbursement at the federal charitable volunteer driver reimbursement rate of \$0.14 per mile for drivers providing rides to older adults through the Volunteer Driver Program currently operated by Eras Senior Network, who currently receive no reimbursement; and
- Up to \$538,560 will provide state funding to purchase eight additional accessible Human Services Vehicles, creating a fleet sufficient to operate the Older Adult Transportation Service without reliance on vendor vehicle acquisition; thus lowering the costs of contracting and program operation.

This application was submitted in consultation with the Milwaukee County Department of

Transportation and the Milwaukee County Transit System Transit Plus program.

Building Capacity and Infrastructure

Match Requirement

Under the 5310 program the FTA mandates that organizations requesting capital and operating assistance provide a minimum of 20 percent and 50 percent match respectively. This grant proposal requires a County cash match of \$20,796 in year one and \$21,178 in year two for transportation coordination; an in-kind match of \$9,590 in year one and an in-kind match of \$9,590 in year two for operation of the volunteer driving program; and a cash match of \$134,640 for vehicle acquisition, which will be included in the 2025 and 2026 budgets.

Annual Budgets

The following tables reflect the year one and year two budgets:

Program Year One Budget Summary

Proposed Project Period

January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025

Item	FTA Grant Request	County Match	Match Type	Project Budget
Transportation Coordination	\$ 83,184	\$ 20,796	Cash	\$ 103,980
8 HSV Acquisition	\$ 538,560	\$ 134,640	Cash	\$ 673,200
Volunteer Driver Operating	\$ 9,590	\$ 9,590	In-Kind	\$ 19,180
TOTALS	\$ 631,334	\$ 165,026		\$ 796,360

Program Year Two Budget Summary

Proposed Project Period

January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026

Item	FTA Grant Request	County Match	Match Type	Project Budget
Transportation Coordination	\$ 84,712	\$ 21,178	Cash	\$ 105,890
Volunteer Driver Operating	\$ 9,590	\$ 9,590	In-Kind	\$ 19,180
TOTALS	\$ 94,302	\$ 30,768		\$ 125,070

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request to retroactively apply for and accept this grant aligns with the goals of enhancing equitable access to programs and services and the County’s fiscal health and sustainability. Transportation Coordination advances our No Wrong Door service delivery system. The revenues acquired through this FTA 5310 grant will allow DHHS to continue operation of its

Transportation Coordination, Older Adult Transportation, and Volunteer Driver programs that are vital to our older adults at lower cost with enhanced outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to retroactively apply for and accept a Federal Transit Act Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant with a match requirement from the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for the Milwaukee Urbanized Area for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, in an amount up to \$815,636 to support older adults ages 60 and over with transportation coordination, volunteer driver operation, and Human Services Vehicles acquisition.

It is further recommended that the County Board authorize an expenditure of County cash match of up to \$155,436 in year one and up to \$21,178 in year two and an in-kind match of up to \$9,590 in years one and two in the 2025 and 2026 county budgets.

It is further recommended that the County Board authorize all relevant Milwaukee County departments to execute all necessary contract documents to effectuate an award of FTA 5310 funding for these purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Services Director

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP