

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

Inter-office Communication

DATE: 11/8/2023

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Transportation, providing Milwaukee County's 2024 Section 85.21 Grant Application Information and Public Hearing Notice.

FILE TYPE: Public Hearing

REQUEST

POLICY

Wisconsin Section 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties

BACKGROUND

State financial aid is available to counties through the 2024 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 2024 application is December 15, 2023.

Milwaukee County is scheduled to receive \$2,194,003 in 2024, a 2.74 percent decrease over the 2023 allocation. The funds will provide support to Transit Plus (\$1,590,652) and the Department of Health and Human Services Division on Aging's Specialized Transportation Program (\$603,351). There may be a slight bottom-line financial impact to the County as the estimated program funds in the requested 2024 operating budgets for the respective departments were determined before the actual amount was provided (\$61,859 decrease from 2023).

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 2024.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY:

Anthony Geiger, Sr. Manager Grants Development

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Brown-Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENTS:

Opening Statement

Notice of Public Hearing

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