

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: February 19, 2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Jon Janowski, Interim Director, DHHS Division on Aging

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to accept Federal Transit Administration 5310 grant funding for the purpose of funding a full-time Transportation Coordinator position in the DHHS Division on Aging**

Issue:

Per 56.06(1) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances, County Board approval is required for the submittal of a grant application or acceptance of grant funding if the grant requires a County match.

Background

Throughout its history, the Department on Aging (MCDA) has repeatedly heard from its older adult customers and network about the critical role that transportation services play in keeping seniors active, healthy, and independent. MCDA staff have also repeatedly heard from older adults that they are confused about what transportation options are available and are unsure about their transportation options.

In response to this feedback, in September 2020, MCDA staff submitted a Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Mobility Management grant application to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The FTA's Section 5310 grant program is intended to enhance the mobility for older adults and persons with disabilities by providing funds to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and ADA complementary paratransit services. MCDA's application asked for funding to support a full-time Transportation Coordinator for 2021 and 2022.

On December 11, 2020, MCDA staff were notified by SEWRPC that their 5310 grant application was funded with \$108,860 in 2021 and \$105,938 in 2022 to support the Transportation Coordinator position. The grant requires a local match of \$21,772 in 2021 and \$21,188 in 2022, and DHHS will utilize Base County Allocation (BCA) funding to fulfill the match requirements.

The Transportation Coordinator's primary duties will be to assist County residents with disabilities, veterans, and older adults with navigating available transportation options, serve as the transportation resource within the Aging and Disability Resource Center (including the creation of a transportation resource guide for staff), convene and staff an Interagency Transportation Coordination Council that will be established by the County Executive and County Board of Supervisors.

Discussion

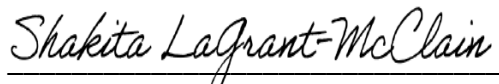
DHHS submitted a request to create one full-time Transportation Coordinator position for consideration in the March cycle (File No. 21-203). Pending County Board approval to accept the FTA's Section 5310 grant and create the new Transportation Coordinator, the DHHS Division on Aging expects to begin position recruitment in April and fill the position in May.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to accept FTA Section 5310 grant funds for the purpose of funding a full-time Transportation Coordinator within the DHHS Division on Aging.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of this file would enable the DHHS Division on Aging to accept FTA Section 5310 grant funding. There is no tax levy impact as required match for this grant would be provided through Base County Allocation (BCA) funds. A fiscal note form is attached.



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

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
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