

Chapter Trans 1

SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR COUNTIES

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Trans 1.01 Purpose and scope. The purposes of this chapter are to establish the department of transportation's administrative interpretation of s. 85.21, Stats., and to prescribe administrative policies and procedures for implementing the specialized transportation assistance program for counties authorized under s. 85.21, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82.

Trans 1.015 Definitions. (1) "Allocated aid" means a county's proportionate share of state financial aid as defined in s. 85.21 (2) (b).

(2) "Department" means the state department of transportation.

(3) "Medical activities" means the procurement of medical or medically prescribed services or products or participation in medical or medically prescribed activities.

(4) "Nutritional activities" means the consumption, purchase or receipt of food.

(5) "Space available" means passenger carrying capacity which is in excess of the capacity necessary to meet the transportation needs of elderly or handicapped persons.

(6) "Work-related activities" means the performance of work, voluntarily or for compensation, in order to produce goods or services.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82; am. (1), Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86.

Trans 1.02 County proportionate share; allocation method. (1) In accordance with the statutory direction in s. 85.21 (2) (b), Stats., the department shall determine the amount of each county's proportionate share of moneys appropriated in each year for the operation of this program. The amount of money available for allocation in any calendar year shall be the amount appropriated for the fiscal year in which that calendar year begins.

(2) (a) The department shall base its determination of county proportionate shares on the most recent relevant census and statistical data and projections from the U.S. department of commerce, bureau of the census and the Wisconsin department of administration.

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(b) For the purposes of determining a county's proportionate share, the department shall include all elderly and handicapped persons who reside in institutions within that county.

(c) Handicapped persons who are age 65 or older shall be counted only once for aid allocation purposes.

(3) Subject to adjustments that ensure that each county receives not less than 0.5% (rounded to the nearest thousand dollars) of the total annual appropriation for the program, the amount of aids allocated to each county shall equal the total amount available for allocation for the calendar year multiplied by the ratio of the number of elderly and handicapped persons in the county to the total number of elderly and handicapped persons in Wisconsin. (The final aids allocation figures for each county and the data and statistics used in making the aid allocations are available for inspection at the department upon request.)

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; emerg. am. (3), eff. 8-17-79; am. (3), Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; am. (3), Register, July, 1981, No. 307, eff. 8-1-81; am. (1), Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82; am. (1), Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86.

Trans 1.03 Use of allocated aid. (1) A county shall use its allocated aid to provide or assist transportation services designed for use by elderly or handicapped persons. A county may at its discretion make these services also available to any other person on a space available basis.

(2) Subject to the limitations specified in subs. (1) and (3), a county may use its allocated aid and matching contribution required under s. Trans 1.05 (1) to:

(a) Directly provide transportation service;

(b) Purchase transportation service from any public or private organization;

(c) Directly subsidize elderly or handicapped passengers for their use of transportation service;

(d) Reimburse elderly or handicapped persons for use of their personal means of transportation, when prior approval of such transportation has been given by the county based on qualification standards which the county establishes;

(e) Perform or purchase planning or management studies on transportation;

(f) Coordinate transportation services;

(g) Perform or purchase in-service training relating to transportation service; or

(h) Purchase capital equipment for transportation service.

(3) A county shall not use its allocated aid and matching contribution to:

(a) Transport goods or freight except as an incidental part of passenger carrying service; or

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(b) Pay expenses of advisory committees to transportation projects, except where such committees are required by planning or management studies.

(4) Allocated aid shall be used by a county to pay only for eligible expenses incurred during the calendar year in which the aid was allocated, unless the aid is held in trust for expenditure at a later date under s. Trans 1.05 (2). Any aid which is not expended or held in trust shall be refunded to the department by June 30 following the end of the calendar year in which the aid was allocated.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. Register, November, 1978, No. 276, eff. 12-1-78; emerg. cr. (1) (d), eff. 8-17-79; cr. (1) (d), Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; r. and recr. Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82; am. (2) (g) and (h), r. (2) (i), cr. (4), Register, January, 1984, No. 337, eff. 2-1-84.

Trans 1.035 Service priorities. (1) Beginning on January 1, 1983 counties shall establish the transportation of elderly and handicapped persons to medical, nutritional and work-related activities as the priority for the specialized transportation services receiving program aid, as required under s. 85.21 (4) (a), Stats. These priorities need not be established on a project-by-project basis, if the combined services of 2 or more projects give priority to the specified trip purposes.

(2) A county shall adopt any of the following approaches to prioritizing services for the activities under s. 85.21 (4) (a), Stats.

(a) A county may limit the use of its allocated aid to subsidize only those trips which are made for one or more of the purposes specified under s. 85.21 (4) (a), Stats.

(b) If trips for purposes other than those specified in s. 85.21 (4) (a), Stats., are to be subsidized with the allocated aid and the amount of trip requests exceed the capacity of subsidized services, then a county must establish service priority according to trip purposes. The trip purposes specified in s. 85.21 (4), Stats., shall have the highest priority in whatever order the county determines. Priority according to trip purpose may be established by the following means:

1. Dispatching or advance reservation procedures which defer or deny requests for non-prioritized trips when the total requests for trips exceed available transportation capacity.

2. Preferential rates of copayment which favor the prioritized trip purposes.

3. Reserved capacity which insures service for the prioritized trip purposes. A county may operate part of its transportation capacity under this paragraph without trip purpose prioritization, if it reserves sufficient other capacity to satisfy requests for prioritized trips which cannot be met by the non-prioritized service.

4. Transportation service which is operated according to regular routes and schedules shall be designed primarily to serve persons and activities which generate and attract trips for the prioritized trip purposes.

5. Any other technique such that if demand for service exceeds its capacity, then service is discouraged, deferred or denied for those trips not having priority.

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(c) A county need not employ techniques to impose service prioritization according to trip purpose, if the transportation projects receiving allocated aid have enough capacity to satisfy all of the demand placed on them.

(3) A county shall not discriminate on the basis of age against passengers requesting service for the purposes specified in s. 85.21 (4) (a), Stats. This requirement may be met by each individual project receiving allocated aid or by the combined services of 2 or more projects receiving allocated aid.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82.

Trans 1.04 Accessibility. A county application for aids shall address the issue of the need for transportation services that are accessible to the developmentally and physically handicapped population of that county. A county shall either make efforts to make accessible transportation available to the elderly and handicapped or demonstrate that accessible transportation services are currently available. A county shall also propose specific steps to improve accessible transportation services for a 3-5 year period following the project year.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78.

Trans 1.05 Financial standards. (1) A county applying for its allocated aid shall make a matching cash contribution equal to 20% of the aid for which it applies. No in-kind services, no federal or state categorical financial aids and no passenger revenue shall be allowed as part of the matching contribution. The matching contribution shall be an auditable item in the county's system of accounts. The matching contribution shall be expended in an amount equal to 20% multiplied by the sum of the amount of aids which have been expended plus the amount of any aids retained under sub. (2).

(2) A county may retain and hold in trust all or part of the allocated aid which it receives in 1983 and subsequent years for the purchase or maintenance of transportation equipment according to the following rules:

(a) The county board of supervisors shall by resolution authorize the establishment of an account in which aids retained in trust shall be deposited and accounted for separately from current aids and receipts from other sources. A county may not delegate its authority to hold unexpended aids in trust to any other organization or person. A copy of the resolution shall be provided to the department.

(b) All of the assets in a county's trust fund shall be expended; a county may not establish a permanent minimum balance. The balance of aid held in trust shall be consistent with the plan established under par. (f).

(c) A county need not physically segregate the cash in its trust fund from other county funds and may pool aids held in trust with other county funds for investment in such manner as the county is authorized to invest its funds. Any interest earned by aid held in trust shall be added at least annually to the trust fund. Interest shall be determined from the average annual rate of return for all funds with which the aid is invested and the average monthly balance of aid held in trust during the year.

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(d) Counties shall maintain records showing the dates and amounts of deposits to the trust fund; the dates, amounts and purposes of expenditures from the fund; and interest earned by the fund.

(e) Aid may be held in trust only for the purpose of acquiring or maintaining transportation equipment used in services covered by this chapter. Individual bills for maintenance or repairs costing less than \$300 and the cost of repairs covered by warranties are not eligible for payment with aid held in trust.

(f) Expenditures of aid from a county's trust fund shall be made according to a plan approved by the department. A county's plan for the use of its trust fund shall indicate for what purpose the fund is being accumulated; identify what pieces of equipment the county proposes to acquire, replace or maintain with aids held in trust; identify who is or will be the owner of the equipment; and indicate the dates and amounts of planned expenditures. A plan may be amended with the department's approval at any time.

(g) A county may make grants from its trust fund to other local governments and private nonprofit organizations which provide specialized transportation services. No grants may be made to private individuals. The grants may not exceed the amount of eligible expenses actually incurred.

(3) All revenue received from passengers for transportation service in a given year shall be applied to transportation expenses incurred in that same year. Counties may solicit revenue from passengers for non-transportation purposes if the solicitation indicates the intended use of the revenue.

(4) Copayment policies, as provided under s. 85.21 (4) (c), Stats., shall conform to the following:

(a) If it requires copayments by users, a county shall establish the copayment amount based on a specific schedule of user fees that shall be made known to users.

(b) Counties shall establish the method by which the copayment is collected from the user.

(c) Fixed or variable rates of copayment may be permitted. Rate variation may be based on, among others, trip length, time required for a trip, trip purpose, ability to pay or the cost of individual versus group travel.

(d) Non-cash forms of exchange such as tickets, coupons, vouchers, passes, or billing accounts are permitted. A non-cash form of exchange shall represent an obligation to pay or to complete the payment of a copayment, unless the requirements for copayment has been waived.

(e) When allocated aid subsidizes a user's fee, the allocated aid may not pay the entire user's fee charged the user, unless the user's fee has been waived or unless the county provides the user with an opportunity to make voluntary contributions in accordance with sub. (5).

(5) Voluntary contribution policies as provided under s. 85.21 (4) (c), Stats., shall conform to the following:

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(a) A voluntary contribution policy making user contributions optional and allowing each user to establish the amount of the voluntary contribution shall be permitted.

(b) If a county provides users an opportunity to make a voluntary contribution, the county shall:

1. Recommend a contribution amount;
2. Appropriately notify all users of the recommended contribution amount; and
3. Establish a method for collecting voluntary contributions from users.

(6) A county may establish a combination of copayment and voluntary contribution policies under this chapter that are applicable either among its different transportation systems or within one transportation system.

Note: A county shall use appropriate methods to notify all users about the user fees established under sub. (4) (a) and to notify all users about the recommended contribution established under sub. (5) (b) 1. Appropriate notice methods may be posting written notices within vehicles, printing notices upon collection instruments or providing all individual users a written notice prior to each trip.

(7) A county shall reimburse the department for its share of the value of equipment which is sold or removed from specialized transportation service prior to the end of its useful life unless the sales proceeds are spent for specialized transportation projects approved by the department.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; r. and recr. Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82; am. (1), r. and recr. (2), cr. (5), Register, January, 1984, No. 337, eff. 2-1-84; r. and recr. (4), renum. (5) to be (7), cr. (5) and (6), Register, May, 1986, No. 365, eff. 6-1-86.

Trans 1.06 Annual application. (1) Any county may apply to the department for distribution of its allocated aids. Two or more counties may jointly prepare a single project proposal, but each participating county is required to submit its own application. The department shall distribute the funds upon approval of the application and the execution of a contract by the department and the county. The contract shall provide for a schedule of disbursement of the allocated aids.

(2) Applications for grants of allocated aids shall be submitted to the department no later than December 1 of the year immediately preceding the project year. Counties may request up to a 30-day extension of this due date and the department may grant such requests. No application received after January 1 of the project year shall be funded unless the secretary of transportation determines that a later date is appropriate in order to properly respond to an emergency situation.

(3) Applications shall be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department. Applications shall include, but not be limited to, a project description, a project budget, a plan for allocated aid held in trust, and such other relevant information as the department may require to effectively evaluate the proposal. In addition, the application shall include formal comments on the proposed project(s) by appropriate county agencies such as committees or commissions on aging and boards created under ss. 51.42 and 51.437, Stats.

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(4) Each county application shall also include a resolution of the county board which authorizes the preparation of the application by a specified individual or agency in county government and authorizes the obligation of funds for the county's matching share. The resolution may also authorize a specific individual to sign the state aid contract on behalf of the county. If a resolution from a previous year grants continuing authority to an individual or agency to prepare applications, the annual application shall also include a copy of the county budget showing the appropriated matching share.

(5) A county shall submit the original of its application to the department's appropriate transportation district office.

(6) A county applicant shall submit a copy of its application for review and comment purposes to the appropriate regional planning commission, to the appropriate area agency on aging and to the appropriate department of health and social services' division of community services' regional office. In order to be considered by the department, comments by such agencies must be submitted to the department's appropriate transportation district office within 30 days of submission of the county's application to the department.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. Register, November, 1978, No. 276, eff. 12-1-78; am. (2) and (3), Register, July, 1981, No. 307, eff. 8-1-71; am. (3) and (4), Register, January, 1984, No. 337, eff. 2-1-84..

Trans 1.07 Public hearing. (1) A county applicant is required to conduct a public hearing so that interested persons in the county may be

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