



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 6, 2023

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #767

### **Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Specialized Assistance Program (Transportation -- Local Transportation Aid)**

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 629, #4]

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

The state's SEG-funded specialized assistance program (\$959,000 in base funding) supplements federal section 5310 funding (enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities program) to aid eligible applicants in Wisconsin's rural and small urban areas with transit capital and operating projects that serve seniors and individuals with disabilities.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. DOT currently administers two separate programs that assist in providing transit services to seniors and individuals with disabilities: (a) a specialized assistance program that supplements federal funding to aid eligible applicants in rural and small urban areas with transit capital and operating projects, and (b) a county assistance program that provides counties with financial assistance to provide transportation services and is distributed on the basis of each county's share of the state's total seniors and individuals with disabilities population.

2. Under the specialized assistance program, in accordance with federal rules governing the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities program, all subrecipients must guarantee a 20% local match for capital projects and 50% of deficit for operating projects. Eligible projects include vehicle capital (minivans, minibuses, medium and large buses) and non-traditional expenditures (mobility management, operating, and non-vehicle capital projects). The attachment to this paper shows the most recent awards for calendar year 2023 made to rural and small urban area projects under the program.

3. Under the county assistance program, all 72 counties in Wisconsin receive funding. County assistance is distributed on the basis of each county's share of the state's total seniors and

individuals with disabilities population. Each county must provide a match equal to 20% of its state aid amount. With its state aid, the county may directly provide transportation services, subsidize other systems which provide transportation services, or directly subsidize elderly or disabled persons for their use of existing services, such as taxis.

4. Since 2013-14, the Legislature has provided five separate increases to the county assistance program, increasing 17.3% over this 10-year period resulting in a 1.6% annual average growth rate. Comparatively, the amount appropriated for specialized assistance increased 5.1% over this 10-year period resulting in a 0.5% annual average growth rate. Table 1 provides the recent funding history for both programs.

**TABLE 1**

**Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities  
Transportation Aid**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>County Assistance</u>	<u>Specialized Assistance</u>
2013-14	\$13,623,400	\$912,700
2014-15	13,623,400	912,700
2015-16	13,768,800	912,700
2016-17	13,915,600	912,700
2017-18	14,193,900	912,700
2018-19	14,477,800	912,700
2019-20	15,977,800	912,700
2020-21	15,977,800	912,700
2021-22	15,977,800	935,600
2022-23	15,977,800	959,000
FY14-FY23 Growth	17.3%	5.1%
Annual Avg. Growth	1.6%	0.5%

5. DOT combines state specialized assistance funding with Federal Transit Administration section 5310 funds to make grants to both public bodies and private non-profits in the state for vehicle purchases and mobility management projects. The Department indicates that there is competition for limited funding within the program. For the most recent calendar year 2023 funding cycle, the Department received 74 project applications from 54 agencies requesting \$7,219,797 in funding. However, only 44 agencies received funding, totaling \$5,097,377 (see the Attachment for a list of projects funded in 2023). Table 2 shows the funding requested under the program in 2023, by project type, and actual funding awarded.

**TABLE 2**

**Summary of CY2023 Funding Cycle Requests and Awards**

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Funded</u>	<u>% of Requested Funded</u>
Operating Assistance	\$2,648,517	\$1,609,170	60.8%
Mobility Management	1,716,168	1,351,329	78.7
Replacement Vehicle	2,405,696	2,083,423	86.6
Expansion Vehicle	<u>449,216</u>	<u>53,254</u>	11.9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$7,219,797</b>	<b>\$5,097,376</b>	<b>70.6%</b>

6. As shown in Table 2, the Department was unable to fully fund requests in all project categories due to limited funding availability. The "unfunded gap" between the amount requested and the amount funded in 2023 was \$2.1 million, an annual unfunded amount that is typical for this program. As shown, only one purchase of an expansion vehicle (vehicles used for the purpose of expanding service) could be funded in 2023. The Department indicates that this was due in part to the rising costs of accessible vehicles (minivans converted with rear-entry or side-entry accessibility lifts).

7. Assembly Bill 43/Senate Bill 70 (AB 43/SB 70) would provide \$143,900 in 2023-24 and \$309,300 in 2024-25 for a 15% increase to funding for the seniors and individuals with disabilities specialized assistance program in each year of the 2023-25 biennium. This would increase funding from \$959,000 in base funding to \$1,102,900 in 2023-24 and \$1,268,300 in 2024-25. Given the existing program demand that exceeds state and federal resources, the Committee could choose to increase state funding for the specialized assistance program funding [Alternative 1]. Alternatively, the Committee could decide to provide a level of funding to the seniors and individuals with disabilities specialized assistance program which would fund a larger share of funding requests. Providing \$239,800 in 2023-24 and \$539,500 in 2024-25 for a 25% increase in funding for the program in each year of the 2023-25 biennium would increase funding from \$959,000 in base funding to \$1,198,800 in 2023-24 and \$1,498,500 in 2024-25 [Alternative 2].

8. Limited SEG revenues are available from the transportation fund in the 2023-25 biennium, while demand for transportation fund SEG funding is likely to increase in 2023-25 and beyond due to major upcoming highway projects such as the Interstate 94 East-West expansion project in Milwaukee, the Blatnik Bridge replacement project in Superior, and the Interstate 41 expansion project in northeast Wisconsin, as well as inflationary pressures across transportation programs. The Committee could consider providing a smaller increase in specialized assistance program funding which would match the growth of the county assistance program as shown in Table 1. Providing \$111,500 annually for a 11.6% increase in funding for the seniors and individuals with disabilities specialized assistance program would increase base funding from \$959,000 to \$1,102,900 in 2023-24 and thereafter [Alternative 3]. Current law, transportation fund revenues available for above-base transportation programming are limited. Given the demands on the fund, the Committee could decide to not take action on this item [Alternative 4].

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$143,900 in 2023-24 and \$309,300 in 2024-25 for a 15% increase to funding for the seniors and individuals with disabilities specialized assistance program in each year of the 2023-25 biennium. This would increase funding from \$959,000 in base funding to \$1,102,900 in 2023-24 and \$1,268,300 in 2024-25.

<b>ALT 1</b>	<b>Change to Base</b>
SEG	\$453,200

2. Provide \$239,800 in 2023-24 and \$539,500 in 2024-25 for a 25% increase in funding for the program in each year of the 2023-25 biennium. This would increase funding from \$959,000 in base funding to \$1,198,800 in 2023-24 and \$1,498,500 in 2024-25

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Base</b>
SEG	\$779,300

3. Provide \$111,500 annually for an 11.6% increase to funding for the seniors and individuals with disabilities specialized assistance program in the first year of the 2023-25 biennium. This would increase funding from \$959,000 in base funding to \$1,102,900 in 2023-24 and thereafter.

<b>ALT 3</b>	<b>Change to Base</b>
SEG	\$223,000

4. Take no action.

Prepared by: Ryan Horton  
Attachment

## ATTACHMENT

### Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, 2023 Program Awards

<u>Subrecipient</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Project Detail</u>	<u>Award</u>
ADVOCAP, Inc.	Winnebago	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	\$41,741
Aptiv, Inc.	La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Side-load	61,260
Black River Industries, Inc.	Taylor, Price	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Medium Bus-HC	103,788
Center for Independent Living -	42 counties mostly in NW & NC Wisconsin	Mobility Management	One-call center / mobility management	105,791
		Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver; demand-response, travel coordination	406,223
City of Berlin Senior Center	Green Lake	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
City of Stevens Point	Portage	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	89,206
		Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	78,465
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Lg. Side-load	112,226
County of Adams	Adams, Juneau	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Rear-load	51,660
County of Barron	Barron	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Rear-load	51,660
County of Calumet	Calumet	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver & Demand-response	22,888
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
County of Dodge	Dodge	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Side-load Minivan	54,197
County of Jefferson	Jefferson	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	85,005
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
County of Manitowoc	Manitowoc	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	66,106
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Large Bus	130,720
County of Monroe	Monroe	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Rear-load	51,660
County of Pepin	Pepin, Buffalo	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Rear-load	51,660
County of Racine	Racine	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	59,646
County of Richland	Richland	Operating Assistance	Demand Response	20,112
County of Rock	Rock	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	73,460
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
County of Sauk	Sauk	Operating Assistance	Fixed Route & Volunteer Driver	115,998
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
County of Sawyer/Lac Courte	Barron, Washburn, Sawyer,			
Oreilles Transit Commission	Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Price	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	134,877
County of Sheboygan	Sheboygan	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	29,744
County of Vernon	Vernon	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	13,661
Disabilities Services, Inc.	5 Central WI counties	Operating Assistance	Fixed Route Service	54,186
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Medium Bus-HC	103,788
Diverse Options, Inc.	5 East Central WI counties	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
Door-Tran, Inc.	Door	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	129,885
		Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver & Vouchers	39,167
Hodan Community Svcs., Inc.	Iowa, Lafayette, Grant	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Side-load Minivan	54,197
Kenosha Achievement Center, Inc.	Kenosha	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
Lutheran Social Services of	Outagamie, Winnebago,	Mobility Management	Multi-county mobility management services	38,991
Wisconsin & Upper Michigan, Inc	Calumet, Waupaca	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver and Cycle Without Aging programs	27,408
Morrow Homes Community	Monroe	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
Muskego Senior Taxi Service, Inc.	Waukesha	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver Program	56,574

<u>Subrecipient</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Project Detail</u>	<u>Award</u>
New Hope Center, Inc.	Calumet, Manitowoc	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	\$40,690
NEWCAP, Inc.	Marinette, Oconto	Operating Assistance	Fixed Route	59,602
		Mobility Management	Mobility Management	76,743
North Country Independent Living, Inc.	8 counties in Northwestern Wisconsin	Operating Assistance	Medical Mileage Reimbursement	6,094
		Mobility Management	Mobility Management	28,304
Opportunity Dvpmnt. Centers, Inc. Opportunity, Inc. of Jefferson County	Wood	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver & Vouchers	161,180
	Jefferson, Dodge, Rock, Waukesha	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
RSVP of Rock County, Inc.	Rock	Operating Assistance	Fixed Route Capacity Building	56,143
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Side-load Minivan	54,197
Southwest Opportunities Center, Inc.	Grant	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	22,728
Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program, Inc.	Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
		Mobility Management	Mobility Management	278,479
St. Coletta of Wisconsin, Inc.	Jefferson, Dodge, Waukesha	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	374,553
		Mobility Management	Mobility Management	61,306
Sunshine House, Inc.	Door, Kewaunee	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus	110,156
		Vehicle - Replacement	1 Medium Bus-HC	103,788
Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers	Lincoln, Oneida, Price	Operating Assistance	Volunteer Driver	22,903
Tri-State Ambulance	Vernon, LaCrosse	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Rear-entry Minivan	53,254
Vernon Area Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	11 SW & SC WI counties	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Med Bus Side-load	110,156
VIP Services, Inc.	Walworth	Vehicle - Replacement	1 Transit Bariatric Van Side-load	61,260
Washburn County on Aging	Washburn	Mobility Management	Mobility Management	82,840
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,097,376</b>