WisDOT Grant Programs for Specialized Transit

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Tribal Transit Peer Exchange
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What is “Specialized” transit?

- Intended to provide transportation services to Elders & individuals with a disability in order to afford transportation services to those that would not otherwise have an available or accessible method of transportation.

WisDOT administers three grant programs.

- 85.215 – for tribes only
- 85.21 – for counties only
- 5310 & 85.22 – open and competitive
Tribal Transportation for Elders (85.215)

- Exclusive to the 11 federally recognized tribes
- State funded grant under Wis. Stat. 85.215
- Established in 2009 to provide assistance for transportation needs of elder tribe members.
- Annual appropriation ($247,500) is divided equally among tribal governments ($22,500) who submit an application by December 31st.
85.215 – Possibilities

- Fund Transportation Service(s)
  - Directly provide service for elders
    - Assist with operating cost, dispatching, vehicle maintenance and administration cost.
  - Purchase service from public or private providers
- Coordinate Transportation Service(s)
- Voucher Programs
  - Directly subsidize elder passengers for their use of other transportation services.
85.215 – Possibilities continued

- Training
  - Perform or purchase in-service training

- Planning
  - Planning or management studies of coordinated specialized transportation services.

- Purchase equipment
  - Accessible vehicles, wheelchair lifts or ramps, Communication systems
Based on Calendar Year (January – December)

- October – begin application
- December – application deadline
- January – sign Grant Agreement & return to WisDOT
- February – submit annual Financial Report/Expenses to WisDOT for previous year.
- March – Grant Agreement executed and finalized
- April - check sent to tribes

Reporting requested throughout the year.
85.215 – Application

- Available & submitted through BlackCat® Online Grant Management System

- Components
  - Evidence of Coordination or Tribal Review
    - Coordination between all parties with interest in tribal elder affairs
  - Transmittal Letter from the Council Chairperson
  - Workbook & Spending Plan
    - Project/Service Info
      - Descriptions and details
    - Budget Info & Spending Plan
      - Total Expenses, amount of 85.215 allocation used on project & additional funding sources
      - Detailed expenses collected at end of grant cycle.
  - And if applicable…copies of purchased services (3rd Party Contracts)
Quarterly Statistic (a.k.a Ridership) reports
- Due within the month following the quarter
- Provide information on:
  - Total Miles for that quarter
  - Expenses for that quarter
  - Rides and Riders: Demographic of riders and the purpose.

Annual Financial Report
- Distributed January and due March 31st for prior year.
- Provide budget information, actual expenses and finalized funding sources.
85.215 – Key points

- Must submit complete application each year.

- Must give priority to transportation for tribal elders.

- All funds must be used for expenses that occurred within that calendar year.
  - If funds are left over, they are supposed to be returned to WisDOT by June 30th.
Other Specialized Transit Programs administered through WisDOT

- **State Programs**
  - Tribal Transportation for Elders (Wis. Stat. 85.215)
  - County Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance (Wis. Stat 85.21)

- **Federal Programs**
  - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (§5310)
County Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance (85.21)

- Exclusive to counties only
- State funded grant program under Wis. Stat. 85.21
- Established in July 1982
- Current amount $13,768,800
  - Determined by population of seniors & individuals with disabilities, compared to overall state population.
    - Pulled from US Census Bureau & WI DOA
  - Individual county allocation available on our website.
    - Minimum allocation $68,844 (= local match $13,769)
**85.21 vs. 85.215**

### Similar
- Exclusive eligibility
- Grantee determines how funds are spent
- Must be used for transportation needs of 65+
- Third party contracts/Intergovernmental agreement
- Able to procure vehicles off the State HSV bid (subject to Buy America compliance).

### Different
- Counties must provide a minimum 20% local match
- Counties may have Trust Fund
- Counties must provide accessible service.
- More complex application
- Allocation fluctuates based on census information.
85.21 for Counties cont’d

- Why is this interesting to tribes?
  - Counties may request Tribal Transit service to provide 85.21 service with an Intergovernmental agreement between the counties and the tribes.

- Need to know
  - Similar to all programs – if a tribe enters into an agreement for any of the grant programs, they are then required to follow the guidelines and regulations that govern that program.
Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (5310)

- Large Urban
  - Each UZA manages their own 5310 funds from FTA.
    - Appleton, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Madison

- Small Urban & Rural
  - Manage & administered by WisDOT
  - Two funding sources used
    - Federal received for 5310 from FTA - formula based
    - WisDOT under Wis. Stat. 85.22 – annual appropriation
Section(§) 5310

- Eligible applicants
  - Private non-profit
  - State or local government authorities that…
    - Are approved to coordinate services
    - Certify there are no nonprofit organizations to provide service

- Application is highly competitive
- Grant Requirements are governed by federal compliance regulations.
§5310 – Annual Timeline

- June – Application available through BlackCat.
- August – Application due (deadline is enforced)
- Sept/Oct/Nov – Applications evaluated and scored
- November/December – Awards announced
- Spring – Grant Agreements are sent out.

Awards
- Operating and Mobility Management projects are reimbursed after 2nd quarter.
- Awarded vehicles delivered by end of year.
Section(§) 5310 – Projects

- Provides funding for the following transit services:
  - Human Service Vehicles (HSV)
  - Mobility Management
  - Operating Projects
§5310 – Projects  

Mobile Management
- 80% quarterly reimbursement for a mobility manager program for a calendar year
  - Project may include coordination services, marketing, training and/or public outreach

Operating Expenses
- 50% quarterly reimbursement for operating projects for a calendar year.
  - Projects may include volunteer driver or voucher programs
Mobility Management & Operating obligations
- Grantee would need to apply each year for funding.
- Grantee obligations remain for the calendar year.
  • Reporting
    • Quarterly Reimbursement requests are due the month following each quarter of the grant cycle/calendar year.
    • A detailed Annual Financial Report is due by March 31.
Human Service Vehicles (HSVs)

- Program pays for 80% of the cost of the vehicle
- Vehicles available through state procurement
  - Minivans, Specialized Transit Vehicle (MV-1) & Buses (Mini, Medium, Large and Conventional)
- Vehicles are fitted with ramps or lifts to provide easy access for non-ambulatory passengers.
§5310 – Projects continued

- Human Service Vehicles obligations
  - Grantee obligations remain for the life of the vehicle:
    - Grantee holds title; WisDOT holds lien
    - WisDOT/FTA maintain 80% interest in fair market price of vehicle (unless falls below $5,000).
    - Vehicle must be used as described in the application.
    - Reporting is required for life of the vehicle.
      - Quarterly Ridership/Statistic reports
    - Failure to meet requirements may negatively impact future application evaluations
§5310 – Projects continued

- Human Service Vehicles obligations cont’d
  - Federal Compliance must be adhered to for the life of the vehicle.
    - Title VI Plan
    - Maintenance Plan
    - Asset Management Plan
    - Human Service Vehicle Inspections
    - Lease Agreements (renewed every 1-5 years)
    - WisDOT Compliance Site Reviews
    - Buy America Compliance (for delivery)
Handouts
- Federal Compliance: What you need to know
- WisDOT Transit Program Overview

References
- WisDOT website @ www.wisconsindot.gov
  - Doing Business > Local Government > Assistance Programs
- Wisconsin Statutes @ http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes
  - 85.21 & Transportation Administration Rule 1
  - 85.215
  - 85.22 & Transportation Administration Rule 2

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Questions