

Specialized Transportation

An integral part of aging well and long-term care

Core Member Organizations

- Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW)
- Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter
- Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA)
- Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)
- Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS)
- Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND)
- Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC)
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

WAAN State Issue Brief
 July 2016

WAAN's Position: Increase specialized transportation funding (s.85.21) by 3.75% in each year of the budget (\$527,288 and \$547,061 respectively) and annually thereafter to keep pace with growth in the aging population* and the resulting increasing service demands—and retain it as part of the segregated transportation fund.

**http://www.doa.state.wi.us/documents/DIR/Demographic%20Services%20Center/Projections/FinalProjs2040_Publication.pdf, pg. 15*

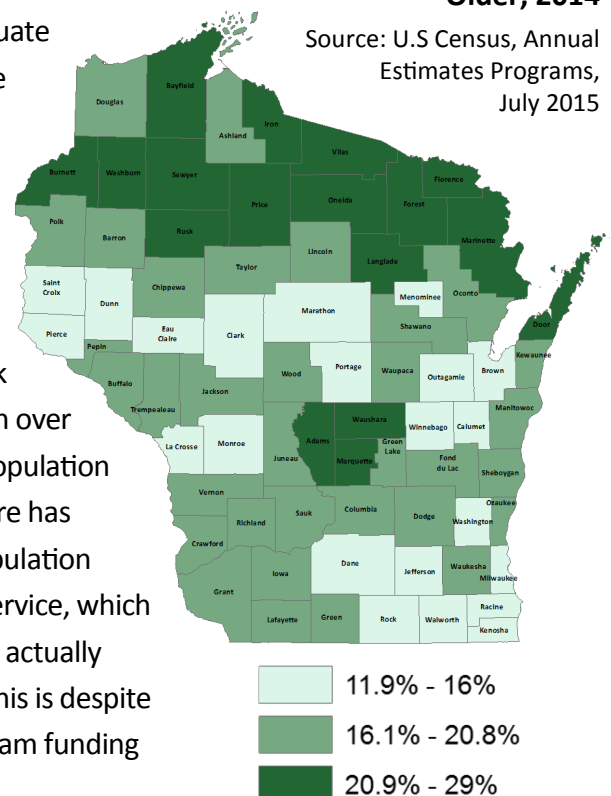
Reliable, Accessible, and Affordable Transportation: The Lifeline for Older Adults

Funding for the county and tribal specialized transportation assistance program must be increased in the upcoming budget to keep pace with Wisconsin's aging population. These programs provide older adults and people with disabilities the opportunity to remain living in their own homes and engaged in their communities. Specialized transportation funding must remain part of the segregated transportation fund to ensure reliable, predictable, and adequate funding is available to meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities who rely on these options to maintain their independence and quality of life.

The maps here and on the back show the percent of population over the age of 65 and percent of population with a disability ages 0-64. There has been a 12% increase in the population eligible for the 85.21-funded service, which means per capita spending has actually decreased by 7% since 2009. This is despite small increases in overall program funding over the past 5 years.

Percent of Population Aged 65 and Older, 2014

Source: U.S Census, Annual Estimates Programs, July 2015

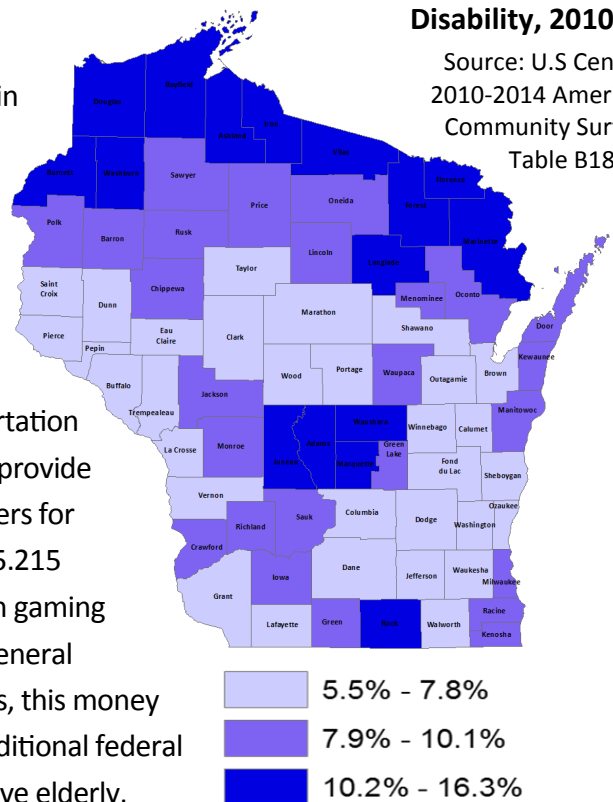


How Is Specialized Transportation Funded?

Counties and tribes in Wisconsin provide transportation with state operating assistance from the s.85.21 and s.85.215 programs among other local, state, and federal funding sources. The s.85.21 funds are part of the segregated transportation trust fund and used to directly provide or contract with private providers for transportation service. The s.85.215 funding is allocated from Indian gaming revenues that are part of the general purpose fund. In some counties, this money also leverages thousands of additional federal transportation dollars to improve elderly, disabled, and tribal transportation—as well as transportation for the general public.

Percent of Population Aged 0-64 with a Disability, 2010-14

Source: U.S Census, 2010-2014 American Community Survey, Table B18101



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According to the WI Transportation Finance & Policy Commission final report from January 2013, there are over 130 DOT-funded specialized transit services operated by counties and non-profits. A recent survey identified over 60 volunteer programs throughout the state.

Transportation Is a Critical Investment

When a person can no longer drive or get around, doctor visits decrease dramatically and food insecurity increases, placing that person at higher risk of poor health, isolation, institutionalization, and loneliness. No matter what programs communities offer or how strong one's desire to remain at home, without transportation, lack of transportation options can severely affect access to needed services. Wisconsin's cutting-edge home- and community-based services provide an alternative to higher-cost institutionalized care. Transportation programs play an integral role in these nationally-recognized services and help people remain independent.