

Specialized Transit Programs (Wis. Stats. § 85.21, 85.215 and 85.22)

Program Overview:

- Specialized transit service is defined as being targeted toward a specific demographic group such as seniors or individuals with disabilities
- Counties, other local public bodies and non-profit organizations are eligible for funding
 - Operating costs include labor, fuel, maintenance, volunteer drivers, vouchers, etc.
 - Capital costs include vehicles, equipment and mobility management positions

Program Funding:

- Programs are administered on a calendar year basis with applications for funding occurring in the summer / autumn
- Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties [Wis. Stats. § 85.21] 2017-18 - \$14,193,900 SEG and 2018-19 - \$14,477,800 SEG
 - By statute, funding is allocated across all 72 counties via formula based on the proportion of senior and disabled population
 - At a minimum, counties receive 0.5% of the total appropriation
 - Counties are required to contribute 20% cash match
- Specialized Transportation Program [Wis. Stats. § 85.22] 2017-19 Biennium - \$912,700 SEG annually
 - Supplements federal Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (Section 5310)
 - Funds are awarded for capital projects through a competitive application process with awardees required to contribute 20% cash match
 - Funding has remained flat for 10+ years
- Tribal Elderly Transportation Grant Program [Wis. Stats. § 85.215] 2017-19 Biennium - \$396,000 PR annually
 - Funding increased by \$148,500 in 2018 and are allocated equally among 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin
 - Tribes are required to contribute 20% match

Challenges:

- The proportion of the senior population is growing throughout Wisconsin. Residents are increasingly choosing to age in place and are attempting to maintain independence. As a result, the demand for specialized transportation is growing
- Providing specialized transit service is becoming more challenging, particularly in rural parts of the state where the population density is lower, distances to access services are greater and increasingly difficult to find paid and volunteer drivers

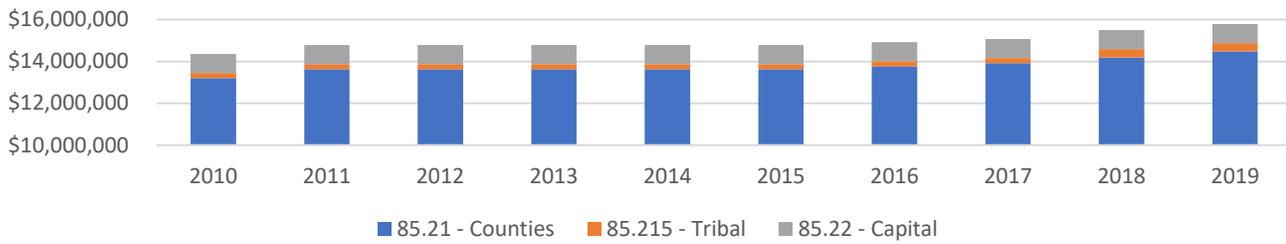
Policy and budget opportunities:

- Increase the funding available for specialized transit programs
- Reestablish formalized coordination efforts among state agencies with transportation interests (e.g. Transportation, Health Services and Veterans Affairs)

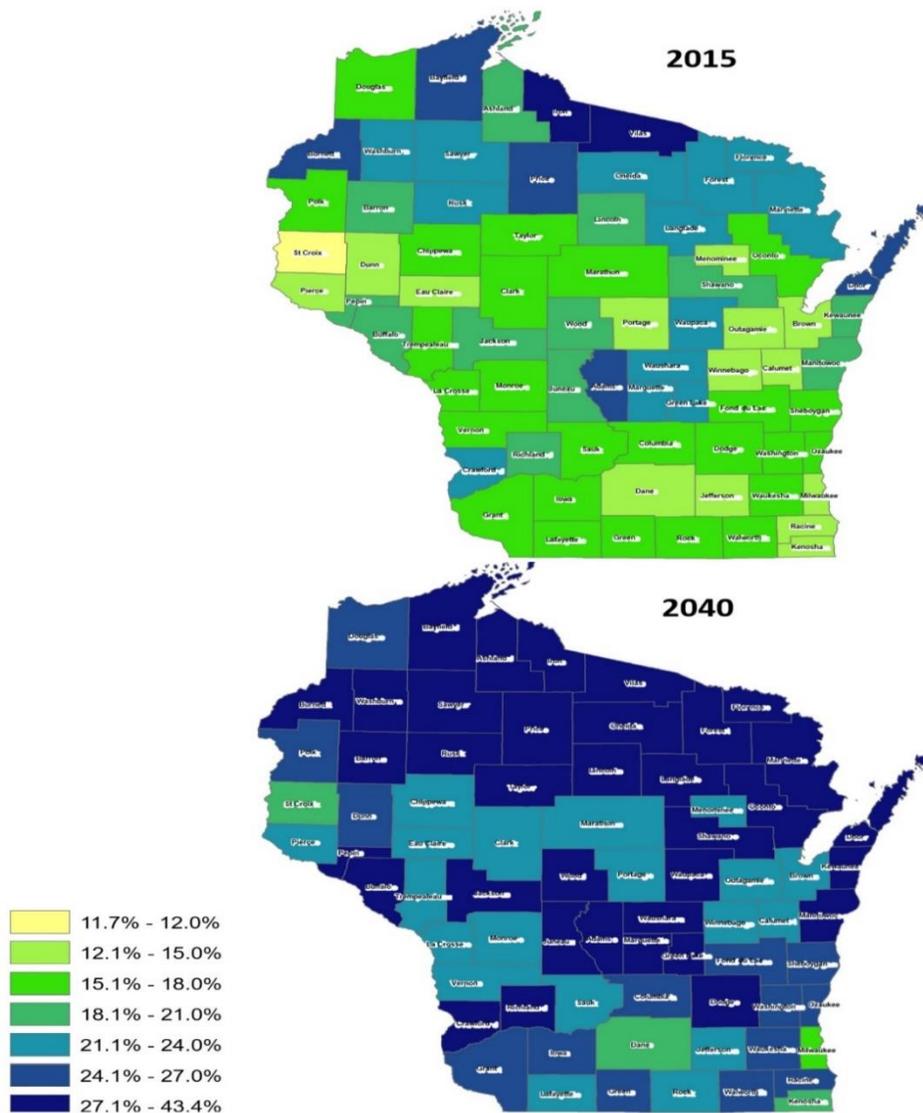
Transportation Stakeholder Task Force



Specialized Transit Funding Levels



Percent of Population Age 65 and Older by County in Wisconsin



Wisconsin Department of Health Services - Division on Long Term care