

Issue Brief – Senior Transportation Pilot Program

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

NUMBERDHS-08-18

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is requesting an appropriation of \$55,000 from one-time General Funds for FY 2008 for a Senior Transportation Pilot Program.

OBJECTIVE

This program would provide transportation for the elderly state-wide.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

During the 2002 General Session, H.B. 310, Mobility Assistance Fund created a restricted special revenue fund, “Out and About” Homebound Transportation Assistance Fund to provide public transportation for elderly, high risk adults, or people with disabilities. The administration of the fund falls under the duties of DAAS. The proceeds of the fund come from voluntary contributions when individuals apply or renew their license. As of October 1, 2006, the balance in the fund was \$71,679.19. Under Section 62A-3-110 (3), DAAS has statutory authority to “distribute the funds in the “Out and About” Homebound Transportation Assistance Fund to a selected organization that provides public transportation to aging persons, high risk adults, or people with disabilities.”

DAAS is proposing a senior ride share pilot program based on a model that has been successful in other states. Elderly individuals that wish to participate in the program, donate their cars to a non-profit organization in exchange for transportation. The non-profit organization uses the proceeds from the donated cars to purchase vehicles, insurance, gasoline, maintenance, etc. The drivers are community volunteers. Based on the history from other states, the program will be self-sustaining after one year.

The start-up costs are approximately \$110,000 as shown in the following table:

Senior Transportation Ride Share Pilot	
Dispatch Software and Infrastructure	\$30,000
Insurance	\$20,000
Initial Vehicles Purchases	\$50,000
Outreach & Advertisement	\$10,000
Total	\$110,000

DAAS is requesting \$55,000 one-time General Fund for seed money for this project, and will use an equal match of “Out and About” Homebound Transportation Assistance Fund. During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature adopted the following intent language allowing DAAS non-lapsing authority for one-time expenditures:

“If funds are available, the Division of Aging and Adult Services is authorized to not lapse up to \$100,000 at the end of FY 2007. These funds are to be used for senior center renovations and to assist with vehicle maintenance and replacements within local area agencies on aging.”

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Analyst that the request for one-time General Funds for FY 2008 not be funded but that the non-lapsing authority adopted during last session is changed to fund this project. It is the recommendation of the Analyst that the Subcommittee adopt the following supplemental intent language: *It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Aging and Adult Services is authorized to not lapse up to \$100,000 at the end of FY 2007 with \$45,000 to be used for senior center renovations and*

to assist with vehicle maintenance and replacements within the local area agencies on aging, and \$55,000 to be used for the Senior Transportation Ride Share Pilot Program.