

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) – Section 5310 Program Project Selection

May 17, 2021

This document describes the evaluation criteria and the scoring metric that will be used by the Greater Madison MPO to select projects for funding under this program. These criteria reflect both the Coordinated Plan and the unique objectives of the ARPA to use these funds primarily for operations and payroll expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. If additional funding is provided by future special funding legislation, the same scoring criteria will be used to select projects for funding under that Act to the extent allowed by law.

The Coordinated Plan includes Priority Tiers and Priority Strategies for Section 5310 Program funding. Those Tiers and Strategies have been amended to address the unique restrictions and intent of ARPA as shown below.

General Priorities

The coordinated planning process has established two priority tiers. Tier 1 represents the highest priority level.

Tier 1- Maintain existing level of service of viable programs or operations

Tier 1 supports existing transportation services and projects that:

- Have shown to be effective in meeting transportation needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and those with limited income
- Continue to demonstrate effective transportation operations within the county’s coordinated network

Tier 2A- Accommodate increasing demand for services within existing programs and operations

Tier 2A supports existing and new services and projects that:

- Require operating assistance to meet growing demand for the service(s) within present boundaries

Priority Strategies to Address Needs

The following strategies and projects have been identified in order to address the recognized transportation and coordination gaps and needs in Dane County. Many of these strategies have been carried over from previous coordinated plans and are of an ongoing nature.

Strategies to Address Financial Needs	
Affordability for Users	Continue to provide financial assistance for low-income families, veterans, homeless individuals, and paratransit eligible clients who also ride fixed-route buses



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	Continue to support employee transportation assistance programs
	Continue to provide financial assistance for low-income individuals to purchase or repair a vehicle for employment transportation where public transportation is not available to meet need
Strategies to Address Coordination, Education, and Outreach Needs	
Mobility Management	Continue to support Dane County One-Call Center [<i>eligible but de-prioritized for ARPA</i>]
	Continue to support Metro Paratransit in-person assessments [<i>eligible but de-prioritized for ARPA</i>]
Rider Education	Continue to support travel and mobility training programs
Strategies to Address Service Needs	
Service	Continue and increase transportation to work options
	Continue to provide mileage reimbursement for RSVP drivers
	Expanded and increase shared-ride taxi services

Application Scoring

Applications for funding through the ARPA Section 5310 Program will be evaluated and scored based on responses to three questions in the application, as described below:

Question 1: Demonstration of Need and Project Benefits (attach up to one additional sheet if necessary)	
Describe the project and the anticipated outcomes. If proposing a service activity, include information on operational schedules. If capital is requested, describe how the funds will be utilized. For mobility management projects, outline how the mobility manager will increase participation in and coordination of transit for seniors and people with disabilities.	
Evaluation Criteria:	
The application describes how the existing project or the proposed project will be effective at meeting the transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities and what happens if the funding is not awarded. (10 points max)	
Project Type (Only one will apply)	· Operations and Payroll - Describes how project helps meet the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and identifies specific services and activities the project provides (15 points max)
	· Mobility Management (Traditional)-Describes how project helps meet the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and identifies specific services and activities the project provides (5 Points max)
	· Vehicle Modification (Capital) - Describes how project will help protect drivers and riders and support the safe transportation of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and identifies specific modifications installed - note that applicant must certify that no employees have been furloughed (10 Points max)
Supported by the Coordinated Plan- The project overcomes barrier to transportation and/or meets an unmet need.	
· Identified as an ARPA-eligible Tier 1 Strategy Project (10 Points max)	
· Identified as an ARPA-eligible Tier 2a Strategy Project (10 Points max)	
· Not identified as a strategy, but addresses a need and is ARPA-eligible (3 Points max)	
The project serves a reasonable number of individuals or trips given the project budget.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should include total number of people served, and percentage of seniors or individuals with a disability served (10 points max)
<p>Question 2: Promotes Development of a Coordinated Network (response limited to one sheet)</p> <p>Explain how the proposed project will meet the identified needs and ensure that there is a coordination of efforts to ensure the targeted population is being served through the appropriate organization(s).</p>
<p>Evaluation Criteria:</p>
<p>The application identifies other transportation services available and how the project complements rather than duplicates them. (20 points max)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could include (but not limited to) increased hours of operation, reduction of coverage gaps, increased access to medical/employment/recreation trips
<p>The application identifies steps that will be taken to ensure a coordinated effort with other local agencies (including human services agencies, meal and shopping sites, employers etc.), and how the service will be marketed. (10 points max)</p>
<p>The application describes who is eligible to ride/participate in proposed service.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public- Project/service is open to all eligible seniors or individuals with disabilities (5 Points) or Private- Project/service is limited to a select client base (2 points)
<p>Question 3: Financial and Management Capacity (response limited to one sheet)</p> <p>Describe your agency's experience managing state, federal, or other outside funds. Describe how the project is cost effective and minimizes unnecessary overhead costs.</p>
<p>Evaluation Criteria:</p>
<p>The project has a reasonable level of administrative costs (10 points max)</p>
<p>The project sponsor has the capacity to meet the project management, reporting, and project delivery functions of the Section 5310 program. (10 points max)</p>