

Caroline County Board of Supervisors Agenda Executive Summary

Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Title: Unfinished Business – Discussion of Proposal for
Transportation Assistance Fund

(Check Mark)

<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action (Information Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation

Background: Staff and Supervisor Jeff Black have had discussions with Social Services Director Wendy Sneed about ideas for transportation assistance for citizens following the elimination of FRED Transit bus service in Caroline. Attached is a proposal developed by Ms. Sneed. She will attend the January 14th meeting to discuss the proposal with the Board of Supervisors.

King George County DSS was allocated \$30,000 for similar transportation assistance services as Ms. Sneed proposes after FRED bus service was discontinued in that locality. The funding was provided after King George unsuccessfully explored other alternatives such as connecting to the transit system in the Town of Colonial Beach and partnering with local churches for ride sharing.

Update: Following the discussion at the January 14th Board meeting, Ms. Sneed developed the attached two policy options for the Board's consideration. Option #1 mirrors the policy for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Training program. Applicants must be employed or participating in vocational education or training (designed to prepare the individual for a specific trade, occupation, or vocation) to be eligible.

Option #2 opens up availability to anyone meeting the income limits without regard to employment status or participation in vocational education or training.

Budget Impact: See attached proposal; there is no funding for the proposed program in the adopted FY 2020 budget. Therefore, any approved funds would be taken from the FY 2020 Undesignated General Fund Balance.

Requested Action(s) of Board: Discuss and direct staff

FY2020 Proposal for Transportation Assistance – Option 1

Caroline County Department of Social Services proposes that a transportation assistance fund of \$20,000 be established to assist the Caroline residents who are not eligible for TANF/VIEW (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Virginia Initiative for Education and Training) or for SNAP employment and training. The purpose of the fund would be to remove barriers for individuals who are able to drive in order to become gainfully employed and move toward self-sufficiency.

Transportation assistance includes gas cards, vehicle repair, vehicle purchase, insurance, taxes, DMV fees, and court fines. Gas cards may be issued at a rate of \$50.00 every 30 days. Vehicles may be purchased at a maximum of \$4,000. A request for payment of a vehicle repair may be approved if the general condition of the vehicle justifies the cost of the repairs. The applicant must provide documentation of:

1. required insurance coverage for the vehicle;
2. a valid driver's license; and
3. a registration showing the vehicle is in the applicant's name. The vehicle may be co-owned if the applicant is one of the co-owners on the registration.

To access this assistance, residents would apply at Social Services during regular business hours.

- Income must be at or below 50% of the State Median Income scale (attached) based on income and household size.
- Applicants must be employed or participating in vocational education or training (designed to prepare the individual for a specific trade, occupation, or vocation).

Assistance would be limited to once per calendar year. Documentation of assistance would be entered in Charity Tracker, a regional data system.

FY2020 Proposal for Transportation Assistance – Option 2

Caroline County Department of Social Services proposes that a transportation assistance fund of \$20,000 be established to assist the Caroline residents who are not eligible for TANF/VIEW (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Virginia Initiative for Education and Training) or for SNAP employment and training. The purpose of the fund would be to remove barriers related to transportation for individuals and move them toward self-sufficiency/independence where possible.

Transportation assistance includes gas cards, vehicle repair, vehicle purchase, insurance, taxes, DMV fees, and court fines. Gas cards may be issued at a rate of \$50.00 every 30 days. Vehicles may be purchased at a maximum of \$4,000. A request for payment of a vehicle repair may be approved if the general condition of the vehicle justifies the cost of the repairs. The applicant must provide documentation of:

1. required insurance coverage for the vehicle;
2. a valid driver's license; and
3. a registration showing the vehicle is in the applicant's name. The vehicle may be co-owned if the applicant is one of the co-owners on the registration.

To access this assistance, residents would apply at Social Services during regular business hours.

- Income must be at or below 50% of the State Median Income scale (attached) based on income and household size.

Assistance would be limited to once per calendar year. Documentation of assistance would be entered in Charity Tracker, a regional data system.