

Governor announces \$3.1 million initiative to continue successful “transportation to jobs” program

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle today announced a total of 17 transportation-provider groups from throughout the state will benefit from a \$3.1 million initiative continuing the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP) – an ongoing and collaboration effort that connects low-income workers with jobs through enhanced local transit services and initiatives.

“WETAP represents a proven investment in transportation services, which in turn benefits workers and strengthens our economy.”

WETAP integrates local, state and federal funding sources into a single, coordinated program and award process administered jointly by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and Department of Transportation (WisDOT). WETAP combines funds from the federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), along with the state Transportation Employment and Mobility (TEAM) program and Employment Transit Assistance funds (ETA). For this year, the federal and state investment totals approximately \$3.1 million, with the local funding share totaling about \$1 million.

“WETAP has established a commendable track record of connecting workers with jobs,” said WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi. “These awards will allow numerous groups that form the foundation of WETAP’s success to continue providing essential transportation services.”

Enhanced transit services made possible through WETAP include additional bus and taxi- routes, vanpool and shuttle services, car loan, vehicle loan and vehicle repair programs, and the hiring of local mobility managers who coordinate transportation services for area workers and employers.

“Access to safe, reliable transportation is an important supportive service for low income families,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said. “The WETAP program is making a world of difference for families who need that extra assistance to attain employment, retain employment and advance in employment.”

Editors' note: The attached table lists the award recipients, the planned transit-related enhancements, and the amount of the WETAP award (the amount listed does not include the local share).

2009 WETAP AWARDS

APPLICANT	PROJECT(S)	COUNTY(IES) SERVED	AWARD*
Advocap	Vehicle Loan	Green Lake, Winnebago and Calumet	\$179,367
CAP Services	Vehicle Loan	Portage	\$151,181
Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, Inc.	Vehicle Loan	Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Sauk and Waushara	\$103,372
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin	Vehicle Loan	Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha	\$89,625
Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties	Vehicle Loan	Rock and Walworth	\$99,664
Couleecap	Vehicle Loan	Vernon	\$190,429
Fond du Lac County	Van Pool, Guaranteed Ride Home, Vehicle Repair and Maintenance, Mobility Manager, Childcare Transportation	Fond du Lac	\$106,381
Kenosha Achievement Center	Mobility Manager/Shuttle Service	Kenosha	\$161,275
Milwaukee Careers Cooperative	Guaranteed Ride Home, Shuttle Service, Training, Job Center Transportation Services	Milwaukee	\$454,630
NEWCAP, Inc.	Vehicle Loan and Repair	Marinette and Oconto	\$153,514
Southwest Community Action Program	Vehicle Loan	Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland	\$196,873
VE Carter	Childcare Transportation, Shuttle Service, Guaranteed Ride Home, Vanpool	Milwaukee	\$556,382
West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc.	Rideshare	Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix	\$13,915
Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.	Vehicle Repair, Vehicle Purchase and Training	Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson and Trempealeau	\$152,739
Women's Employment Project, Inc.	Van Pool, Mobility Manager, Travel and Gas Voucher, Guaranteed Ride Home	Door	\$54,147
Workforce Connections	Mobility Manager and Vehicle Loan and Repair	Crawford, Juneau, Monroe, Vernon, La Crosse	\$252,535
YWCA - Madison	Childcare Transportation, Shuttle Service, Guaranteed Ride Home, Rideshare, Employer-based Shuttles	Dane	\$255,000

Total Funding*

\$3,171,029

* The award amounts do not include local match dollars.