



2010 Potential General Fund Budget Cuts • TRANSPORTATION IMPACTED SERVICES

The Governor's budget includes cuts to essential services that enable our special needs population to access transportation services fundamental to daily living. The proposed cuts will put these transportation options, and the people that rely on them, at risk. This has both social and financial implications for our community. Limiting or cutting transportation related programs for our special needs populations has dire long term budget implications for the State, including consequences to transits that are already in jeopardy of failing. This summary outlines threatened general fund programs that affect transportation services and the [impact on transportation](#) should these programs receive cuts.

Volunteer Chore Services – The Volunteer Chore Services program coordinates 288,000 hours of volunteer services to allow elderly people to continue living at home.

Impact on Transportation: Reduces transportation options to our elderly by cutting a very efficient and cost effective transportation program.

WIN 2-1-1 – The statewide Washington Information Network 2-1-1 provides information and referrals for transportation, housing, social services and other community resources.

Impact on Transportation: Cuts could eliminate an easily accessible number used by special needs individuals to locate information and referrals for transportation resources and options. This state funding also leverages federal funding (FTA 5310).

Senior Citizens Services Act – The Senior Citizens Services Act helps local Area Agencies on Aging provide meal assistance, transportation, in-home services and counseling.

Impact on Transportation: This Act provides required match for federal funds (FTA 5311) to support senior and disabled transportation. Without this funding, volunteer transportation programs – which utilize volunteers using their own vehicles to transport seniors to medical appointments and other destinations – would be eliminated.

Language Interpreter Services – Medicaid provides language interpreter services to assist clients in accessing Health Care. This program helps to defray overhead costs for transportation services.

Impact on Transportation: The elimination of Brokered Interpreter Services would increase the costs of Medicaid transportation due to a loss of leveraged administrative costs and increased travel distances to healthcare providers that accept Medicaid. Without the \$4.4 million in general funds, the state would lose a \$12.2 million federal match.

Developmental Disabilities Individual and Family Services – The Individual and Family Support program allows the care providers for children with developmental disabilities and adults who choose to live in the family home control over the resources available to them.

Impact on Transportation: Cutting services to the special needs population would impact these individuals' ability to remain independent, continue with employment, stay in their homes, and access transportation. This would increase reliance on community transportation providers that do not have the resources to meet increased demands.

Optional Medicaid Services – The federal government considers some services in the state Medicaid program as optional: dental, vision and podiatry services, as well as physical, speech and occupational therapies for adults.

Impact on Transportation: Cutting these services to our special needs populations reduces individuals' ability to remain independent and access transportation. Without these services, people may require additional ADA services and have reduced capacity to access fixed route transportation. Additionally, there is a significant rural impact when Medicaid does not pay for transportation services.