

(I) SUCH FUNDS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO COUNTIES IN WHICH THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ARE MOST NEEDED; AND

(II) COUNTY MATCH REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO ALL DISBURSEMENTS.

(2) A WRITTEN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY A COUNTY UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED OR CONSIDERED BY THE SECRETARY UNLESS THE LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING CERTIFIES ITS APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT FOR THE FUNDING FOR WHICH THE APPLICATION IS MADE.

(F) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A 95 PERCENT STATE, 5 PERCENT COUNTY MATCHING FUND OBLIGATION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE OPERATING ASSISTANCE WITH FUNDS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION ONLY:

(I) TO FUND OPERATING DEFICITS OF THE COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE; AND

(II) ON THE BASIS OF A 75 PERCENT STATE, 25 PERCENT COUNTY MATCHING FUND OBLIGATION.

(G) THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND OFFICE ON AGING AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS, SHALL DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR THE PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SECTION. THE PROCEDURES SHALL PROVIDE THAT:

(1) A COUNTY SHALL USE ALL AMOUNTS DISTRIBUTED TO IT UNDER THIS SECTION ONLY FOR THE ACQUISITION OR REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT OR FOR THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE;

(2) A COUNTY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING, SHALL DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF SERVING THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF ITS ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS;

(3) EACH COUNTY SHALL COOPERATE WITH THE OTHERS TO BEST SERVE THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF THE STATE'S ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS; AND

(4) A COUNTY ADMINISTERING A TRANSPORTATION SERVICE THAT RECEIVES FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION:

(I) SHALL PROVIDE TRIPS FOR ANY PURPOSE;

(II) SHALL SERVE THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS WITHIN THE SERVICE AREAS IDENTIFIED IN ITS APPLICATION;