

(3) "Elderly and handicapped person" means any person who, by reason of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable to use mass transit facilities and services as effectively as a person who is not so affected.

(4) "Transportation service" means any transportation option or mix of options that may include paratransit or fixed route service, established or employed by a county to accommodate the transportation needs of its elderly and handicapped residents.

(b) (1) The Secretary shall identify separately within the Department's annual budget an amount that the Secretary deems necessary to be used for elderly and handicapped transportation service in each county.

(2) The amount the Secretary identifies, or such other amount as may be appropriated by the General Assembly for the provision of elderly and handicapped transportation service in each county, shall be distributed as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section.

(c) (1) Of the amount separately identified or otherwise appropriated under subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall:

(i) Allocate 60 percent equally among the counties; and

(ii) Allocate the remaining amount among the counties in proportion to their respective percentages of the State's combined elderly and handicapped population.

(2) Subject to the limitations provided in subsection (f) of this section, the Secretary shall distribute all such allocated amounts to those counties which file a written application with the Department in such form and detail as the Secretary requires.

(3) 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.

(4) The Secretary shall consult with the Maryland Office on Aging and the Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals in distributing the funds available under this section.

(d) (1) In determining local transportation needs, the counties shall take into account the elderly and handicapped