

File No. 16-17/006 (Living Wage Ordinance)

ADRC Fact Sheet

Date: July 14, 2016

The primary sources of revenue for the ADRC budget are federal and state grants. Just 4 percent of the ADRC budget, or \$104,394, is from local tax levy. Two ADRC programs will be especially affected by the Living Wage Ordinance (LWO): the Nutrition Program and the Specialized Transportation Program.

The Nutrition Program, made up of Meals on Wheels and Congregate Dining, is funded 95% from state and federal grants and 5% from county tax levy which serves as the required local match. The Meals on Wheels program serves a warm, nutritious meal to homebound seniors throughout Eau Claire County. Meals on Wheels are currently served 5 days/week throughout the county. Meals are delivered by trained volunteers. There is currently no waiting list for the program. In 2015, over 69,000 meals were served to 1,365 individuals. The program relies heavily on donations from participants in order to operate, in addition to State and Federal grants. Increased operational expenses as a result of the proposed Living Wage Ordinance will result in a reduction of meals served.

The Specialized Transportation Program is funded 80% from the State Department of Transportation's 85.21 grant of which requires a 20% local match from county tax levy.

- In 2015, the Specialized Transportation program provided over 23,000 rides to older adults and adults with disabilities that are unable to access and/or use other means of transportation such as the city bus. State and Federal guidelines limit the amount that can be charged to riders as co-pay to offset expenses. The Living Wage Ordinance would result in increased program costs and result in a reduction of service. The County has a longstanding partnership with the City of Eau Claire to operate the specialized transportation program in order to maximize funding resources. The Living Wage Ordinance may jeopardize that partnership.
- The county began offering weekend transportation services to allow older adults and adults with disabilities to attend weekend events, including church on Sunday mornings. This weekend program likely will be eliminated as a result of substantial cost increase.

Additional Tax Levy or Reductions in Services with LWO: Currently, the levy funding used to operate these programs is the required local match funding. Based on the estimates obtained by our meal providers and our transportation provider, the Living Wage Ordinance would require the ADRC to obtain additional county tax levy funds to operate at current service levels. The alternative would require substantial reduction in services to older adults and adults with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,
David P. Mortimer, MDiv, Supervisor, District 16
Eau Claire County Board, Member, ADRC Board