

April 20, 2006

Dear Saferide Coordinators:

Recently, I went over our records of each Saferide program in the state. What I found is that while many programs are complying with the rules, some are not. I don't feel this is intentional, I feel there may be some misunderstandings. Following is a sketch of how the program is to be run. Hopefully, it is not too confusing. This will be the focus of our next Saferide meeting.

**85.55 Saferide Grant Program. The department may award grants to any county or municipality or to any nonprofit corporation, as defined in s.66.0129 (6)(b), to cover the costs of transporting persons suspected of having a prohibited alcohol concentration, as defined in s.340.01 (46m), from any premises licensed under ch.125 to sell alcohol beverages, to their place of residence. The amount of a grant under this section may not exceed 50% of the costs necessary to provide the service. The liability of a provider of a Saferide program to persons transported under the program is limited to the amounts required for an automobile liability policy under s.344.15(1). Grants awarded under this section shall be paid from the appropriation under s.20.395(5)(ek).**

The above statute explains the law regarding funding for the Tavern League's Saferide Program. I want to take this time to reiterate that Saferide funding is shared 50/50 between the State of Wisconsin and individual programs; thus we have the Saferide Matching Funds Program.

In review:

- County X receives an initial Grant (\$10,000 example) from State for Saferide funding.
- County X takes measures to raise \$10,000 to match state grant.
- Initial \$10,000 grant money from state is depleted (\$10,000 worth of SafeRide transportation).
- County X provides SafeRide transportation with matching funds money raised.(\$10,000)
- County X matching funds is depleted.
- County X reapplies for State funds.
- County X raises matching funds in twice the amount of the second grant.

Problem:

Too many counties have received a second grant without spending the funds raised to match the initial grant. Matching funds should provide, in dollar amounts, rides equal to the grant it received initially minus administrative and promotional costs.

Example:	State Grant Amount	\$10,000
	Value of rides provided	<u>\$10,000</u>
	Balance	\$0
	County obligation for Saferide Grant Amount	\$10,000
	Admin & Promo Costs	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
	Value of Rides given	\$ 8,000
	Total - rides given, administration & promos	<u>\$20,000</u>
	50% State Grant & 50% local program	

Even though you are no longer using state funds and instead are using your own, you must continue to report ridership and expenses. This allows us to track your activity and determine when you are again eligible for further funding.

Other points to remember:

- Grants are limited to \$10,000.
- Initial grants must be matched dollar for dollar, subsequent grants must be matched times 2 – example, if you request \$10,000 after initial funding, you must raise \$20,000 in matching funds. This \$20,000 must be used in ridership, administration and promotion before another grant is permitted.
- You must report a minimum of once a year or you will be considered inactive and funds will be withdrawn.
- Grant money will honor ride costs dated from the first of the month the request is received in the office.
- Please don't confuse Saferide matching funds with Foundation matching funds.

Funds already granted will not be withdrawn unless a program is deemed “inactive”; I understand this may place a burden on some programs to raise matching funds. However, this is the law and we must abide by it.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pete Madland