

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: October 2, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jon Janowski, Interim Executive Director, Department on Aging

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Executive Director, Department on Aging, requesting authorization to amend 2020 nutrition services purchase of service contracts**

Background

Adequate nutrition is an important part of healthy aging, and according to Feeding America's 2020 *State of Senior Hunger*, one in 14 seniors is food insecure. To address this need, Milwaukee County provides nutritious, balanced meals to diners over 60. Meals to seniors are offered through the five county-owned senior centers, 18 additional sites around the County, four sites with diverse culturally-appropriate meal plans, and Meals on Wheels delivered to home-bound seniors.

Program Budget

The Department awards funds to provider agencies based on allowable costs, availability of federal, state and local funds, anticipated usage by older persons, and changing service needs. When additional funds become available, the Department seeks to use such funds to expand services and/or reimburse the provider for services rendered.

During the COVID pandemic, caterers and transportation vendors quickly pivoted to organizing meal pick-ups instead of congregate meals, and escalated the number of home delivered meals to enable seniors to reside safely at home. The additional funds recommended in this report would enable the Department to provide our nutrition site vendors that have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic with a \$5,000-per-site increase.

Nutrition Services 2020 Contract Amendment Report

October 1, 2020

Page 2 of 3

Agency	2020 Contract Amount	Recommended Adjustment	Amended 2020 Contract Amount
Greater Galilee	\$110,000	\$5,000	\$115,000
Indian Council of the Elderly	\$84,572	\$5,000	\$89,572
Milwaukee Christian Center (Manages 13 meal sites, 11 of which remain open)	\$250,000	\$55,000	\$305,000
Milwaukee Christian Center (Meal Site Services to Southeast Asian American Elderly)	\$103,550	\$5,000	\$108,550
Serving Older Adults (Manages a meal site at each of the five county-owned senior centers)	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
United Community Center	\$264,187	\$5,000	\$269,187
Total:	\$912,309	\$100,000	\$1,012,309

Racial Equity Impact

Currently, just over half of the older adults served through the Department’s Senior Dining Program identify as non-Hispanic White. The Department is also aware that, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity is much more prevalent among African-American older adults.¹ In alignment with the County’s strategic plan, the Department will continue to focus its outreach efforts on feeding the most underserved and impoverished older adults in our community. The Department has also expanded relationships with minority-owned businesses and vendors to create meal plans that fit into a variety of cultural preferences and norms.

All of the agencies being recommended for a funding increase as detailed in the above table primarily serve seniors of underserved racial groups.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Interim Executive Director of the Department on Aging to amend existing nutrition services contracts for a total increase of \$100,000 for the time period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 with the providers listed and in the amounts specified in the attached resolution.

¹ USDA website. *Food Security in the U.S.* <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#householdtype>

Fiscal Impact

Funding for these contract amendments will have no direct impact on the County and will not require additional tax levy. Sufficient funds have been allocated to the Department on Aging in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding allocation.

A fiscal note form is attached.

If you have questions, please contact me at 414-379-3569.



Jon Janowski, Interim Executive Director
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee
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