

## Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan Goal Progress: 2026 Quarter 1

<b>Advocacy</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
<p>Develop relationships with local, state, and federal legislators to impact positive policy change.</p>	<p>By 2027, we will have met with 80 percent of all Milwaukee County local, state, and federal legislators twice to discuss policy priorities adopted by the Advocacy Committee and Commission on Aging. These meetings can be individual meetings, at WAAN Aging Advocacy Day, at an In-District Event, or other Milwaukee County advocacy event.</p>	<p>Milwaukee County Aging staff and advocates attended Disability Advocacy Day and met with state legislators to advocate for older adults with disabilities, particularly around increased funding for Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports, FoodShare, and family caregivers. Milwaukee County Aging staff also attended the USAging Policy Briefing in Washington, DC and met with federal legislative offices to share FY27 funding priorities and support for reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.</p>
<p>Expand our common cause on public policy issues with other nonpartisan older adult groups, such as labor unions, retiree groups, or the AARP, and develop intentional relationships with media partners to bring awareness to older adult advocacy issues and policy positions.</p>	<p>For each year of the plan period, we will partner with at least one older adult advocacy group to host twice per year advocacy events that bring together older adult residents, advocates, and Milwaukee County's local, state, and/or federal legislators. By 2027, we will work with media partners on three occasions to highlight the Advocacy Committee and/or Commission on Aging through featured articles, interviews with committee members, or by providing quotes in related articles.</p>	<p>In January 2026, the Advocacy Committee was positively featured in a Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service article highlighting our Policy Priorities Listening Sessions and opportunities for continued engagement with Milwaukee County advocacy opportunities.</p>

<p>Promote awareness of the Commission on Aging, Advocacy Committee, and advocacy opportunities and events through improved website accessibility and functionality.</p>	<p>By 2027, the Area Agency on Aging will have developed and implemented a full project plan and timeline for accessible website improvements for the Commission on Aging and Advocacy Committee, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.</p>	<p>New this year, Milwaukee County Aging staff developed a standalone webpage to advertise and highlight the Senior Leadership Program. This drew new engagement to the program and provided an opportunity to more clearly demonstrate the program particulars to interested parties.</p>
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**Socialization and Social Supports**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
<p>Increase opportunities that foster peer-to-peer connections, including formal programs like the Senior Companion Program and informal support groups, ex. Caregiver support group.</p>	<p>By 2025, Milwaukee County operates Senior Companion Program to prevent disruption to 30 existing Senior Companions and extends Senior Companion Services to at least 80 older adults. By 2027, one new support group will have been maintained for a minimum of six months. By 2027, 50 percent of Senior Companions will connect their senior to AAA supported programming</p>	<p>There are currently 18 Senior Companions. There has been an expansive reach to a large number of individuals due to 3 of the SCs volunteering at St. Ann's Adult Day Program. There are approximately 50 individuals in the program daily.</p>
<p>Maintain support and development of financial counseling programs.</p>	<p>In 2025 maintain Financial Navigation contract after ARPA funding expires. 25% of program participants will increase their savings by at least one-weeks' worth of their total monthly net income, which will be tracked by the vendor and reported to AAA staff monthly. Assist 45 new senior clients annually.</p>	<p>In the first two months of 2026, 11 new clients were served by this program. Two new individuals between January and February were able to reduce their non-mortgage debt by 10%.</p>

**Senior Centers**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
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<p>Develop new partnerships with organizations such as faith-based groups, labor councils, retiree organizations, corporations, and academic institutions to recruit volunteers, add programming, and promote participation in senior centers.</p>	<p>By 2027, establish an ongoing relationship with five community organizations to promote participation in senior centers.</p>	<p>Serving Older Adults is currently exploring a partnership with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music to provide volunteer based performing arts programming across all sites, with a target launch in Q2. Also exploring partnership with Saputo to connect their employees with volunteer opportunities through their VLO program (targeted to start Q2)</p>
<p>Expand County-led recreational offerings based at each senior center to include use of park grounds and recreational programming outside of standard programming hours.</p>	<p>Sponsor at least two recreational events per year in the Milwaukee County Parks that are collocated with senior centers. By 2027, add one regularly scheduled offering during and outside of standard hours.</p>	<p>Aiming to pilot “Step Into Fitness” through SOA’s Wellness Without Walls initiative, which will deliver accessible fitness programming in community-based settings such as County Parks and the lakefront. This initiative is designed to extend the reach beyond traditional senior center locations, with a target launch in Q2. Additionally SOA is exploring a pilot program to offer Saturday programming. Discussions with potential instructors have begun.</p>
<p>Develop public-private sector partnerships to create new programming in senior centers that expands offerings consistent with the MKE HUBS report.</p>	<p>By 2027, pilot one new or enhanced service in each Milwaukee County senior center, which results in new attendees.</p>	<p>LGBTQ+ partners have begun hosting inclusive programming at Washington Park Senior Center. We are also exploring a partnership with Abilities Travel to provide inclusive day trip opportunities across all senior center</p>
<b>Transportation</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
<p>Work with culturally specific senior centers’ management to schedule tours for their clients to cultural assets and recreation sites.</p>	<p>By 2027, we will have collaborated with 18 host locations beyond the five County-owned senior centers to provide residents of color and underserved populations access to cultural assets and recreation sites through group rides leaving from senior centers.</p>	<p>Progress remains suspended due to civic and cultural rides being removed from eligible OATS destinations.</p>

Provide accessible transportation services to older adults to facilitate access to County sponsored services.	Maintain 2024 numbers of one-way rides and riders, including unduplicated riders, across all transportation services.	2024 Total: 60,501 rides across all transportation services 2025 Total: <b>65,325</b> rides across all transportation services, an 8% increase from 2024.
Work with agencies throughout the region to identify and advocate for a transportation policy that will facilitate transportation coordination throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.	By 2027, we will have formed at least six new partnerships with agencies throughout SE Wisconsin and undertaken at least three advocacy efforts to advance the chosen transportation policy at the local and state levels.	Working with the MobilISE Regional Transit Advocacy Steering Committee, the TC is conducting a postcard campaign in which community members write postcards to their state representatives and legislators regarding the importance of transit. TC provided feedback to the Milwaukee County Future State Project encouraging the inclusion of the goal of creating an RTA in the final project recommendations.
<b>Nutrition</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
Increase service to Hispanic/Latino and Asian older adults by partnering with Hispanic and Asian-owned restaurants for the Dine Out program.	By 2027, service to Hispanic/Latino and Asian older adults will increase by 10 percent.	Received approval from Commission on Aging and County Board to bring on new Dine Out partner, An Ox Café, to the Senior Dining program. This is an Asian-owned café, which will have its grand opening in Q2.
<b>Heart-Health and Evidence-Based Wellness</b>		
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b>
Increase the number of workshops and participation in evidence-based programs that focus on physical activity and exercise.	Provide five community, physical activity-based EBPP programs (Walk with Ease, Strong Bodies, Gente Fuerte, or other) in the first year, adding one additional program per year in subsequent years.	Three physical activity-based workshops were offered in Q1 (2 GenteFuerte, 1 Walk with Ease). Two Stand Up for Your Health workshops that promote standing more throughout the day were also offered.
Enhance blood pressure monitoring program and heart health education to all Milwaukee County-owned senior centers.	Expand the blood pressure hubs to all five Milwaukee County-owned senior centers by 2027. Provide two heart health-focused programming opportunities per site per year that each hub is in operation.	Educational series focused on connection between heart health and mental health were offered at the four active Milwaukee-County owned senior centers in March.

<p>Increase collaborative efforts to expand the network of organizations hosting EBP programs and recruiting new facilitators in communities of color.</p>	<p>Identify and engage six agencies or organizations by 2027 within communities of color to recruit facilitators for the evidence-based prevention programs and/or host EBP workshops. Utilize findings from Impower's final report and participant quality surveys to develop new methods/materials to recruit new facilitators and host sites.</p>	<p>Met with leaders from CORE El Centro to discuss partnership and support of evidence-based programs in Spanish. Met with leader of Fe, Vida, Esperanza, who hosts a cancer support group in Spanish to explore possible locations for Gente Fuerte.</p>
<p><b>Caregiving and Caregiver Support</b></p>		
<p><b>Goal</b></p>	<p><b>Measure</b></p>	<p><b>2026 Q1 Progress Report</b></p>
<p>Educate health care professionals and social service agencies, including all Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC), who work with older adults about the availability of publicly-funded caregiver support services and how to make a referral.</p>	<p>By 2026, track data from referral sources to identify potential gaps in service connections. Use data to create a strategic communications plan to increase referral rate from health care professionals and social service agencies.</p>	<p>Completed data analysis of referral sources for 2025. Majority of referrals come from ADRC staff or self referrals. Identified priority to connect with professionals and health agencies in 2026.</p>
<p>Develop and implement four new educational and support opportunities for family caregivers by 2027. Opportunities will include education/trainings, peer support, and/or new support group options. These opportunities will align with goals of the National Family Caregiver Strategy and the work of the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver State Alliance.</p>	<p>Develop and implement four new educational and support opportunities for family caregivers by 2027. Opportunities will include education/trainings, peer support, and/or new support group options.</p>	<p>Hosted Take Off Your Red Cape event, a new model of event with a life coach planned with caregivers. Also hosted Spanish and English courses of Powerful Tools at the same time for ease of recruitment.</p>

<p>Based on feedback from caregivers, develop opportunities for flexible, low-cost respite options that create opportunities for caregivers to pursue activities to support their own health and wellness.</p>	<p>Partner with Senior Companion program to develop direct referral option for care partners to receive support through Senior Companions. Connect at least five families to Senior Companions by 2027. Explore models for providing volunteer-supported respite programs. Partner with at least one community partner or educational institution to pilot a volunteer respite model by 2027.</p>	<p>Ongoing support of Legacy Pop Up Respite events (2 per month). Created direct referral path to Senior Companion program and identified one family who participated in AFCSP and Senior Comanion program in 2025.</p>
Local Goals		
Goal	Measure	2026 Q1 Progress Report
<p>Join the Milwaukee County AARP Age Friendly Community Network advisory body. Participate with other Aging Network and community participants in identifying domains on which to focus to achieve a more livable and equitable community for older adults.</p>	<p>Adopt at least one goal in a chosen AARP domain of livability and lead efforts to implement that goal that improve Milwaukee County's livability index.</p>	<p>Steering Committee met on its first focus area: transportation and identified fixed route transit and walkability as sub-topics for analysis. Steering committee will focus on opportunities to impact policy and advocacy in these transportation goals, which overlaps with our area plan goals.</p>