

## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

### Inter-Office Communication

Date: March 17, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to enter into a contract with the State of Wisconsin and to accept \$2,051,427 in Older Americans Act funds as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Law No: 117-2 with a required match of \$300,512

File Type: Action Report

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### **REQUEST**

The DHHS Director seeks authorization to enter into a 2023 Older Americans Act American (OAA) Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) contract agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to accept \$2,051,427 and to accept any addendum thereto in support of various eligible OAA services. This authorization request for Older Americans Act ARPA funds is as provided through Section 2921 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation. This contract between Milwaukee County and the State must be signed before receiving 2023 OAA ARPA revenues.

### **POLICY**

Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. § 3021 et al.) provides grants to state agencies and area agencies on aging to develop greater capacity and foster the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older adults. The passage of federal ARPA legislation in March 2021 included additional Older Americans Act funding that channels through the state to area agencies on aging, including the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging.

Wisconsin State Statutes §46.80 covers services for older adults in the State of Wisconsin. Milwaukee County Ordinance Ch. 53 relates to responsibilities for the Commission on Aging and Ch. 56 covers County Board approval of federal and state funding that requires match.

### **BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County is a federal designated Area Agency on Aging by the State of Wisconsin under the Older Americans Act. The 16-member Commission on Aging is the lead county citizen board responsible for assessing the major aging issues and needs concerning the sixty (60) and over age population and for reviewing the planning and service efforts of organizations and institutions in the county and its aging network, and for making recommendations thereof.

Since the integration of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and Department of Health and Human Services in 2021 under the “No Wrong Door” concept, the DHHS Adult and Disability Services (ADS) - Aging unit serves as the County's designated Area Agency on Aging organization.

The ADS Aging unit administers federal, state, local and private funds to help meet the growing needs of Milwaukee County's large and diverse older adult population. Through development of a comprehensive network of contracted community-based support services agencies, assistance is provided to help older adults to remain independent in their homes as reasonable as possible.

In March 2021, federal ARPA legislation (P.L. 117-2) was signed into law which included over \$1.4 billion in additional Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for states and local area agencies on aging. Per federal regulations, OAA dollars must be spent on older adults with the greatest economic and social need, with particular attention to people of color with the greatest economic and social need.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has allocated the second year of two ARPA contracts in excess of \$2 million. The year two contract of \$2,051,427 in Older Americans Act ARPA funding awarded to Milwaukee County has a term extending from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024. The OAA ARPA funding allocation service areas requiring match include Area Agency Administration, Supportive Services, Congregate Nutrition, Home Delivered Nutrition, and National Family Caregiver Support Program. The Preventive Health service allocation has no match requirement.

DHHS has received approval for ARPA match of \$300,512 in accordance with File 22-905, which authorizes a Matching Grant Pilot Program supported by a portion of the County's \$183.7 million ARPA allocation. DHHS requested and received approval of the \$300,512 match amount from the county's Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance which is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the Matching Grant Pilot Program under File 22-905. The OAA ARPA allocations and related match are illustrated in the chart below.

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>ARPA AWARD</b>	<b>MATCH</b>
Area Agency Administration	\$163,831	\$54,610
Supportive Services	\$536,050	\$59,561
Congregate Nutrition	\$460,325	\$51,147
Home Delivered Nutrition	\$614,332	\$68,259
Preventive Health	\$76,084	\$0
National Family Caregiver Support	\$200,805	\$66,935
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,051,427</b>	<b>\$300,512</b>

OAA ARPA funds in all service areas will support initiatives coordinated by the ADS-Aging Unit as approved and recommended by the Commission on Aging that target older adults with the greatest economic and social needs, with particular attention focused on low-income communities and people of color. Focus area initiatives will include wellness and prevention programming, transportation, neighborhood services, and various outreach networks, advocacy, nutrition, caregiver support and other supportive services.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This request aligns with the goal of enhancing the County's fiscal health and sustainability. With Milwaukee County's adoption of a new and unified strategic vision, as well as DHHS's new strategic initiative that focuses on providing easily accessible, timely, integrated, high quality, and person-centered services across its many service lines, the Commission on Aging, as part of the development of its new 2022-2024 Area Plan, adopted a new vision statement which reads: "The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being for all older adult residents of Milwaukee County by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness."

Under this vision, the Commission on Aging set forth broad Aging Network goals focusing on health equity, coordination and communication, and the dimensions of wellness. Specific Aging Network goals are outlined in the 2022-2024 Area Plan. DHHS staff and the Commission on Aging will continue to use the Area Aging Plan to identify ways in which funding can continue to move toward accomplishment of 2022-2024 Area Plan goals, DHHS's larger strategic vision and make contract recommendations to assist Milwaukee County with its stated vision of becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to enter into a contract with the State of Wisconsin and accept the 2023 Older Americans Act allocation of \$2,051,427 as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and any addenda to the contract, including carry forward of any prior years remaining Older Americans Act American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund balances.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

A fiscal note form is attached.

### **TERMS**

The contract is effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Jan Wilberg, Chair, Commission on Aging  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS  
Marietta Luster, DHHS ADS Administrator  
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, DHHS  
Daniel Idzikowski, Director, DHHS ADS Aging Unit Director

### **PREPARED BY:**

Mary Proctor Brown, Budget Manager (Aging) DHHS

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director  
Department of Health & Human Services

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, Strategic Planning Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance