

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 18, 2022

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting the transfer of \$300,513 from the unallocated contingency for the purpose of meeting match requirements related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Older Americans Act funding for aging services

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of DHHS is requesting authorization to transfer \$300,513 from Org Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to meet mandatory match requirements that are part of ARPA Older Americans Act funding which support aging services.

POLICY

Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. § 3021 et al.) provides for 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 to flow through state agencies to area agencies on aging, such as the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging. These funds are being allocated to Milwaukee County through a contract with the State Department of Health Services. The contract received has a term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. On February 3, 2022, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed File 22-144 which authorized DHHS to enter into this contract with the State of Wisconsin and to accept \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Public Law No: 117-2).

Wis. Stat. §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 requiring a match.

Funding to support the match amount is being requested from the county's unallocated

contingency account. Per Wis. Stat. §59.60(9)(a), transfers from the unallocated contingency require Finance Committee approval and approval by a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of the Milwaukee County Board. Transfers from the unallocated contingency are requested on an emergency basis when a department requires funding for an item that is not budgeted and there is no revenue anticipated to offset the expenditure.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §46.80, §59.60(9)(a)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53, Ch. 56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

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.

Milwaukee County DHHS has signed a contract from the state DHS to expend an allocation of \$2,051,430 in ARPA Older Americans Act funding. Per direction from DHS, a breakdown of this funding allocation is charted below.

OAA Service Area	Funding Amount	Match Required
Area Agency Administration	\$163,832	\$54,611
Supportive Services	\$536,050	\$59,561
Congregate Nutrition/Meals	\$460,326	\$51,147
Home Delivered Nutrition/Meals	\$614,332	\$68,259
Preventative Health	\$76,084	\$0
Family Caregiver Support	\$200,806	\$66,935
TOTAL:	\$2,051,430	\$300,513

Per federal requirements, a match is required in each of the service areas. DHHS is currently working with its existing vendor partners to explore to what extent match requirements can be provided by these providers. DHHS is also exploring new vendor relationships in an effort to spend down its ARPA/OAA allocation. Most of the existing and potential vendors are small nonprofit or private sector organizations and may not be able to contribute any match. DHHS is therefore, seeking the flexibility to use funding from the contingency fund to cover federal match requirements so that a diverse array of vendors can be recruited to coordinate these additional services for older adults.

DHHS Aging Unit staff submitted its initial list of OAA/ARPA service initiatives to the

Commission on Aging in February 2022. All of these funding options were approved by the Commission on Aging at its meeting on February 25, 2022. As part of this ongoing process to spend down its ARPA/OAA dollars, where applicable, DHHS will be bringing contracts before the County Board of Supervisors for authorization and approval.

Related File No's:	22-144
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	February 3, 2022

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

For decades, the Milwaukee County DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (formerly the Division on Aging) has been affirming the dignity and value of older adults in our county through advocacy, leadership, and service. 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 as follows: "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. All of the specific Aging Network goals are outlined in the 2022-2024 Area Plan that goes into effect in the first quarter of 2022 (pending County Board approval as well as final approval from the state Department of Health Services).

DHHS staff and the Commission on Aging will continue to use the newly developed Area Aging Plan to identify ways in which funding can "move the needle" toward accomplishment of 2022-2024 Area Plan goals as well as DHHS's larger strategic vision. As is customary for all service delivery discussions, the Commission on Aging and DHHS staff will make contract recommendations following direction provided in Older Americans Act regulations. Contract recommendations will be connected to its newly developed 2022-2024 Area Plan – all in an attempt to assist Milwaukee County with its stated vision of becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize an appropriation transfer in an amount of \$300,513 from the unallocated contingency to meet mandatory match requirements that are part of ARPA Older Americans Act funding which support aging services.

TERMS

The contract received from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. (NOTE: DHHS expects a second OAA/ARPA contract of around \$2 million from WI-DHS later in the 2022 calendar year).

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, DHHS
Jon Janowski, Director, Aging Unit, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

PREPARED BY:

Jon Janowski, Director, Aging Unit, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

APPROVED BY:


Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

cc: County Executive David Crowley
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
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office