

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 30, 2021

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, requesting authorization to enter into a 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

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of DHHS is requesting authorization to accept \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds that were provided through Section 2921 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation and enter into a contract with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) for the allocation of these funds.

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 Agency on Aging. These funds are being allocated to Milwaukee County through a contract with State DHS. The contract received has a term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

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.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §46.80
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 received a contract from 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 and match requirement is charted below.

NOTE: At this point, per federal requirements, a match is required in each of the service areas, although negotiations as part of the federal Build Back Better legislation may waive these match requirements for a total of \$300,513. Assuming the match requirements are not waived, DHHS plans to initially meet these match requirements through contributions from local contracted providers. In the event local service agencies cannot provide adequate match, DHHS may submit a request to the County Board for funding from Milwaukee County’s contingency fund. DHHS will submit a recommendation on satisfying the match requirement at the time a spending plan and provider contract recommendations are submitted to the County Board for review and approval.

DHHS Aging Unit staff will submit a list of OAA/ARPA funding options to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council in mid-January. Those funding ideas/options will then be submitted for discussion and approval by the full Commission on Aging at its January 28 meeting. Per section 53.09 of the County Ordinances, any funding recommendations from the Commission on Aging will be submitted to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

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

Related File No’s:	N/A
Associated File No’s (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

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).

As a starting point in identifying how to expend the OAA/ARPA funding, DHHS staff and the Commission on Aging will 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. DHHS staff will also begin identifying potential partners to contract with to execute service delivery plans. 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.

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

Bettie Rodgers, Chair, Commission on Aging
Jan Wilberg, Chair, Commission on Aging Advisory Council

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS
Clare O' Brien, Budget and Operations Manager, DHHS
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, DHHS
Jon Janowski, Director, DHHS Division on Aging

PREPARED BY:

Jon Janowski, Director, DHHS Division on Aging

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS

ATTACHMENTS:

OAA/ARPA spreadsheet

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Felesia Martin, 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