

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

2024

## FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

- Increase funding for Older Americans Act programs and services and other local government services that support older adults.
- Provide increased funding for all affordable housing programs that are used by older adults.
- Improve funding and access to community life for older adults through age friendly infrastructure, transportation, and long term supports and services.
- Expand Medicare to include hearing, vision, and dental benefits and expand Medicare's authority to negotiate pricing for prescription drugs.
- Ensure sufficient funding for the Social Security Administration to address applications and resolve complaints on a timely basis for Social Security, Social Security Disability, and Supplemental Security Income.
- Advance legislative and policy changes, including support for increased funding, that implement the provisions of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.



*The aging network will improve the health and wellbeing 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.*

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## STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

- Adopt Medicaid Expansion under the ACA to provide Medicaid health coverage for all Wisconsin residents at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Increase funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers and affiliated programs to address current capacity and rebalance formula allocation to correct historical inequities.
- Support initiatives that increase transportation access for older adults and fully fund Milwaukee County's transportation programs, including Specialized Transportation, public transit, and regional transit coordination.
- Provide resources to fully fund and support Adult Protective Services and oppose any efforts to diminish the legal obligations of the agency to protect older adults.
- Increase funding to support Home and Community Based paid caregivers as well as family caregivers to address the caregiver workforce shortage.
- Provide additional funding through WHEDA to support the construction of new affordable housing for older adults and index the Homestead Tax Credit to inflation.
- Advance racial equity by funding preventative health programs, particularly programs that address chronic health and behavioral health conditions disproportionately affecting older adults of color.
- Advance racial and health equity by advocating for a change in the distribution formulas for Older Americans Act funding and other state funding that do not account for differences in life expectancy and the incidence of chronic health conditions between racial and ethnic subpopulations.
- Protect voting rights and encourage measures designed to grant full access to the polls for all Wisconsin citizens, particularly older adults and people with disabilities.
- Increase portion of the Wisconsin state budget that is expended on all older adult programs and services, including funding for the elder benefits specialist program, ombudsman program, wellness programs, Alzheimer's and dementia programs, and more.



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## LOCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

- Preserve Milwaukee County levy funding maintenance of effort for older adult services and supports.
- Support increased funding to make improvements or enhancements to facilities and programming in Senior Centers owned by and in Milwaukee County in accord with the recommendations of the Commission on Aging Committee on Senior Centers.
- Increase funding and coordination of mental health services for older adults.
- Support increased funding for transit and paratransit to ensure access to services, supports, employment, and recreation for older adults.



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