

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 29, 2021

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, requesting passive review authorization to increase a purchase of service contract with American United Transportation, Inc. (AUT) by \$25,000 from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

File Type: Passive Review

REQUEST

DHHS is requesting passive review authorization to amend a 2021 purchase of service contract with American United Transportation, Inc. (AUT) by \$25,000 from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The aggregate value of the contract would increase from \$250,000 to \$275,000.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of DHHS is requesting passive review authorization for this contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

In order to reach older adults safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, service providers have had to be flexible to make connections between services and recipients. For the DHHS Division on Aging Senior Dining Program, meal sites transitioned in March 2020 to a carry-out and delivery model. Division on Aging staff quickly realized that carry-out meals for the Senior Dining Program excluded some diners who are not considered home-bound and therefore, not eligible for the Meals on Wheels Program but who could not pick up meals at congregate sites without additional assistance.

In 2020, Able Access Transportation, the previous specialized transportation provider for the Division on Aging, took on meal delivery to congregate diners to prevent nutrition services from being disrupted by the pandemic. In 2021, these meal deliveries to

congregate diners were transitioned to AUT after Able Access Transportation went out of business. While most congregate diners have been able to access meal sites to pick up their meals, there are currently 57 households that receive a meal delivery through the AUT service each month.

At the beginning of 2021, the Division on Aging budgeted \$250,000 to continue AUT's delivery service through 2021 and assumed the need for meal delivery services would cease prior to the end of the year. However, due to existing COVID-19 trends, congregate meal sites (with the exception of one site) continue to remain closed, and therefore, meal delivery is still necessary to serve some older adults. Currently, AUT is delivering 1,000 meals each month to 57 unique households through eight separate routes, 90% of which are residences within the City of Milwaukee.

Approval of this contract amendment would allow the Division on Aging to fully subsidize the contract with AUT so that delivery of congregate meals to isolated and at-risk older adults can continue through the end of this year.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned with Milwaukee County's strategic plan to address racial inequities by delivering services based on health disparities, investing "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities, and dismantling barriers to diverse and inclusive communities and by increasing access for vulnerable seniors, especially in communities of color.

RECOMMENDATION

This purchase of service contract is being submitted for passive review.

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for this service has been included in DHHS Division on Aging's 2021 Budget. The Aging Division anticipates the use of Older Americans Act ARPA funds to subsidize this service pending a formal contract award from the State Department of Health Services.

TERMS

This contract amendment is effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, DHHS Division on Aging

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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