

A PATH FORWARD FOR REIMAGINING SENIOR CENTERS 2026

JANUARY 21, 2026

FACILITATE A CAMPAIGN TO BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Working in partnership with Serving Older Adults (SOA) and Milwaukee County Strategic Decision Makers from the Departments of Administrative Services & Health and Human Services, facilitate a campaign consisting of a series of open houses and listening sessions at the Senior Centers to build grass-roots support for re-imagining the MKE County Senior Centers.

- A. Conduct a series of open house tours of the existing Senior Centers slated specifically for all members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.**
- B. Publish an editorial to announce the challenges currently facing the existing senior centers (as defined in the November 14, 2025 Informational Report) to raise awareness and to deliver a call to action.**
- C. Conduct a series of listening sessions at the existing Senior Centers for all current Senior Center users and interested parties. With the assistance of the Departments of Administrative Services & Health and Human Services, explain the current baseline condition of the existing buildings, the amount of deferred maintenance, proposed capital improvements, and the challenge of finding funding sources to resolve the various issues.**
- D. Document feedback to confirm that there is, in fact, significant public support to find ways to invest in and upgrade the existing senior center buildings.**

ESTABLISH A CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

Working in partnership with Milwaukee County Strategic Decision Makers from the Departments of Administrative Services & Health and Human Services, develop a realistic construction budget at current pricing levels to:

- A. Address and resolve all currently outstanding deferred maintenance issues at Clinton Rose, McGovern, Washington Park and Wilson Park Senior Centers.**
- B. Complete all currently identified capital improvements scheduled for the next 5 years at Clinton Rose, McGovern, Washington Park and Wilson Park Senior Centers.**
- C. Make extensive renovations at Clinton Rose, McGovern, Washington Park and Wilson Park Senior Centers to align the current configurations of these existing buildings with the physical intent and implications of the Attributes that were identified in the 2023 MKE HUBS Report.**

IDENTIFY HIGH-PROFILE CHAMPIONS FOR THE MKE HUBS

Working in partnership with Serving Older Adults (SOA) and Milwaukee County Strategic Thinkers, solicit high-profile, Milwaukee based organizations who would, based on the documentation generated during the Community Support Campaign, have empathy for the challenge the senior centers face and have genuine interest in enhancing the quality of life for older adults in Milwaukee County.

- A. Meet with SOA Leadership to determine potential philanthropic partners currently passionate about supporting and enhancing the quality of life of older adults in Milwaukee County.
- B. Devise a strategic approach to soliciting support from these organizations.
- C. Forge a coalition (MILWAUKEE SENIOR HUBS FOUNDATION) that would underpin the PUBLIC / PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP necessary for Senior Centers to survive in a manner like those created by the Domes, the Museum, and other long-standing Milwaukee County public institutions.
- D. Establish methodologies for long-term programming and operational funding as well as devising a Capital Campaign to fund the necessary physical updates the buildings require.

SECURE A COMMITMENT FROM THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO LONG TERM FUNDING AT SOME LEVEL TO SUPPORT SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS

For a PUBLIC / PARTNERSHIP to succeed, Milwaukee County MUST AGREE that it will have to make a long-term financial commitment to the partnership, with an understanding that the primary benefit to the County will be to lift the financial burden of long-term maintenance and possibly ownership of the Senior Center buildings.