



## Milwaukee County Commission on Aging 2024 Year in Review

The Commission on Aging is a 16-member citizen body responsible for developing a comprehensive, coordinated, community-based services system for the 190,241 county residents aged sixty (60) years and older. The Commission is charged with assessing the issues and needs of older residents, developing and monitoring an Area Aging Plan based on those needs, and advocating for policies and programs to improve older residents' health and well-being (ch. 53 Milwaukee County Ordinance).

The Commission on Aging provides this report on the following achievements in 2024:

- Developed the 2025-2027 Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan, including hosting fifteen public hearings and focus groups, and the development of 41 specific goals by each of the five committees and councils of the Commission on Aging.
- Spearheaded Milwaukee County's participation in the AARP network of "Age-Friendly Communities", the first county in Wisconsin to receive the designation.
- Oversaw the successful implementation of the 2022-2024 Area Plan goals, including new financial counseling, home repair, and technology education.
- Developed new partnership with the American Heart Association to address cardiovascular health through blood pressure monitors and heart health education at Milwaukee County owned senior centers.
- Reviewed all Aging Services vendors performance with an emphasis on improving health equity, program performance, and fiscal accountability.
- Led the 2024 *Aging Network Summit: Powered by Connection, Building a Livable Community* attracting 110 participants from across the Aging Network.
- Sponsored the 2024 Senior Leadership Program, providing advocacy and leadership training to older adults in Milwaukee County.
- Led implementation of *THE MKE HUBS, Reimagining Senior Centers for Milwaukee County in the 21st Century* report; Established a standing Senior Center Committee; Advocated for county-wide initiatives to improve the five Milwaukee County senior center facilities and revamp programming to appeal to multiple generations of seniors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Advocated with federal, state, and local policymakers for increased funding for Aging Services and for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.