

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

2026

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.
- Prevent cuts to Medicaid funding to support Wisconsin's 19 Medicaid-funded healthcare programs, including Publicly Funded Long-Term Care, and ensure additional funding is allocated to support increased reimbursement rates for healthcare workers.
- 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.



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

- Support increase in funding provided at the state level for the home-delivered meal program.
- 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.
- 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.
- Support increase in funding for affordable and accessible housing options for older adults and opportunities to lower property taxes for senior homeowners.
- Increase funding to support Home and Community Based paid caregivers as well as family caregivers to address the caregiver workforce shortage, including increased reimbursement rates and improved training and continuing education requirements.
- 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 and advocate for increased funding for programs that address chronic and behavioral health conditions disproportionately affecting older adults of color.



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LOCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

- Increase Milwaukee County levy funding maintenance of effort for older adult services and supports.
- Support efforts 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.
- Increase funding for housing programs and supportive services for older adults and ensure housing options are high-quality, safe, and affordable.
- Support increased funding for transit and paratransit to ensure access to services, supports, employment, and recreation for older adults.
- Support age-friendly improvements in the community and funding for projects that implement the goals of the AARP Livable Communities Initiative.



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