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November 14, 2024

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear HUD Review Panel:

As Chair of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging and Director of the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for Milwaukee County Housing Services' application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Older Adults Homes Modification Grant Program, FR-6800-N-99.

The Area Agency on Aging manages more than \$10 million in Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for a wide variety of programs, including evidence-based health promotion. The proposed program will facilitate smaller-scale home modifications for older adults focused on falls prevention in communities of color that Milwaukee County does not currently have the resources to reach.

The proposed program aligns with specific local goals in the 2022–2024 and 2025-2027 Area Aging plan to: “Provide assistance with home repair or modification for falls prevention to low-income older adult homeowners and renters.” Survey data and public listening sessions regarding the plan indicated older adults' strong preference to remain in their homes, as well as the need for affordable, accessible housing. At the same time, falls prevention has been a particular focus of our OAA IID programming, due to the high incident of significant injury and death from falls in Wisconsin among older adults.

Milwaukee County Housing Services is best positioned to lead this application, as they are the direct path to approved and vetted vendors who will complete the necessary home repairs/modifications to reduce the risk of falling for our older residents in need.

If awarded, the AAA commits to:

- Promote the Older Adult Home Repair Program within our network
- Provide client referrals as well as provide appropriate follow-up services.

We strongly encourage your selection of Milwaukee County Housing Services for this grant opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Chair, Commission on Aging

Daniel Idzikowski
Director, Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

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