

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 14, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute non-professional service contracts with a network of caterers which support the Senior Nutrition Programs from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 at a cost of \$2,862,754

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to execute non-professional service contracts through the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging with caterers that prepare meals for Milwaukee County’s senior centers, senior dining sites, the Dine-Out program, and the Home Delivered Meal Program, better known as “Meals on Wheels”.

**POLICY**

Wis. Stats. §46.80 & §46.82 mandate services for older adults in the State of Wisconsin, including senior nutrition programs funding through the Older Americans Act.

Wis. Stats. §59.52 and §59.53 provide authority for County Board review of contracts and to provide funding for older adult services.

Milwaukee County Ordinance Ch. 53 governs the authorities of the Commission on Aging and Ch. 56 covers County Board approval of federal and state funding requiring a match.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stats. §46.80, §46.82, §59.52(31), §59.53(11)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53, Ch. 56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	2026 County Operating Budget

**BACKGROUND**

The Older American’s Act Title III-C supports nutrition services for older adults with special attention to older adults who have the greatest economic or social need. The Older Americans Act states that the purpose of the elder nutrition programs is to:

- Reduce hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.
- Promote socialization among older adults.
- Promote the health and well-being of older adults by assisting them to gain access to other services.

Services supported must include meals provided in congregate dining settings and a Home Delivered Meal Program, operated locally as “Meals on Wheels.”

Milwaukee County contracts with a variety of caterers that, under the supervision of a staff Registered Dietician, prepare meals that provide a minimum of 1/3 of the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The Area Agency on Aging Senior Dining Program contracts for meal preparation and catering for several different venues:

1. Congregate dining sites distributed throughout Milwaukee County, hosted by the Milwaukee County senior centers, other senior centers, and community partners.
2. Case-management and the provision of Home Delivered Meals, known locally as “Meals on Wheels”. This service brings lunches daily to home-bound older adults who are at nutritional risk along with a wellness check-in from the driver.
3. The Dine-Out program is a partnership with a network of minority-owned restaurants which host a meal once a week within their restaurant.

Milwaukee County contracts with two large-scale caterers that prepare the majority of meals for senior centers and Meals on Wheels diners: Compass Group USA, Inc. and D&S Food Services, Inc. each of which serves a geographic “zone” of diners.

At several senior center sites, meals are prepared onsite by the vendor, including the All-Nations senior center, Multicultural senior center, and the United Community Center. These food preparation and meal site supervision services and costs are covered under service contracts in a separate Resolution.

At the Elks Lodge and the Muslim Community Center senior dining sites, smaller caterers prepare culturally tailored food.

Through the Dine-Out program, local minority-owned restaurants prepare meals from a broader ethnic palette, with breakfast, lunch, and occasionally dinner options.

**Congregate Dining and Meals on Wheels**

Per meal costs for each caterer:

<b>Caterer</b>	<b>Price per meal</b>	<b>Est Total Cost</b>	<b>Meal location</b>
Anmol, LLC	\$7.25	\$36,000	Muslim Community and Health Center
Compass Group USA, Inc.	\$5.79	\$1,150,000	Zone 2
D&S Food Services, Inc. d/b/a Davians	\$5.89	1,250,000	Zone 1
Halal JJ Fish, LLC	\$8.01	\$26,000	Muslim Community and Health Center
Jimbo’s Lodge Catering, LLC	\$6.25	\$156,000	Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46

**Dine-Out Restaurants**

Per meal price for restaurant caterers participating in the Dine Out program:

<b>Caterer</b>	<b>Price per meal</b>	<b>Est Total Cost</b>
Bargain Town Motorcars, Inc. d/b/a Chik N Dip	\$8.01	\$24,000
Daddy’s Soul Food & Grille Inc.	\$8.00	\$60,000
Leva Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Orenda Café	\$8.00	\$20,000
Rise and Grind Café, LLC	\$8.00	\$29,000

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This item is aligned to the strategic plan as it focuses on increasing the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses and by supporting access to good nutrition and food security for older adults in greatest economic and social need, these programs invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to execute non-professional service contracts for a total cost not to exceed \$2,862,754 from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 to provide meal services to Milwaukee County’s older adult residents.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

These fee for service contracts will be funded through Title III-C of the Older Americans Act, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, Wisconsin GPR, participant contributions, and other revenues. Sufficient funding is forecast to support these programs in 2026.

**TERMS**

These contracts are effective starting January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

[Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[Tina.anderson@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Tina.anderson@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[daniel.idzikowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:daniel.idzikowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[gaylyn.reske@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:gaylyn.reske@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

**PREPARED BY:**

Daniel Idzikowski, Aging Services Director, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Maddie Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP