

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 2, 2022

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting the creation of a 1.0 FTE Caregiver Coordinator position in the Aging and Disabilities Services Division

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of DHHS is requesting authorization to create a 1.0 FTE Caregiver Coordinator position at pay grade 29M.

POLICY

Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. § 3021 et al.) provides for grants to state agencies and area agencies on aging to develop greater capacity and foster the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older adults. The passage of federal ARPA legislation in March 2021 included additional Older Americans Act funding to flow through state agencies to area agencies on aging, such as the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging. These funds are being allocated to Milwaukee County through a contract with the State Department of Health Services. The contract has a term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. On February 3rd, 2022, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed File 22-144 which authorized DHHS to enter into this contract with the State of Wisconsin and to accept \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Public Law No: 117-2).

Wis. Stat. §46.80 covers services for older adults in the State of Wisconsin. Milwaukee County Ordinance Ch. 53 relates to responsibilities for the Commission on Aging and Ch. 56 covers County Board approval of federal and state funding requiring a match.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §46.80
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53, Ch. 56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	

Specific Adopted Capital Project:	
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BACKGROUND

In March 2021, federal ARPA legislation (P.L. 117-2) was signed into law which included over \$1.4 billion in additional Older Americans Act (OAA) funding for states and local area agencies on aging. Per federal regulations, OAA dollars must be spent on older adults with the greatest economic and social need, with particular attention to people of color with the greatest economic and social need. Older adults were particularly affected by the pandemic, as were their caregivers, and thus Area Agencies on Aging received additional segregated ARPA funding under the OAA. Title III-E of the OAA provides funding for a National Family Caregiver Support Program.

Per authorization through County Board File 22-144, DHHS has signed a contract with the state DHS to expend its \$2,051,430 allocation of ARPA OAA funds. Per direction from DHS, a breakdown of this funding allocation is charted below.

OAA Service Area	Funding Amount	Match Required
Area Agency Administration	\$163,832	\$54,611
Supportive Services	\$536,050	\$59,561
Congregate Nutrition/Meals	\$460,326	\$51,147
Home Delivered Nutrition/Meals	\$614,332	\$68,259
Preventative Health	\$76,084	\$0
Family Caregiver Support	\$200,806	\$66,935
TOTAL:	\$2,051,430	\$300,513

To fund its new Caregiver Coordinator position in 2022, DHHS intends to utilize funding from the ARPA OAA “Family Caregiver Support” allocation. Starting in 2023 and moving forward, DHHS intends to use a combination of its annual Older Americans Act allocation from the federal and state government, as well as funding received through the state Alzheimer’s Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP), to permanently support the Caregiver Coordinator position.

DHHS Aging Unit staff submitted its initial list of OAA/ARPA service initiatives to the Commission on Aging in February 2022. All of these funding options were approved by the Commission on Aging at its meeting on February 25th, 2022. As part of this ongoing process to spend down its ARPA/OAA dollars, where applicable, DHHS will be bringing contracts before the County Board of Supervisors for authorization and approval.

Related File No’s:	22-144
Associated File No’s (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	February 3, 2022

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The Caregiver Coordinator will assist Milwaukee County residents in understanding, accessing, and utilizing supportive caregiver resources, including National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and the Alzheimers Family Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP). The Caregiver Coordinator will connect the County to statewide and national family caregiver support initiatives, conduct outreach and community education, assist eligible residents to enroll in and utilize funding available to the County for caregiver support, provide administrative support and record-keeping for the utilization of those funds, coordinate consistent referrals for caregivers to other social supports, and allow the County to expand the funding support available to family caregivers. This position will serve caregivers of adults with disabilities (age 18-end of life) and older adults (age 60-end of life).

The annual salary range for this position is \$62,670 to \$75,088. The position is anticipated to be hired by pay period 19.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

For decades, the Milwaukee County DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (formerly the Division on Aging) has been affirming the dignity and value of older adults in our county through advocacy, leadership, and service. With Milwaukee County's adoption of a new and unified strategic vision, as well as DHHS's new strategic initiative that focuses on providing easily accessible, timely, integrated, high quality, and person-centered services across its many service lines, the Commission on Aging, as part of the development of its new 2022-2024 Area Plan, adopted a new vision statement which reads as follows: "The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being 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."

Under this vision, the Commission on Aging set forth broad Aging Network goals focusing on health equity, coordination and communication, and wellness and prevention, and specific goals were also established to improve caregiver support. (NOTE: The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved the 2022-2024 Area Plan through File 22-126 on February 25, 2022.) The Caregiver Coordinator will serve as the point person to execute these caregiver goals and connect the County to the broader state and national caregiver network.

The Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Caregiving recommended that all counties "designate a specific 'Caregiver Coordinator' to manage caregiver program funds with attention to cultural competence"... particularly within underserved communities." Their report notes that caregivers of color tend to provide more care and feel less valued. Family caregivers of older adults (particularly those with dementia) can receive support, including counseling, respite, supportive home care, and transportation, through the OAA National

Family Caregiver Support Program and Wisconsin's Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program.

Unifying management of these programs under a Caregiver Coordinator will allow better coordination, outreach, referral, and use of the available funds. A Caregiver Coordinator will increase the County's capacity to provide high quality caregiver supports to residents in concert with DHHH's "no wrong door" service delivery initiative, provide an expert on caregiving policy and resources, and increase access for residents in communities of color to receive timely and needed caregiver support, improving racial and health equity, in alignment with the County's strategic mission.

FISCAL EFFECT

The total annual cost for this position ranges between \$62,670 and \$75,088 and is 100 percent offset by administrative revenue attached to ARPA Older Americans Act funding.

TERMS

The requested position create would be effective upon approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS
Clare O' Brien, Budget and Operations Manager, DHHS
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, DHHS
Jon Janowski, Director, Aging Unit, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services
Marietta Luster, Administrator, DHHS Aging and Disability Services

PREPARED BY:

Jon Janowski, Director, Aging Unit, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

APPROVED BY:


Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Personnel Committee
Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office

Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office