



REIMAGINING MCGOVERN SENIOR CENTER

Milwaukee County is planning to expand McGovern Senior Center to create a modern community space with services for older adults, senior housing, and shared amenities to better serve older adults and the community.

What's Happening

- Milwaukee County is working to see if a new community senior center can be built at McGovern Park.
- This is part of our "Reimagining Senior Centers" plan.

Why We're Doing This

- The current senior center building is old and expensive to maintain.
- We need a modern center in this part of the county for our growing senior population.
- There isn't enough safe, affordable housing for older adults.

Who's Involved

- Milwaukee County Departments of DHHS, Parks and Administrative Services.
- Jewish Family Services (JFS) is our development partner.
- They help over 2,500 people each year with housing, mental health support, and care for older adults.
- JFS Housing has built three housing communities already.

What's Been Done So Far

- Listening sessions in 2019 showed community support for keeping the senior center in McGovern Park.
- The Commission on Aging released a report in 2024 reimagining senior center amenities.
- The study looks at building design, activities, location, and how we'll pay for it.
- A full report is expected in early fall 2025.

Why This is Exciting

- The new senior center would offer expanded senior services including a health clinic, a café or restaurant, and spaces for everyone to gather.
- Seniors would still have their favorite programs, with even more room to enjoy them.
- The project will also include affordable housing for older adults.

History & Timeline

2017 Milwaukee County begins exploring ways to improve and sustain the Senior Centers.

2019 Listening sessions determined keeping location in McGovern Park.

2020 COVID-19 delayed planning and community engagement efforts.

2023 The Commission on Aging forms committee to create Senior Center vision.

2024 The committee releases MKE HUBS report, prioritizing McGovern Senior Center.

2024 Federal funding available; DHHS prioritizes McGovern Senior Center project.

2024 DHHS releases RFQ, selects Jewish Family Services as partner.

2025 Listening sessions to use this federal funding opportunity at McGovern began.



Frequently Asked Questions



Here are some frequently asked questions to help you better understand the McGovern Senior Center project, including details about housing, park use, community involvement, and project oversight.

1	Will park space be lost?	No, the proposed project uses the current senior center area and improves access to the lagoon.
2	Why include housing?	Housing helps secure funding for the community center and provides more services for seniors.
3	Who oversees the project?	Milwaukee County owns the project; Jewish Family Services manages it under a contract reviewed by the County Board.
4	Will traffic increase?	The housing is for seniors, and Jewish Family Services manages guest activity. Housing brings people who care about the space 24/7.
5	Will the Senior Center and housing be separate?	Yes, each will have its own entrance and identity.
6	Can the public provide input?	Yes! We will have regular meetings and updates where residents can give feedback.
7	How will we be involved in designing the building?	If this moves forward, we'll hold community meetings to help design the project.
8	How is this project funded?	We have a \$2 million federal grant that, along with a low-income housing tax credit, will help fund the project using money from outside the county.



Stay Informed

- **Community Meetings:** Regular sessions to share updates and gather feedback.
- **Contact Us:** Email Emily Kenney at emily.kenney@milwaukeecountywi.gov

