

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 15, 2025

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

SUBJECT: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting confirmation of the Commission on Aging's (COA) decision to close four senior meal sites located in Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) residential facilities and seeking authorization to amend the Milwaukee Christian Center's multicultural senior center and meal site contract

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization for the closure of four senior meal sites located in HACM residential facilities based on COA's approval at its meeting on August 22, 2025. This action was taken due to funding reductions, low participation rates, and a lack of access to any socialization activities at these sites. DHHS is also requesting approval of an amendment with the Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) to increase funding for its multicultural senior center and meal site contract.

POLICY

Wisconsin Statute § 59.52(31)(c) requires Board authorization for contract amendments exceeding \$300,000 (aggregate value). Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 53.09(10) states that the COA shall administer and provide policy directive for the community dining program. And any changes to meal site locations, including closures and new locations, shall also be subject to County Board approval.

Wisconsin Statute	59.52(31)(c)
Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances	53.09(10)

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County Senior Dining Program provides healthy meals and social engagement for adults aged 60 and older. For both 2025 and 2026, this program is

experiencing reductions in federal and private funding. In June 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL) revoked \$22,364 in budgeted Senior Dining program funds and \$22,013 in Nutrition Services Incentive Program funds to Milwaukee County as part of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Older Americans Act (OAA) allocation. For 2026, the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging (MCAAA) budget also reflects a total reduction of \$177,781 in anticipated Nutrition Program revenue.

Further compounding this financial situation, the Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC), which is responsible for managing the multi-site Senior Dining program, has reported a \$32,141 shortfall impacting its ability to maintain a five-day-a-week meal service schedule in 2025.

An assessment of the HACM meal sites revealed low senior participation rates, with fewer than 10 percent of older HACM residents utilizing the service, and no opportunities for socialization activities. To address the funding challenges and ensure resources are appropriated most efficiently, the following HACM dining sites were approved for closure by the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging at its meeting on August 22, 2025:

- Arlington Court, 1633 N. Arlington Place, Milwaukee 53202
- Convent Hill, 455 E. Ogden Avenue, Milwaukee 53202
- Lapham Park, 1901 N. 6th St., Milwaukee 53212
- College Court, 3334 W. Highland Boulevard, Milwaukee 53208

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This plan is recommended to ensure the continued provision of senior dining services within a constrained budget environment, leveraging existing resources to support the most impactful programs within the community.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, recommends that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors confirm the Commission on Aging's decision to close the following dining locations with the last day of service being September 30, 2025: Arlington Court, Convent Hill, Lapham Park, and College Court. In addition, DHHS recommends approval of a contract amendment with the Milwaukee Christian Center to increase its contract by \$32,141, from \$103,550 to \$135,691, for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note is attached to the file.

PREPARED BY:

Daniel Idzikowski, Director of Aging Services

APPROVED BY:



Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director
Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
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 and Policy Director, Comptroller's Office