

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend two purchase of service contracts with Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin for senior meal site supervision and programming at the five Milwaukee County-owned senior centers

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requests authorization to increase the amount requested in the 2025 County budget to fund purchase of service contracts held by Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin (SOA) for supervision of senior meal sites and programming at the five Milwaukee County-owned senior centers.

**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 foster the development and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated system to serve older adults, including, as appropriate, to support the modernization of multipurpose senior centers. The Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging receives Older Americans Act funds through an annual appropriation from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and distributes funds based upon an Area Aging Plan approved by the Commission on Aging.

Milwaukee County has long supported programming in its five County-owned senior centers: Kelly, McGovern, Clinton and Bernice Rose, Washington Park, and Wilson Park, principally through an annual appropriation of County tax levy. Older Americans Act funds have supplemented County tax levy to provide senior dining, spur innovation, and address declining County tax levy available to support these centers. It is the policy of the Commission on Aging to support continued programming and innovation in these centers.

Wis. Stat. §46.80 mandates services for older adults in the State of Wisconsin. 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. Stat. §46.80, §59.60(9)(a)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53, Ch. 56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	2025 County Operating Budget

**BACKGROUND**

Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin has managed both the meal site supervision and programming at the five Milwaukee County owned senior centers since 2018.

As part of File 24-827 (2025 DHHS Adopted Budget), the County Board approved two contracts with Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin: \$905,000 for programmatic oversight and \$100,000 for meal site supervision at the Milwaukee County senior centers.

DHHS Area Agency on Aging requests an increase of \$195,000 to SOA’s socialization and programming contract to ensure continuity of services and a \$5,000 increase in the meal site supervision contract to equalize nutrition funding across the five senior centers.

This combined \$200,000 increase will restore a funding reduction in the same amount made in 2018. During the past three years, Older Americans Act ARPA funds as well as other COVID relief funding supplemented these programmatic budgets. As the senior centers have reopened and restored services since the pandemic, costs have risen, and the centers have faced difficulty retaining the staff necessary to provide consistent quality programming. At the same time, the county has made significant investments in the future of the Milwaukee County senior centers through planning and capital expenditures.

Service	Provider	2025 Contract	2025 Amendment	Total 2025 Adjusted Contract
Socialization and Programming	Serving Older Adults	\$905,000	\$195,000	\$1,100,000
Meal Site Supervision	Serving Older Adults	\$120,000	\$5,000	\$125,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,025,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$1,225,000</b>

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This item is aligned to Milwaukee County’s strategic plan (Create Intentional Inclusion strategic area), the DHHS strategic plan, and the 2025-2027 Area Aging Plan that will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors and which addresses senior centers as a focus area. This item advances goals in the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan as these contracts focus on dismantling barriers to diverse and inclusive communities (3C).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to amend two 2025 purchase of service contracts with Serving Older Adults for socialization and programming and meal site supervision in the five Milwaukee County senior centers by \$200,000.

## **FISCAL EFFECT**

Funding for these services comes from Older Americans Act Titles III-B and III-C, and County tax levy.

## **TERMS**

The term of the contract amendments would be January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

## **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

[Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[daniel.idzikowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:daniel.idzikowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov)  
[cwood@servingolderadults.org](mailto:cwood@servingolderadults.org)

## **PREPARED BY:**

Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, 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, & Strategic Planning Committee  
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Madeline Fruehe, Budget & Management Analyst, SBP