

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** May 21, 2021

**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, Division on Aging*

**SUBJECT:** **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend the 2021 purchase of service catering contracts for meal site supervision**

**Background**

The Milwaukee County Senior Meal Program began in 1972 and is administered through the Milwaukee County DHHS-Division on Aging (MCDA). The nutrition program is funded with federal Older Americans Act funds, participant contributions, and other revenues. The purpose of the program is to sustain the independence and well-being of seniors by preventing costly health problems related to nutrition and social isolation. Nutrition is a key aspect of the comprehensive network of services provided by MCDA for Milwaukee County's older adults.

Adequate nutrition is an important part of healthy aging, and according to Feeding America's 2020 *State of Senior Hunger*, one in 14 seniors is food insecure. To address this need, Milwaukee County provides nutritious, balanced meals to diners over 60. Meals to seniors are offered through the five county-owned senior centers, 18 additional sites around the County, four sites with diverse, culturally-appropriate meal plans, and Meals on Wheels delivered to home-bound seniors.

**Program Budget**

The Department awards funds to provider agencies based on allowable costs, availability of federal, state and local funds, anticipated usage by older persons, and changing service needs. When additional funds become available, the Department seeks to use such funds to expand services and/or reimburse the provider for services rendered.

During the COVID pandemic, caterers and meal sites also implemented new safety precautions to allow for meal pick-up without a single day of missed service and have maintained service during the pandemic by shifting safety measures to accommodate updated protocols and policies and policies. The role of meal site supervisors in the Senior Dining Program is to serve meals prepared by caterers to senior diners; facilitate social activities and opportunities for older adults to connect with others; and

manage the meal program in a safe and welcoming manner. The additional funds that are being recommended provide our nutrition site vendors that have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic with a \$5,000-per-site increase in recognition of the unanticipated increased costs related to service during the pandemic.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>2021 Contract Amount</b>	<b>Recommended Adjustment</b>	<b>Amended 2021 Contract Amount</b>
Greater Galilee	\$101,000	\$5,000	\$106,000
Indian Council of the Elderly	\$84,572	\$5,000	\$89,572
Milwaukee Christian Center (Manages 13 meal sites, 11 of which remain open)	\$250,000	\$55,000	\$305,000
Milwaukee Christian Center (Meal Site Services to Southeast Asian American Elderly)	\$103,550	\$5,000	\$108,550
Serving Older Adults (Manages a meal site at each of the five county-owned senior centers)	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
United Community Center	\$264,189	\$5,000	\$269,189
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$903,311</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$1,003,311</b>

**Racial Equity Impact**

Currently, just over half of the older adults served through the Senior Dining Program identify as non-Hispanic White. DHHS is also aware that, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity is much more prevalent among African-American older adults.<sup>1</sup> In alignment with the County’s strategic plan, the Department will continue to focus its outreach efforts on feeding the most underserved and impoverished older adults in our community. The Department has also expanded relationships with minority-owned businesses and vendors to create meal plans that fit into a variety of cultural preferences and norms.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to amend existing nutrition services contracts for a total increase of \$100,000 for the time period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 with the providers listed and in the amounts specified in the attached resolution.

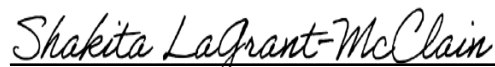
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<sup>1</sup> USDA website. *Food Security in the U.S.* <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx#householdtype>

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding for this contract extension will have no direct fiscal impact on the County and will not require additional tax levy. Sufficient funds have been allocated to the DHHS-Division on Aging through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to support these contract increases.

A fiscal note form is attached.

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

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
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