

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute non-professional service contracts with caterers supporting the Senior Congregate Dining Program and minority owned restaurants preparing meals for the Dine-Out Program for a total of \$2,992,000

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to execute non-professional service contracts with caterers providing meals for older adults in the Senior Congregate Dining Program (Anmol, Aramark, D&S Food Services, Inc., Jimbo's Lodge Catering, LLC and Sweet Fix, Inc), and the Dine-Out program (Antigua- Latin Inspired Kitchen, Daddy's Soul Food & Grille Inc, and Leva Enterprises LLC/Orenda Café), from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these purchase of service contracts.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County Senior Meal Program began in 1972 and is administered through the Milwaukee County Department 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 part of a comprehensive network of aging services provided by MCDA for an increasing population of older adults. The intent of the nutrition program is to reduce hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, promote socialization, and promote the health and well-being of older adults through access to nutrition and nutrition related disease

prevention and health promotion services.

The caterers that serve the Division on Aging support the congregating dining and home delivered meals programs. In 2019, the nutrition programs served 551,981 meals to 6,779 older adults. In 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregating meals program transitioned seamlessly, without missing a single day of service for home delivered meals and take out services. The caterers supported the meal sites through this transition and in 2020, the congregating meals and home delivered meals programs served 707,956 meals to 6,903 older adults - a growth of 128%. While the number of people served by the program remained fairly stable, the increase in meal requests truly demonstrates the escalation in need for access to nutritious food by older adults during the pandemic.

Since the beginning of 2021, the senior dining programs have served 427,206 meals to 4,942 older adult residents of Milwaukee County. While the need has not been quite as high as in 2020, these programs are on track to serve over half a million meals again this year.

Congregate Dining

Per meal costs for each caterer:

Caterer	Price per meal	Meal location
Anmol LLC	\$7.25	Muslim Community and Health Center
Aramark	\$5.06	Zone 1
D&S Food Services, Inc.	\$5.35	Zone 2
Jimbo's Lodge Catering, LLC	\$6.25	Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46
Sweet Fix, Inc.	\$7.25	Muslim Community and Health Center

Anmol and Sweet Fix have taken on the responsibility of delivering meals during the COVID-19 pandemic and are reimbursed at \$15 and \$10 respectively per delivery.

Congregate Caterer Biographies

Anmol LLC is a locally-owned Pakistani and Indian restaurant on Milwaukee's near south side which also operates a catering service. Anmol focuses on Halal foods and preparing meals consistent with the religious beliefs and customs of Muslim diners. Anmol has been a partner with the Division on Aging since 2019.

Aramark Correctional Services, LLC is a national company with headquarters in Philadelphia. It has a long-standing partnership with Milwaukee County dating back almost 20 years. During that time, the County's partnership with Aramark has expanded from managing food service at the House of Correction and Jail to providing commissary service to those facilities and providing food service at the detention center located at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center and the Behavioral Health Division. Aramark uses its production center at the House of Correction to produce the meals under

this contract.

D&S Food Services is a locally-owned company headquartered in Menomonee Falls. The company has provided food services and food service contract management since 1958. D&S has been a successful partner with MCDA's Senior Meal Program for nearly 20 years and has a proven track record of successfully delivering high quality meals that produce a high degree of satisfaction among participating seniors.

Jimbo's Lodge Catering is a locally owned, in-house caterer for Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46 and serves that senior dining site on Milwaukee's northwest side.

Sweet Fix, Inc. dba Damascus Gate is the second caterer that serves the Muslim Community and Health Center. This restaurant is also locally-owned and maintains strong connections to the Syrian refugee community in Milwaukee. The menu at the Damascus Gate restaurant draws from a broad base of middle eastern cuisine.

The existing catering contracts with D&S Food Services, Inc. and Aramark were the result of a Request for Proposals (RFP) process that MCDA coordinated in 2017. The RFP geographically divided the county into two service areas (Zone One and Zone Two), each containing about one-half of existing congregate meal sites and one-half of the home-delivered meal dispatch sites. After the review process was completed, Aramark was selected to serve Zone One and D&S Food Services was selected to serve Zone Two.

The other three caterers, Anmol, Jimbo's and Sweet Fix, serve single sites that have diners with specific nutritional needs. The Muslim Community Health Center has participants with very specific dietary needs and is served by Anmol and Sweet Fix. The Elks site, served by Jimbo's Catering, is the most diverse meal site with a clientele that is 54% White, 42% Black/African American and about 4% Native American and Latino descent.

Dine Out Restaurant Caterers

The Dine-Out program was first piloted in 2021 and was one of the few new programs to launch during the COVID pandemic. This program is intended specifically to allow diners to choose from delicious and culturally diverse options from local, minority-owned restaurants. The chefs from the restaurants have worked with Division on Aging staff to develop meals that are tailored for the nutritional needs of senior diners, while remaining true to their menus. This pilot project was inspired by a similar program in Dane County but with an additional focus expanding the dietary choices available to older adults by intentionally partnering with a variety of culturally diverse restaurants.

Initially there were four restaurants which participated as caterers with coordination and supervision provided by VIA CDC, formerly known as Layton Boulevard West Neighbors. Three of the four restaurant partners have opted to remain with the program in 2022. Vientiene Noodle Shop will not be partnering with this program going forward, and Division on Aging staff intends to propose a new restaurant-caterer in early 2022. Antigua-

Latin Inspired Kitchen has become a pillar of the Milwaukee restaurant community. It is located in West Allis and serves Mexican and Latin Inspired food. Daddy's Soul Food & Grille, Inc. is a family-owned restaurant founded in 2016 which serves several family recipes. Its menu focuses on familiar favorites based on American Southern Soul Food. The restaurant is located on the near west side neighborhood of Milwaukee, just off of Wisconsin and 27th street.

Leva Enterprises LLC/Orenda Café is located on the near south side neighborhood of Milwaukee, between Layton and 35th Street, on National Avenue. Leva describes its cuisine as, "an American café with Mexican flair".

So far in 2021, the senior dining programs have served 380,944 meals to 4,942 older adult residents of Milwaukee County. While the need for meals in 2021 has not been as high as in 2020, these programs are on track to serve over half a million meals this year. The Dine-Out Program, which has been operating since April 26, 2021, has served 353 unique diners a total of 4,214 meals from late April to September 2021.

Per meal price for restaurant caterers participating in the Dine Out program:

Caterer	Price per meal
Antigua-Latin Inspired Kitchen	\$7.75
Daddy's Soul Food & Grille Inc	\$7.75
Leva Enterprises LLC/Orenda Café	\$7.75

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned to the strategic plan as it focuses on increasing the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses and investing "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to execute non-professional service contracts for a total cost not to exceed \$2,992,000 from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 to provide meal services to Milwaukee County's older adult residents.

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for this service has been included in DHHS Division on Aging's 2022 Budget and is supported by funding from Title III-C of the Older Americans Act.

TERMS

These contracts are effective starting January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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APPROVED BY:


Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Felisia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning
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 Director, Comptroller's Office
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office