

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 13, 2026

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 approval to execute a catering price agreement with An Ox Café as part of the Senior Dining Dine-Out program

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to open a Senior Dining site at An Ox Café, located at 7411 West Hampton Avenue in Milwaukee, as part of the Dine-Out program and to extend a price agreement with An Ox Café in the amount of \$8.00 per meal not to exceed \$20,000 for the period March 23, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The Commission on Aging approved adding this site at its meeting on February 27, 2026. As Ox Café fills an opening left by the closure of Ruby J's Soul Food and Grill in 2025 and will add southeast Asian cuisine to the Dine-Out program's menu options. This action is budget neutral.

POLICY

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 served in group settings to adults aged 60 and older and to keep older adults healthy and independent, offer opportunities for social engagement, and facilitate their connection with other supports and services.

Since 2020, the Milwaukee County Senior Dining Program has operated a Dine-Out program through locally owned restaurants that provide seniors with a wider variety of ethnic cuisines. Dine-Out has become very popular, attracting hundreds of new senior diners who did not otherwise participate in the congregate Senior Dining Program.

Each Dine-Out restaurant offers meals once per week. The Milwaukee County Area Agency on Agency (AAA) has sought to maintain four restaurants in the model. Last year, Ruby J's Soul Food & Grill, a Dine-Out restaurant, permanently closed, leaving an opening for a new Dine-Out restaurant.

The Dine-Out program did not have a locally owned restaurant that served Asian food among its offerings. An Ox Café, a restaurant, located at 7411 West Hampton Avenue in Milwaukee, specializes in Lao and Thai cuisines and has agreed to host a Dine-Out site.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action is recommended to expand the variety of ethnic food choices for participants in the Senior Dining program, continuing support for the Dine-Out model in Milwaukee County. The Dine-Out program supports local businesses, while providing high quality nutritious meals for seniors with additional menu choices. The congregate dining program addresses social isolation and health inequity by improving nutrition in a common setting.

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 on February 27, 2026 to enter into a price agreement with An Ox Café to operate as a Milwaukee County Senior Dining Dine-Out site with reimbursement at \$8.00 per meal not to exceed \$20,000 beginning March 23, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

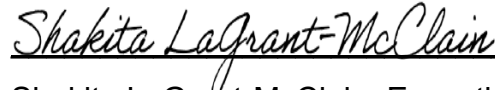
FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note is attached to the file.

PREPARED BY:

Daniel Idzikowski, DHHS-ADS Aging Unit Director

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