



Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

2023 Year in Review

The Commission on Aging is a 16-member citizen body responsible for developing a comprehensive, coordinated, community-based services system for county residents aged sixty (60) years and older, for assessing the issues and needs of older residents, reviewing the planning and service efforts of organizations in the aging network, and advocating for policies and programs to improve the health and well-being of the 188,227 residents aged 60 and over living in the county. The Commission also acts as the administrative planning and service agency for all Older Americans Act funds that are allocated through the state Office on Aging (ch. 53 Milwaukee County Ordinance).

The Commission on Aging provides this report on the following achievements in 2023:

- Oversaw progress implementing the goals of the 2022-24 Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan, including the launch of Financial Counseling, Senior Employment outreach, and Senior Housing Repair for Falls Prevention programs.
- Successfully advocated to include \$260,000 in additional tax levy funding for Aging Services in the 2024 Milwaukee County budget.
- Adoption of recommendations to improve racial equity in health by developing initiatives to address cardiovascular health and social isolation and loneliness after a year of study and discussion by the Advisory Council.
- Consideration and approval of projects to spend down \$1.8 million in OAA ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for enhancement of aging services by 2024.
- Reviewed all Aging Services vendors performance with an emphasis on improving racial equity, program performance, and fiscal accountability.
- Led the 2023 Milwaukee County *Aging Network Summit* attracting more than 150 participants from across the Aging Network.
- Sponsorship of the 2023 Senior Leadership Program, providing advocacy and leadership training to older adults in Milwaukee County.
- Accepted the final report of the Select Committee on Senior Centers: *THE MKE HUBS, Reimagining Senior Centers for Milwaukee County in the 21st Century* and established a Senior Center Committee to implement its recommendations.
- Initiated countywide process to explore becoming an AARP livable community.
- Revised the Commission's bylaws to incorporate the Nutrition Council into the Commission to facilitate oversight of the OAA Nutrition programs.