

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 30, 2021

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to submit the 2022-2024 Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and to accept all associated federal and state revenues

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of DHHS is requesting approval of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging's 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan and authorization to accept all associated federal and state revenues.

POLICY

The federal Older Americans Act (per 45 CFR 1321.53) requires Area Agencies on Aging to develop, implement, and monitor multi-year Area Aging Plans as directed by the State Office on Aging.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. 42.80 (2m)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53

BACKGROUND

Based on the 2020 census, the older adult population in Milwaukee County is expected to grow to a quarter of the population over the next decade. In particular, the number of County residents aged 65 to 85 is expected to grow by more than 30,000 over the next decade, and the number of individuals age 85 or older is expected to double during this period of time. The fastest growing sector among older adults will be people of color, particularly African-American and Latinx older adults, increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of the older adult population in Milwaukee County. Currently, the older adult population in Milwaukee County is 75% White, and these changes will match the diversity of older adults with Milwaukee County's population overall.

As directed by federal regulations and the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, the Commission on Aging, led by its Advisory Council and DHHS staff, embarked on a process earlier this year to develop a new Area Aging Plan for service years 2022 through 2024. This document constitutes a unified Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging Plan, and Milwaukee County Unit on Aging plan.

As outlined in the Area Aging Plan document, intentional and comprehensive input from older adults was solicited in developing this Area Plan, including several public listening sessions and a survey that resulted in 1,061 responses, which were collected in a variety of methods in order to target a sample representative of Milwaukee County's older adults.

The Commission on Aging Advisory Council and full Commission on Aging approved the 2022-2024 Area Plan at separate meetings held on December 17, 2021. Pending Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approval, the 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan will be sent to the Wisconsin DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Services (BADR) for its final approval. The Wisconsin DHS BADR office has requested that Milwaukee County submit the final Area Plan to them by February 11, 2022.

DHHS is also requesting County Board approval of Milwaukee County's application for an anticipated \$5,920,600 in federal and state aging funds for 2022, including both annual allocation of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding and special OAA Funds designated under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds will be used to continue some of DHHS's most important aging programs and services, including: congregate and home-delivered meals, specialized transportation, family caregiver support services, senior center programming, and outreach services to marginalized neighborhoods. Additional funding will be used to achieve new goals and initiatives outlined in the 2022-24 Area Aging Plan and developed with older resident feedback.

The funds applied for through the Area Aging Plan require a local match, which will be provided through tax levy included in the 2022 Adopted Budget and in-kind or cash match by service providers as a condition of their contracts with Milwaukee County.

Related File No's:	N/A
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

For decades, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (formerly Division on Aging) has been affirming the dignity and value of older adults in our county through advocacy, leadership, and service. With Milwaukee County's adoption of a new and unified strategic vision, as well as DHHS's new strategic initiative that focuses on providing easily accessible, timely, integrated, high quality, and person-centered services across its many service lines, the Commission on Aging used the Area Plan process to adopt a newly expansive vision as well. The new vision statement reads as follows: "The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being for all older adult residents of Milwaukee County by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness."

Under this vision, the Commission on Aging set forth broad Aging Network goals focusing on health equity, coordination and communication, and the dimensions of wellness. All of the specific Aging Network goals, as well as a series of local goals are outlined in the attached Area Aging Plan.

The Commission on Aging, its Service Delivery Committee, and DHHS staff worked hard to align Area Plan goals with 2022 service provider decisions. Future service provider contracting decisions will be guided by the Area Plan goals. The Commission on Aging and DHHS staff will continue to apply a racial equity lens to all future contract decisions. Over the last four years, as a result of intentional focus and outreach efforts, Aging and Disabilities Services and its service network have increased the number of older adult clients who are people of color. The contracted service provider network is also more aligned with these service demographics. The 2022-2024 Area Plan goals provide an impetus for DHHS and its partners to continue making strides not only in terms of diversifying its client base but also improvements to diversifying provider's staff and oversight boards.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The 2022-2024 Area Plan will be implemented from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Bettie Rodgers, Chair, Commission on Aging
Jan Wilberg, Chair, Commission on Aging Advisory Council
Clare O' Brien, Budget and Operations Manager, DHHS
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, DHHS

Jon Janowski, Director, DHHS Division on Aging

PREPARED BY:

Jon Janowski, Director, DHHS Division on Aging

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, DHHS

ATTACHMENTS:

2022-2024 Milwaukee County Area Plan for Older Adults

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office