

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 18, 2022

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to retroactively amend a 2022 adopted purchase of service contract with American United Transportation (AUT) by \$175,000 to deliver meals to older adults participating in the Senior Dining Program

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS is requesting authorization to amend the 2022 purchase of service contract with American United Transportation, Inc. (AUT) by \$175,000 from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The total value of the contract would increase from \$125,000 to \$300,000.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of DHHS is requesting review authorization for this contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

AUT has been serving as a meal delivery partner to ensure older adult access to the Senior Dining program during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to reach older adults safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, service providers have had to be flexible to make connections between services and recipients. In March 2020, meal sites transitioned to a carry-out and delivery model rather than serving congregate meals at the dining sites. This service shift excluded some diners who are not considered home-bound and therefore, ineligible for the Meals on Wheels Program but who could not pick up meals at congregate sites without additional assistance. In 2020, the specialized transportation vendor that was under contract at the time took on meal delivery to congregate diners to prevent nutrition services from being disrupted by the pandemic.

In 2021, this meal delivery service went through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process and was approved by the Commission on Aging and County Board of Supervisors and was awarded to AUT. AUT delivered meals throughout Milwaukee County last year. Most congregate diners have been able to access meal sites to pick up their meals, but there are currently 57 households that receive a meal delivery through the AUT service each month, 90% of which are within the City of Milwaukee.

As part of the 2022 Adopted Budget, the DHHS Division on Aging budgeted \$125,000 for AUT's continued delivery service for the first six months of 2022 in anticipation that meal sites would be reopened, and diners could return to congregate dining. In January 2022, because of the sharp increase of COVID cases, the only site that had reopened for congregate Senior Dining (United Community Center) was transitioned again to carry-out meal model. The ongoing volatility of the COVID pandemic has led the staff of the DHHS Aging Unit to recommend increasing the contract with AUT so that additional meals can be delivered to UCC customers, and if necessary, AUT has funding available to deliver meals to everyone who needs them throughout the County for the rest of 2022.

Approval of this contract amendment would allow the DHHS Aging Unit to fund the contract with AUT so that delivery of congregate meals to isolated and at-risk older adults can continue through the end of this year.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned with Milwaukee County's strategic plan to address racial inequities by delivering services based on health disparities, investing "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities, dismantling barriers to diverse and inclusive communities and by increasing access for vulnerable seniors, especially in communities of color.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute a contract amendment with AUT for \$175,000 which would increase the existing contract of \$125,000 to \$300,000.

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for this service has been included in the DHHS Aging Unit's 2022 Budget and is supported by Older American's Act ARPA Title III-C funds.

TERMS

This contract amendment is effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Carrie Koss Vallejo, Program and Planning Coordinator, DHHS Division on Aging

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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