

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 18, 2022

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 amend 2022 non-professional service contracts with caterers supporting the Senior Dining Program and minority-owned restaurants preparing meals for the Dine-Out Program by increasing the funding available by \$293,000, from \$2,992,000, for a total of \$3,285,000

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to amend non-professional service contracts with caterers providing meals for older adults in the Dine-Out Program and Senior Congregate Dining Program by \$293,000, from \$2,992,000 to \$3,285,000.

POLICY

Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. § 3021 et al.) provides for grants to state agencies and area agencies on aging to develop greater capacity and foster the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older adults. The passage of federal ARPA legislation in March 2021 included additional Older Americans Act funding to flow through state agencies to area agencies on aging, such as the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging. These funds are being allocated to Milwaukee County through a contract with the State Department of Health Services. The contract received has a term of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. On February 3, 2022, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed File 22-144 which authorized DHHS to enter into this contract with the State of Wisconsin and to accept \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Public Law No: 117-2). Acceptance of this funding also required \$300,513 in matching funds.

Wis. Stat. §46.80 covers services for older adults in the State of Wisconsin. Milwaukee County Ordinance Ch. 53 relates to responsibilities for the Commission on Aging and Ch. 56 covers County Board approval of federal and state funding requiring a match.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §46.80, §59.60(9)(a)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Ch. 53, Ch. 56.06
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County Senior Meal Program began in 1972 and is administered through Milwaukee County DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS). 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 ADS for an growing 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.

In 2021, caterers to the DHHS Aging Unit Served 562,406 meals to 5,741 older adult residents of Milwaukee County. This number of meals was still slightly elevated from the pre-COVID meal need. In the early pandemic, fueled by shutdowns and shelter-in-place policies, 707,956 meals were served to 6,903 older adults in 2020.

Although the demand for meals decreased from early pandemic highs, caterers worked in an uncertain environment of rising food costs, labor shortage, and the potential for meal sites to transition from carry-out to congregating dining, and back. In 2021, food retail prices increased by 3.5%, a much steeper increase than usual. This increase was especially high for fresh food and animal protein- beef and pork rose over 8%, and fresh fruit prices increased by 5.5%¹. The increase requested below to per meal prices does not fully match these increases in food retail prices absorbed by the caterers, but it will assist these vendors with their increased costs.

¹ USDA Economic Research Center (2022). *Grocery store food prices up 3.5 percent in 2021 compared with 2020*. Ers.usda.gov [USDA ERS - Chart Detail](https://ers.usda.gov/usa/quickfacts/usa-quickfacts.aspx?lang=en&commodity=fruit&state=US&chart=chart), Accessed May 11, 2022.

Congregate Dining

The existing price-per-meal provided to senior dining caterers, along with amended price-per-meal numbers, are listed below:

Caterer	Per meal rate reimbursement from DHHS ADS	Amended Per meal rate reimbursement from DHHS ADS	Meal location
Anmol LLC	\$7.25	\$7.25	Muslim Community and Health Center
Aramark	\$5.06	\$5.21	Zone 1*
D&S Food Services, Inc.	\$5.35	\$5.51	Zone 2*
Jimbo's Lodge Catering, LLC	\$6.25	\$6.50	Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46
Sweet Fix, Inc.	\$7.25	\$7.25	Muslim Community and Health Center

*Zone 1 and 2 were divisions of Milwaukee County in the congregate caterer RFP released in 2017.

Justification for Amended Meal Prices

Aramark and D&S Food Services, the large-scale caterers that are providing meals for Zones 1 and 2, have requested price-per-meal increases of three percent due to general inflation increases and increasing food prices.

Anmol and Sweet Fix had their per-meal reimbursement prices increased at the beginning of 2022, and no additional increase is requested at this time. Anmol and Sweet Fix have taken on the responsibility of delivering meals during the COVID-19 pandemic and are reimbursed at \$18 and \$10, respectively, per meal delivery.

Jimbo's is the caterer for the Milwaukee Elks Lodge, and the requested increase is 25 cents per meal, which would be a four percent increase in their per-meal reimbursement rate.

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 DHHS 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 Behavioral Health Services. 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 was coordinated by the Department on Aging 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 served 54% White, 42% Black/African American and about 4% Native American and Latino descent.

Dine-Out Program Caterers

The Dine-Out 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 the ADS staff to develop meals 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Leva Enterprises LLC/Orenda Café is located on the near south side neighborhood of Milwaukee on National Avenue. Leva describes its cuisine as, “an American café with Mexican flair”.

Below are the per-meal reimbursement rates for each of the Dine Out restaurant partners:

Caterer	Per Meal Reimbursement	Amended Per Meal Reimbursement
Antigua-Latin Inspired Kitchen	\$7.75	\$8.00
Daddy’s Soul Food & Grille Inc	\$7.75	\$8.00
Leva Enterprises LLC/Orenda Café	\$7.75	\$8.00

Match Requirement and Request for Unallocated Contingency Funding

The \$293,000 increase to the catering contracts includes a match amount of \$32,556. This amount is reflected in the total match amount of \$300,513 required as part of the acceptance of \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds as provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). DHHS is requesting a release of \$300,513 from the unallocated contingency account under File No. 22-681 which is before the County Board simultaneously this June cycle. Therefore, the match funding to support these catering contracts is dependent upon the approval and release of contingency funding to DHHS.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned to Milwaukee County’s strategic plan (Create Intentional Inclusion strategic area), the DHHS strategic plan, and the 2022-2024 Area Plan that was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in February 2022 through File 22-126.

One of the focus areas of the 2022-2024 Area Plan is senior nutrition. Investments in the Dine Out Program specifically benefit minority-owned restaurants located in the City of Milwaukee and serve a secondary goal of providing a greater proportion of meals to older adults of different races and ethnicities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to increase the non-professional service contracts as set forth in the attached resolution by \$293,000 for a total cost not to exceed \$3,285,000 from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 to provide catering to programs serving Milwaukee County's older adult residents. County Board approval of this increase is contingent upon adoption of File No. 22-681 approving the transfer of \$300,513 from the unallocated contingent account to meet the match requirement for \$2,051,430 in Older Americans Act funds.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

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

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Shawn Rolland, 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
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