

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 23, 2023

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 (DHHS), requesting authorization to amend the 2023 purchase of service contract with the Alzheimer's Association by \$384,742

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to amend the 2023 purchase of service contract with the Alzheimer's Association. The amendment would increase the total contract by \$384,742, from \$380,363 to \$765,105.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of DHHS is requesting authorization to execute this purchase of service contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

Older adults and people with disabilities rely on family caregivers for a wide range of care and support. The National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program provide funding to support family caregivers in a variety of ways, including support groups, training, transportation and respite care. The Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging currently contracts with the Alzheimer's Association to administer these programs and provide direct payment to caregivers. However, in order to increase referrals, program coordination, and funding available for direct caregiver support, DHHS Aging and Disability Services (ADS) is working with the Alzheimer's Association to transition programmatic responsibility for these programs directly to the Milwaukee County Aging Unit by 2024. This is in alignment with the 2022-2024 Area Aging Plan.

Moreover, transitioning these programs to direct administration by Milwaukee County will help the County advance its racial equity strategic goal. The Wisconsin Governor's Task

Force on Caregiving has reported that caregiving disproportionately impacts communities of color, and caregivers of color are providing more hours of care each week compared to their white counterparts (Wisconsin Caregivers in Crisis: Investing in our Future, 2022). Through additional partnerships and outreach, Milwaukee County is committed to ensuring that communities of color have equitable access and participation in these important caregiver support programs.

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Caregiving to "designate a specific 'Caregiver Coordinator' to manage caregiver program funds with attention to cultural competence," a new Caregiver Support Coordinator was hired in the Milwaukee County Area Agency on Aging. Additionally, a Caregiver Support Specialist position has been approved by the County Board (File No. 23-613).

With the support of a Caregiver Specialist, the Caregiver Support Coordinator will work with Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin to smoothly transition programming and direct services of the Caregiver Support Program to the Unit on Aging in the second half of 2023. While the original contract anticipated that this transition would be complete by the third quarter of 2023, due to unforeseen delays in hiring and fiscal processes, all parties agree that it is in the best interests of caregivers to continue this transition process through the end of 2023.

Thus, in order to ensure there is no lapse in services to caregivers in 2023, the Area Agency on Aging seeks to amend the contract with Alzheimer's Association and provide the same amount of funding for direct grant and respite payment to caregivers in 2022. The funding in this amendment to directly support caregivers will be funded through the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) and National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and will allow a smooth transition without service interruption for caregivers. Additional funds provided to DHHS for caregiver support by DHS in 2023 will be retained by Milwaukee County Unit on Aging to be distributed directly to caregivers by internal staff once they have received necessary training and the Caregiver Support program is fully established within the Milwaukee County Unit on Aging by the end of 2024.

DHHS fiscal staff and the Area Agency on Aging seek to amend the current Caregiver Support contract to add funding for the Alzheimer's Association to continue to serve as the fiscal agent for direct payments to caregivers under these programs through 2023. Along with preventing interruption to participants, this will also allow the necessary time to develop a plan and infrastructure for fiscal management within the Unit on Aging's Caregiver Support program. The Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin has agreed to function as a fiscal agent for the Caregiver Support Program through 2023 while the program management and direct services will continue to transition to the Unit on Aging in 2023. The funding in this amendment to support Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin staff time will be funded through administrative funds available through NFCSP and AFCSP.

Upon establishing the Unit on Aging's Caregiver Support program, the Area Agency on Aging will continue to contract with Alzheimer's Association for their counseling and support services under a separate contract.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned to the goals in the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan as this contract focuses on investing upstream to address root causes of health disparities (3A) and dismantling barriers to diverse and inclusive communities (3C).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to increase the 2023 purchase of service contract by \$384,742 with the Alzheimer's Association to continue fiscal management through 2023 and to provide additional direct funding of caregiver support and respite for eligible caregivers.

FISCAL EFFECT

This program is supported by federal funding from the Older Americans Act with match funding. Please see attached fiscal note.

TERMS

This contract is effective starting January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

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APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Liz Sumner, 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 Director, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Strategy, Budget & Performance