



MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

The **Commission on Aging** is a 16-member advisory and planning body. Its members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Commission is responsible for developing and implementing a coordinated human service system of community-based services for Milwaukee County residents aged 60 and older.

The Commission currently has a number of standing committees, councils, and workgroups which are summarized below. Each Commissioner is encouraged to participate in at least one standing committee or council.

Committees

The **Executive Committee** consists of the Chairs of the standing committees and one "at large" member from the Commission on Aging. This committee may act in the name of the Commission.

The **Advocacy Committee** advocates on local, state, and federal issues concerning older adults.

The **Service Delivery Committee** reviews proposals for home and community-based service contracts and recommends funding awards. This committee also reviews program and service assessments.

Councils

The **Advisory Council** approves the Area Plan for Milwaukee County and conducts special studies.

The **Wellness Committee** serves to educate and promote health and wellness among older adults using the foundation of the eight dimensions or wellness.

The **Nutrition Council** functions as an advisory body providing recommendations and support and assistance and serves as a liaison between senior meal program operations and the general public.

Workgroups

The **Communications and Awareness Workgroup** assists MCDA with its efforts to increase awareness of the programs and services it provides for older adults and their caregivers in Milwaukee County.

What is the process for becoming a Commission on Aging member?

- Potential Commissioners are recruited from all over Milwaukee County. Most Commissioners are age 60+, but there is no age requirement for individual Commission members.
- Potential Commissioners are recommended by the Chair of the Commission on Aging to the County Executive's Office. All prospective Commissioners must submit a resume or biography to the Chair. The County Executive's Office interviews prospective Commissioners, and if there is a good "fit" then the Milwaukee County Executive formally appoints the individual to the Commission. All Commission on Aging appointments must be confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors.
- Once confirmed by the County Board, all Commissioners are then sworn in by the County Clerk's office and are then seated at Commission meetings. Commissioner terms are usually three years (starting from the time of the County Executive's formal appointment).

What are the primary Commission on Aging responsibilities?

- All Commission members are appointed to a Commission standing committee where they are expected to actively participate in Committee discussions and activities. Commissioners are expected to attend at least two-thirds of all scheduled Commission and Committee meetings. There are generally 10 Commission meetings each year (usually no meetings in July or December) and Committees meet either monthly or quarterly depending on a schedule determined by the Committee chairs.
- All Commissioners are expected to support the Milwaukee County Department on Aging staff and its mission by actively participating in Departmental events, actions, meetings, and activities. Commissioners are expected to be generally knowledgeable about Department programs and services, and are expected to actively promote these programs and services throughout the community.
- As Commission vacancies occur, Commissioners are also expected to help recruit individuals in the community who could fill those vacancies.