

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
2022-24 AREA AGING PLAN GOALS

Aging Network Vision Statement

In twenty years, the composition of society in Milwaukee County will be enriched by a greater number of older adults across a wide range of generations, perspectives, and experience. These older adults will enjoy broad knowledge of services, supports, and opportunities that easily connect them with their peers, are easy to access, and are coordinated among many different provider groups.

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.

Aging Network Goals

Topic A: Health Equity

Goal 1: In alignment with Milwaukee County Strategic plan, identify and eliminate barriers to service for people of color and intentionally create more inclusive, equitable, and culturally appropriate services.

Goal 2: Make information and services dementia friendly and fully accessible and available to older adults with disabilities and older adult residents with limited English language proficiency. Adopt the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health (CLAS Standards).

Goal 3: Identify at least one social determinant of health that negatively affects older people of color and develop a Network-level strategy to reverse the inequity.

Topic B: Coordination and Communication

Goal 1: Create communication and outreach strategies that more effectively reach older adults, particularly discreet communities of color, tribal members, veterans, and individuals who are homeless or in temporary shelter. Leverage existing contracts to partner with agencies that work with these communities or develop new relationships.

Goal 2: Convene the Aging Network on a regular basis to provide opportunities for referral, collaboration, sharing of best practices, and mutual learning. Develop protocols that allow easier dissemination of information and referrals through a decentralized service delivery system.

Goal 3: Increase connections to older adults by leveraging increased collaboration within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and dedicate specific funding in the budget to communication and outreach strategies.

Topic C: Dimensions of Wellness

Goal 1: Address threats to mental health and loneliness experienced by older adults by attending to their Emotional, Spiritual and Social Wellness through readily accessible programs and services that enable them to cope with life's challenges, connect with other people, and improve their mental and emotional health. Ensure that DHHS Behavioral Health Division services are responsive to issues facing older adults. Partner with other healthcare entities in the Aging Network to improve the availability of services addressing mental health and loneliness.

Goal 2: Enrich the ability of older adults to pursue lifelong learning, engage in compensated or volunteer work that is meaningful to them, share their gifts and talents with others, and manage their financial resources. Ensure that opportunities are community-based, locally available, increase equity, respect personal choice and community culture, and promote personal growth. Develop or extend program opportunities in each of these areas: financial, vocational, and educational.

Goal 3: Promote wellness through the development of, and equitable access to programs, services, facilities, and recreational opportunities that improve older adults' ability to make healthy lifestyle choices and promote engagement with the natural world. Provide education on the relationship between sound nutrition, social engagement, regular exercise, and good health. Improve equitable access and utilization of Milwaukee County's parks and recreation assets for older adults. Expand access to healthy food and recreational opportunities throughout the Aging Network.