



Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advisory Council
The Future of Senior Centers in Milwaukee County

Summary of Facts from the Wisconsin Policy Forum Report

Link to full WPF report: <https://wispolicyforum.org/research/young-at-heart-exploring-the-future-of-senior-centers-in-milwaukee-county/>

- Milwaukee County owns and provides for programming in five centers exclusive to older adults from county tax levy of approximately \$1.2 million.
- Programming at the Milwaukee County senior centers includes health and wellness activities, socialization opportunities, outings/field trips, senior dining, exercise and fitness, and arts and crafts.
- Programming, maintenance, and capital improvement is paid for exclusively with county tax levy, not federal or state funds. County levy funds are expected to continue to decline for the foreseeable future. Approximately \$400,000 is spent on maintenance, \$800,000 on staff and programs.
- The five centers are between 43 and 61 years old, face different capital needs, are not fully accessible, and have faced deferred maintenance. While these buildings are currently in acceptable condition, they are of an age where building systems need to be replaced. The current cost of repairs or replacements needed by 2022 is \$9.5 million, \$36 million through 2036.
- The population of Milwaukee County is aging with 172,000 residents over age 60. More individuals will qualify to access older adult programming.
- Nationally, almost all senior centers are owned and operated by municipal or private entities, not by Area Agencies on Aging or counties. In Milwaukee County, many other senior centers are owned and operated by different municipal and private entities.