



Summary of Input from Phase I Discussions in 2017-18

<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/About>

Question 1: What kind of community do you want for seniors?

Safe, clean, comfortable, accessible, modern, welcoming, and fun senior centers with more activities, hot topics, improved technology. Progressive programming, building upgrades and maintenance that make space inviting, modern exercise equipment and fitness programs and senior dining options.

A community that is connected to peers, staff, neighbors, resources, and other community members/partners and included in the larger community. Open to intergenerational interaction. Access to helpful, relevant information to advocate for seniors' rights.

Question 2: What are the two or three most important issues/concerns you have about senior centers in our community?

- Funding – no budget cuts. We need money to make things happen.
- Safety. More police presence needed. Need liaisons with police.
- Advocating for more resources for seniors. More outreach needed.
- Access to emergency services needed. General accessibility of facilities.

Question 3: How do senior centers/community centers affect you personally?

- Staff provide a connection to resources
- They promote individual engagement
- They give seniors a place to go and make new friends and be with peers
- They provide companionship, fellowship, exercise, and lunch



Question 4: What do we want senior centers to look like 10-15 years from now?

- A training facility – more high-tech, more activities, more staff
- More convenient and connected to other facilities (like apartments, ATM machines, dog parks).
- Everything is updated. Doors open automatically. More windows/skylight.
- Transportation options. Transportation is free to get here.
- More aesthetically pleasing and welcoming. Buildings are painted, clean, updated, and accessible.
- Centers are places where seniors get all of their needs met. There are nurses for health care needs.
- Provide and reward educational opportunities, facilitate community involvement.
- Bathrooms are improved. Elevator maintenance is taken care of. There is a chairlift track for steps.
- Centers are welcoming and attractive for the community. Greeters at every center. Nice flowers in front of buildings.
- Centers are progressive and responsive to new changes, trends, and ideas when they happen.
- Money should be spent on programs that help older people.
- Centers are considered “community centers” not only “senior centers”.

Question 5: What keeps us from achieving this senior center vision?

- Funding issues keep us limited
- Safety & security concerns
- Misperception that one must be of a certain income level to participate
- Better cooperation between Parks and Senior Centers
- Deferred maintenance & infrastructure problems
- Better ways to stay informed of political issues affecting seniors
- Some centers are geographically isolated and difficult to access
- Limited staffing, programming, attendance, and hours of operation