

# Area Agency on Aging of Dane County 2022 Paul H. Kusuda Special Projects Fund Grant Application

The 2022 Paul H. Kusuda Special Projects Fund Grant augments Dane County-funded Client-Centered Case Management and related services provided by the 12 Senior Focal Points. It may cover all or part of one-time costs to meet any of the following Case Management Program needs:

- a. To continue or restore client services that had to be curtailed because of diminished staff time;
- b. To enable staff to attend staff development or in-service training (for example, tuition, books or other resources, transportation/lodging costs);
- c. To plan, develop, and provide new client service(s) heretofore thought to be evidence-based, unique, or needing application in a case-setting;
- d. To meet unexpected costs not included in the current budget (to include equipment, supplies, postage or services);
- e. To enable social research targeting program or technique effectiveness; or
- f. To fund other initiatives that either enhance case management services or improve the quality of life for financially eligible older adults served by this program.

The grant-funded project covers the period 1 January 2022 through 31 December 2022. Projects are limited to a minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$15,807.

Use this fillable form (**your responses must fit within the specified space**) and email it with letters of support to: [aaa@countyofdane.com](mailto:aaa@countyofdane.com). Completed applications and letters of support must be received by **Friday, 18 February 2022, 4 pm**.

## Proposal Information

<b>Project Title</b>	Seniors in Need
<b>Amount Requested</b>	5,000
<b>Agency Name</b>	DeForest Area Community and Senior Center
<b>Agency Address</b>	505 N. Main Street DeForest, WI 53532
<b>Applicant Name</b>	Cindy Browning
<b>Applicant Phone Number</b>	608-846-9469
<b>Applicant Email Address</b>	cbrowning@deforestcenter.org

This project is:  a **new project** *or*  an **expansion** of an existing project.

*If planning to expand an existing project, attach a **one-page addendum** describing the nature and scope of the current project and how it will be expanded. Collaborations are encouraged.*

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**PROPOSAL [50 points—two pages maximum]**

**Describe the proposal's focus, purpose, and steps that will be taken to meet the purpose.**

The DeForest Area Community and Senior Center serves as a common hearth around which individuals come together for common purposes within a culture of caring to improve the quality of life for area residents. Our mission is to provide area residents with a welcoming place to meet, participate and volunteer while promoting independence, self-reliance and well-being for older adults and their families. Case Management is provided to meet the basic needs of our community members who lack supports and advocacy. Nutritional meals are also provided 5 days per week to older adults. The Center provides services to seniors making it possible for them to live as independently as possible. These services include case management, health care referrals, volunteer opportunities, a nutrition site, peer support, local transportation, recreation and more. As a key component of our programming, transportation is often a large barrier in accessing the necessary supports needed to thrive and live independently. A majority of our case management serves older adults who are low income and struggling to meet their basic needs. Our Seniors in Need program would provide support to older adults in our community who lack their basic needs. We will provide transportation assistance to help our program participants have better access to resources in the Madison area with flexibility related to when they require a ride. We will provide them with cab vouchers, gas cards and vehicle repairs for specific appointments such as health/medical, wellbeing, and more that cannot be met through our traditional local resources. DeForest currently lacks public transportation to and from Madison where many of our participants have appointments and need support; many times without prior notice. Transportation support through funding provided to secure cab rides, gas cards and vehicle repairs will alleviate barriers for our community members while helping them to access the necessary supports and services in our neighboring communities that will increase their ability to maintain independent. If approved for funding, we will provide direct financial assistance to help our program participants maintain stability and independence with their basic needs to include housing, utility, transportation, and more as identified with their case manager. Lack of transportation creates many barriers for our community members who are at risk of losing their housing or having their utilities disconnected. Support will be provided directly through our case management programming for individuals who have identified a need throughout the case management relationship. After identification of need has been established, our case managers will look at all of the household income and work to create a budget with each participant struggling to meet their basic needs. We partner closely with other area agencies and provide referrals to the DeForest Area Needs Network (DANN) to ensure all other resources for financial help have been exhausted prior to providing direct financial help through our Center. Basic need stability is an essential aspect to our older adults ability to thrive and maintain independent. When at risk of losing housing, having their utilities disconnected, or not being able to attend health/medical appointments, severe concerns arise for older adults and their wellbeing. Instability in these vital aspects of a person's life can cause and create significantly larger concerns and risks. Having stability in their basic needs is the foundation of all other areas of a person's life; this is imperative for our older adult neighbors. When enrolling in case management through our Center, an initial assessment is completed to identify all areas of need to include: financial, health/medical, transportation, nutrition, and more. Housing is a primary focus while ensuring the stability of our participants. Connection to resources is a primary goal through advocacy and on-going support. Follow-up is provided on an on-going basis while building and creating a trusting and supportive relationship. Participants would be screened for need through conversations with their case manager. As a new initiative, we are hopeful that this would be a supportive addition to our case management efforts while providing a resource for those with basic need instability concerns. Participants identify related concerns regularly and this would allow the possibility to provide support for an ongoing need that has not been met directly through our organization in the past.

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**QUALIFICATIONS [15 points—one page maximum]**

**Describe qualifications of the individual to be assigned major responsibility for the project. Include such elements as years of experience working with older adults and specific work skills to be used to complete this proposal.**

The individual to be assigned major responsibilities for this project will be our Case Manager and Senior Services Supervisor, Natalie Raemisch. Natalie is a dedicated and long term case manager and employee of the DeForest Area Community and Senior Center who has been working with older adults for 15+ years. For the past 10 years she has been assessing and coordinating services for older adults directly through our Case Management programming offered at our Center. She coordinates intakes, provides direct one-on-one case management and also supervises another case manager within our organization. Natalie has a Masters Degree in Social Work and holds licensure as an Advanced Practice Social Worker. Our Case Managers are able to determine priorities for clients and utilize all resources necessary. The Center has 2 full time staff dedicated to supporting our participants through case management, focused on improving their wellbeing, self-reliance, independence and ability to maintain stable. With the amount of requests that come in related to basic need concerns, we are confident that any funds provided to our organization would be utilized to support those who lack other resources.

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**Complete the following chart, indicating amount requested from the Special Projects Fund, matching funds from other sources, and the total cost of the project. [5 points]**

Item	Amount Requested	Matching Funds*	Total Cost
Personnel			
Space Costs			
Supplies			
Transportation			
Equipment Rental			
Other	5,000	2,500	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>

\* Cash or in-kind support.

**Explain each budget item and why it is necessary for this project. [5 points]**

Item	Why is this necessary?
Personnel	
Space Costs	
Supplies	
Transportation	
Other	Direct Basic Need Financial Support: housing, utility, transportation, medical & other basic needs to obtain/maintain independence.

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**AGENCY COMMITMENT [15 points—one page maximum]**

**After the funding period is completed, what plans have been made to continue efforts or to use purchased equipment?**

The Center works closely with the DeForest Area Needs Network (DANN) when collaborating and partnering toward financial assistance related to basic needs, specifically with housing and transportation related support if they have funding available. Historically, when older adults accessing services from the Center needed eviction prevention, security deposit, utility disconnection assistance, health/medical financial support, car repairs, gas cards/cab vouchers etc., the Centers only option was to provide referrals to DANN. This creates a barrier, specifically for those with an immediacy of need. Our goal is to eliminate barriers and ensure our participants have the supports they need through our case management programming while partnering with DANN to address other basic needs. In collaboration with DANN, the Center works to identify all areas of support to supplement the costs needed from our organization. Connection to the other basic need resources are established to include local food pantries and the Mission Nutrition Food Bank in hopes to offset costs from monthly expenses. Currently, our case management programming receives additional funds totaling approximately \$2,500 on an annual basis through donations which can be used to support basic needs. The \$2,500 is used to meet the direct needs of our participants engaging in case management, on a case by case basis, as identified with their case manager. Our goal is to increase the amount and expand the types of direct financial assistance made available to our participants. We hope to make a larger impact and support our participants with amounts that ensure their crisis is alleviated in order to support their goals of maintaining independence.

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**ORGANIZATIONAL OPERATIONS [10 points—one page maximum]**

**Who will have primary responsibility for overseeing successful completion of the proposed project? Specify either the percentage of staff time or number of hours per month to be devoted to this project and the qualifications of that staff member.**

In partnership with our Senior Services Supervisor and Case Manager, the Executive Director will be overseeing successful completion of this proposal. Currently, a significant amount of time is already being spent throughout the case management process to address basic needs for our participants, to include: resource referral, coordination, advocacy and direct support connecting to other organizations including follow-up. If our Center could provide support directly through our case management programming this would reduce the amount of time spent triaging basic need crisis' which are often unmet. The amount of hours spent overseeing this project will vary on a case by case basis, as needs are identified. Support from the Executive Director would be provided regularly throughout supervision with staff. The Executive Director has 8 years of experience implementing case management programming to include direct financial support for basic needs.