

UNIVERSAL CHANGING STATIONS IN COUNTY FACILITIES

As Dane County continues to work toward making county government and county facilities inclusive and accessible, it is critical to acknowledge that not all members of the community, including people with disabilities and their families, have equal access to restroom facilities.

Too many families in Dane County are faced with the situation of having to lay their loved ones on unclean bathroom floors or leave an event and return home. In Dane County, we value every person's dignity and worth. Our county government should lead in these efforts to make facilities accessible to all to ensure no one is excluded due to a lack of adequate equipment.

In an effort to gather input from families and caregivers who might need, or who have used, electric, height-adjustable universal changing stations, Dane County surveyed residents and asked if they would be more likely to use public places if facilities were equipped with universal changing stations. In response, 92.6% indicated they would be more likely to visit public places that were equipped with these facilities.

Dane County added 73,431 people over the past decade, a 15% increase, making it the fastest-growing county in the state, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This increase can, at least in part, be attributed to the inclusive nature of our county. Individuals and families are increasingly wanting to move to places that values diversity, inclusivity, equity, and opportunity for all. Adding universal changing stations to county-owned and operated properties will allow us to continue leading with those values.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the commitment and policy of Dane County that electric, height-adjustable universal changing stations be available in properties owned and operated by the county, where there is adequate space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to the extent possible, Dane County's Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion and Dane County Facilities Management, as well as other Dane County departments that manage facilities, will work to identify ADA-accessible restrooms in county facilities where electric, height-adjustable universal changing stations can be installed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that installation of electric, height-adjustable universal changing station equipment will be considered and planned for during the design process for all new county facilities, where appropriate.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Dane County urges other municipalities, schools, and entities that control places of public accommodation throughout the county and surrounding areas to include electric, height-adjustable universal changing stations in their facilities.