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2020 RES-331

**AWARDING A CONTRACT TO DANE BUY LOCAL FOUNDATION, INC.
FOR AN EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM
DCDHS – HAA DIVISION**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted small businesses. The Bank of America estimates that 15% of small businesses nationwide have closed permanently since the pandemic began. Some of the industries that have been hardest hit include restaurants, retail, gyms/fitness facilities, and the service industry.

On December 27th, 2020, President Trump signed the \$900 billion COVID-19 relief bill authorizing additional funding to respond to the pandemic across multiple areas of need. The act includes \$325 billion in funding to support small businesses. Providing a bridge to help Dane County's small businesses while that federal support comes online is critical.

To help address this need, the Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Housing Access and Affordability (HAA) seeks to award a contract to Dane Buy Local Foundation Inc. to administer a \$4,000,000 emergency small business grant program.

In 2020, Dane Buy Local Foundation Inc. provided this service following Dane County's first federal CARES allocation, administering an over \$10.6 million emergency small business grant program that awarded funds to 2,692 local businesses. Of that number, 25% of the total funding was awarded to business owners of color, and 57% to women business owners. Businesses with a mailing address inside the City of Madison received 54.4% of the funds, and businesses with a mailing address outside the City of Madison received 45.6% of the funds.

According to data provided by the Dane Buy Local Foundation, Inc., 99% of grant awardees that received funding from the Dane County CARES program are still in business.

To be eligible for the funding, a business must be for-profit, independently owned, and have a main office based in Dane County. Funding for the grant will be prioritized for businesses such as restaurants, retail, gyms/fitness facilities, independent contractors (hair stylists, auto mechanics, etc.), the service industry, and start-up businesses in operation prior to March 15, 2020. Applications from other businesses will be considered on a case by case basis as available funding allows.

Up to 3% of the total is available for Dane Buy Local Foundation, Inc. to administer the program. Dane Buy Local will partner with the Latino Chamber of Commerce and Madison's Black Chamber of Commerce as well as the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation to identify local businesses to receive the grants. The minimum grant amount available will be \$1,000 and the maximum grant amount available will be \$50,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board approves a contract in the amount of \$4,000,000 with Dane Buy Local and authorizes the County Executive and County Clerk to execute the contract documents, and authorizes the Controller to issue checks for payment of contract invoices.

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53 **BE IT FINALLY RESOVLED** that account 80000 80002 "CARES ACT REVENUE" be
54 adjusted with an appropriation of \$4,000,000 and that account 80000 20101 "DANE BUY
55 LOCAL GRANTS" be created with an appropriation of \$4,000,000.