



## Dane County Department of Human Services

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DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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TO: HHN Committee, other interested parties

FROM: Shawn Tessmann

RE: July 2020 Update

Below is my update for July, 2020.

I'm pleased to announce than even in the midst of a pandemic that we continue to make meaningful progress on promoting equity and inclusion within DCDHS. Last week, Astra Iheukumere announced a process for all managers and supervisors in the department to engage in a cultural competency assessment in partnership with Terri Howard from FEI. Over 160 DCDHS leaders are being asked to complete the assessment before the end of October with small workgroup discussions to be scheduled thereafter.

Badger Prairie completed another round of COVID testing with no positive results. Also, Badger Prairie put the finishing touches on a temporary build to serve as a dedicated wing of the facility for COVID in preparation for the virus making its way into the building at some point. Hopefully, it doesn't happen.

As community spread deepens, we have had a couple staff positive cases and put our planning into action by doing the contact tracing protocol to ensure spread is mitigated and that affected and contacted staff and customers are appropriately quarantined. Staff positives to this point have been mostly limited to people working remotely so the impact has not to this point been widely felt.

Our JFF offices have been heavily involved in the community site distribution of facemasks and is working in close coordination with the following locations and partners for access to the free masks:

- Badger Prairie Needs Network
- Christ the Solid Rock Church
- South central Madison/Rental offices
- Waunakee Area Needs Network
- North Madison/River Food Pantry
- Sun Prairie/Sun Shine Place Food Pantry
- South Madison/Middleton Outreach Ministry

- Wisconsin Heights/Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Today Not Tomorrow
- Vera Court NC
- Lussier Education Center
- Elver Park Neighborhood Center
- Oregon Youth Center
- Frank Allis Elementary School

Seeing steady increases in traffic at the Job Center, reaching a high of 94 visitors in the last week. Since this is the last week of the Unemployment Insurance supplement, anticipating more questions and concern from people needing income support as the month draws to a close. So far, the special safety protocols and extra security seem to be working well.

We're also making headway on our strategic planning process. We are deep in the throes of individual structured interviews with over 50 invited stakeholders and are also receiving feedback about the Mission, Vision and Values statements being suggested by DCDHS staff.

Here is a summary of the Dane Buy Local grants. \$8.4M was distributed amongst 2095 businesses.

- 30% of total grants awarded went to businesses owners of color.
- 55% of total grants awarded went to businesses owned by women.
- A slight majority of funds went to communities outside the City of Madison. The split of Madison/Outside of Madison was 49.5%/50.5%.

Finally, here is an update on eviction prevention. It is anticipated that funding for eviction prevention will run out soon, and funds will not be available to assist with August eviction prevention requests. TRC has communicated this reality to agency partners and the public. In addition, the federal eviction moratorium is anticipated to expire on July 25th, 2020. It's anticipated that need will be even greater after that time. As of July 18th, 2020:

- Tenant Resource Center received a total of 5,534 applications for assistance totaling \$9,733,299.78 in requests.
- Of that number, TRC and its partners have authorized 3,295 applications totaling \$4,677,665.93. Those funds have either been distributed already, or will be distributed the week of 7/20. Of the processed applications:
  - The average amount of rent assistance provided was \$1419.62.
  - 84.5% of funds have gone to heads of households that identify as non-White. The largest populations within this number are people who identify as Black/African American (47.2%) and people who identify as Hispanic/Latinx (27%).

- 72.2% of funds have gone to households in the City of Madison. Outside of the City of Madison, the next largest distribution of funds have gone to households in Fitchburg (11.2%), Sun Prairie (6.4%), and Middleton (2.8%) respectively.
- Only 3% of applicants are receiving Unemployment benefits
- Approximately 40% of applicants are in the eviction process.
- TRC has had over 1100 requests for housing counseling, mediation and assistance with applications.