Written Testimony
HHN Meeting
10/22/19

My name is Esther Olson. I am a Senior Advocate in Dane County and I am here tonight to speak in support of HHN-O-05 to increase senior nutrition program site management funding by $23,630. This 5% increase reflects increased costs to continue.

But first I want to say thank you for all your past support. The seniors in Dane County are fortunate to have your continued support.

This is the first year of a two year request to bring the funding to the level needed to continue the coordination and oversight of the nutrition program. Additional meals needed will be covered by new Federal/State Title 3 dollars but in order to continue to provide safe service of meals, additional site management funding Is needed. While site management contracts have received modest COLA increases in the past two years, it was not sufficient to keep pace with increased labor costs and increase in number of meals served.

The senior nutrition site management program includes coordination and oversight of the senior nutrition program that:
1. Does outreach targeting low-income, minority and rural seniors to insure needy seniors are aware of services available,
2. Supervises the meal sites to insure safe and sanitary conditions,
3. Serves meals at the congregate meal sites and delivery of meals to the homebound
4. Provides collection and data entry of required participant registration and service delivery data to meet State and Federal requirements for continued funding,
5. Accurately and in a timely manner utilizes the caterer meal reservation system,
6. Does monthly solicitation of donations to help offset costs and
7. Provides nutrition education and isolation activities for senior adults.

The increased funding will help to insure the continuation of the 28 senior dining sites that serve 100,000 congregate meals and 144,000 home-delivered meals to home bound seniors every year.

Thank you for your continued support

Contact me at 608-335-3207 or emolson2@wisc.edu with any questions.