

MEMO

DATE: September 13, 2018
TO: Dane County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Carrie Edgar, Dane County UW-Extension Director
RE: 2019 Budget Request and Equity & Sustainability Initiatives

The Dane County UW-Extension Department is not requesting any new operating funds for FY19. We are including two Capital requests 1) funds for the Environmental Council's matching grants program and 2) to replace tables for a highly used conference room at Fen Oak and office chairs for the department.

Dane County's partnership with UW-Extension leverages state, federal and other funds. Each Dane County dollar invested leverages nearly \$2 in additional funding to provide research based community education programs for Dane County residents.

The Dane County UW-Extension Department will continue to maintain and build partnerships in 2019 to expand our programming and services and diversify our funding sources. Some of our current funding partners include:

- FairShare CSA Coalition to provide education to small scale, organic diversified farms
- The Dane Co Board and the Human Services Department to provide leadership for the County's Youth in Governance program and assist with coordination of the By Youth For Youth program
- The Wisconsin Department of Juvenile Corrections to provide horticulture and Ag education for youth at the Grow Academy
- And, our educators continue to have success in acquiring grants for on-farm research to improve productivity and sustainability, to provide innovative inclusive youth programming, and projects to support healthy communities.

Dane County UW-Extension commits to continually work toward a more inclusive and equitable approach to providing educational programming and access to services that ensure everyone can grow and thrive in Dane County. A few of our accomplishments this past year include:

- Create opportunities for staff to increase knowledge and skills in equity and inclusion
 - Entire staff read the book, *What If I Say the Wrong Thing? 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People* by Vernā Myers and participated in book discussions during staff meetings
 - Several educators participated in a training on best practices for teaching with an Interpreter
 - Began offering bi-monthly brown bag Equity Cafés for department staff
- Set goals, track progress and focus on accountability
 - All educators included equity action plans in their individual annual plans of work and the plans are reviewed and discussed during performance reviews

- Provide opportunities for diverse students to gain meaningful work and learning experiences
 - Received a grant and coordinated the Youth Advocates for Community Health program on the north side of Madison. Four High School students received stipends for their work in developing a plan to address health and inequities
 - Hosted 2 Simpson Street Free Press interns to write about Extension programs
 - Hosted a Centro Hispano Escalera intern during the summer
 - Recruited and hosted 4 UW-Madison interns to research and write a Food Waste Recovery Guide for the Dane County Food Council
- Develop relationships to expand partnerships to better serve minority youth and their families
 - Our 4-H Youth Development staff partnered with Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center to offer a culturally relevant family camp program. A grant was secured to cover the transportation and registration fees so 9 families (15 adults and 17 youth) from Mendota Elementary could attend the family camp.
- Build the capacity of our volunteers to effectively work with diverse communities
 - Our 4-H Youth Development staff led a statewide effort to develop a new curriculum for the 2018-2019 4-H volunteer training focused on building cultural competency

A primary challenge for us is access to curricula and educational materials translated into Spanish and other languages as needed. Our bilingual staff and UW Cooperative Extension's Language Access Coordinator have been helpful but there is a significant cost for translation for written materials.

Protecting our natural resources and improving sustainability are core values of UW-Extension and are integrated into nearly all of our programming. Some of our accomplishments from our sustainability plan this year include:

- Partnered with Dane County Land & Water Resources Department to create a "Fen Oak Sustainability Team" to coordinate our efforts and to use our building and grounds as a public demonstration site
- The sustainability team successfully applied for a water conservation practice and education grant from the SMART fund. This project will cover the installation of an irrigation system for the Master Gardener program, which is estimated to save about 1141 gallons of water annually. The project also includes permanent outdoor displays and other educational materials on water conservation
- Solar panels were installed at Fen Oak and we're currently working on a permanent display that will show energy savings and related educational content
- Design is underway for a new parking lot at Fen Oak that will include infiltration best practices and will serve as a demonstration project
- The rainfall simulators will be used by LWRD, Dane County UW-Extension and other partners to demonstrate storm water infiltration on various surfaces
- Working in cooperation with the Dane County Environmental Council and University of Wisconsin specialists, Extension secured funding and developed pollinator protection educational pieces including display boards, a brochure, informational cards with native plant seeds, and youth activities. These materials are available for loan to the public.
- Extension has also worked with our partners to design and plant demonstration pollinator gardens with permanent educational signage in County parks, at Centro Hispano and other locations throughout the county