

From: [Linda Ketcham](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Human Services Budget
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:27:08 AM

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Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of JustDane I am writing to encourage you to continue to focus on the needs of individuals and families in our community who are experiencing homelessness. As an organizational member of the Affordable Housing Action Alliance we ask that you include the following in the Human Services budget:

1. Housing navigation and case management services for doubled up families and those on the shelter waitlist who are not receiving those services.
2. More affordable housing within Dane County.
3. Increased support for family shelter. The family shelter has a waiting list. Our own program at JustDane, Healing House is full and has a wait list of families. The need is growing and we are seeing more families sleeping in their cars and others with no place to go.

Finally, we ask that the County focus on purchasing properties that can be used for affordable housing and shelter.

The pandemic has laid bare the racial disparities in our homeless and housing services gaps. People and families of color are disproportionately experiencing the impact of the pandemic in terms of their health, their housing stability and homelessness, and a myriad of other areas. If we are serious about addressing the racial disparities in our County these recommendations are a step forward.

Sincerely,
Linda Ketcham
Executive Director
JustDane
2115 S. Park St.
Madison, WI 53713
608-256-0906
She, her, hers

"Compassion and justice are companions, not choices." Wm. Sloane Coffin

From: [Julie Schwab](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Restoring Roots at Board Meeting Today
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:53:49 PM

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September 16, 2020

Dane County Board of Supervisors
Executive Joe Parisi

Dear County Board of Supervisors and Executive Joe Parisi,

Restoring Roots will be present this evening for your budget meeting. Restoring Roots is a grassroots community that has created a non-profit organization because of experiencing devastating gaps in services for individuals with addictions. Our mission is to provide supportive recovery housing, job training, and education for individuals with addictions.

WE ARE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM DANE COUNTY IN IDENTIFYING AND ACQUIRING LAND TO DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE RECOVERY HOUSING.

Sincerely,

Julie Schwab, President of Restoring Roots Board
jschwab@restoringroots.org
608-630-6750





RESTORING ROOTS

Restoring Roots is a non-profit organization founded by families and individuals who have been traumatized by Substance Use Disorder (SUD). We are committed to the development of Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing (PSRH) in Dane County. PSRH is an effective and economic means of treating SUD. Many states are turning to PSRH because it is reducing incarceration, recidivism, overdoses and effectively promoting restored health and return to employment.

Need for Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing



The number of opioid overdose deaths in Wisconsin has increased 725% from 111 deaths in 2000 to 918 deaths in 2019.



In the U.S. and in Wisconsin, more people die from drug overdose than from car accidents.



In 2017, Wisconsin experienced an 83% increase in death rates from cocaine-involved overdoses.



Wisconsin leads the nation in binge drinking.



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a 117% increase in overdoses in Wisconsin.

Permanent supportive housing can positively impact these alarming statistics and can significantly reduce emergency care and incarceration costs in the long-term.

Who Benefits From Permanent Supportive Recovery Housing?

Permanent supportive housing can positively impact these alarming statistics and can reduce health care and incarceration costs in the long-term.

The Supportive Recovery Housing project meets national standards (Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing) and provides long-term recovery support, job training, and education for individuals with SUD who are:

- a. completing rehabilitation program(s) and in need of ongoing support to build and sustain long-term recovery
- b. living unsheltered and in need of recovery housing in order to engage in recovery
- c. re-entering the community from the criminal justice system
- d. participating in drug courts
- e. diverting from the criminal justice system for SUD treatment and related support services

The PSRH model has been in use in Kentucky for several years with impressive results. 46% of those entering housing reported being employed, and upon discharge, 76% were employed. Illegal drug use and alcohol use declined substantially. Moreover, the cost of providing housing is two to three times less than incarceration or homelessness.

Project Description

We are proposing a **50-unit, \$15 million housing project**. Because those entering housing are unlikely to have income to pay rent, the project must be designed with little to no debt.



We are requesting assistance in the identification of state funding sources to support the construction of this project, including allocation of general revenue funds, a set-aside of funds from WHEDA for recovery housing, or other state funds.



We are also requesting assistance with operations with an allocation of housing choice vouchers and the purchase of beds by the Department of Corrections.

This PSRH model saves money and saves lives. Incarceration, homelessness, and repetitive use of emergency services are expensive. The model Restoring Roots plans to replicate is more than 2.5 to 3 times cheaper per day per person than homelessness or incarceration. Also, people who enter recovery housing are more likely to have increased rates of employment and higher transition rates to independent living.¹

¹ Polcin DL, Korcha RA, Bond J, Galloway G. Sober living houses for alcohol and drug dependence: 18-month outcomes. J Subst Abuse Treat. 2010;38(4):356-365. doi:10.1016/j.jsat.2010.02.003

I am trying to figure out how to provide comments at the hearing this evening. I see that I'm supposed to register, but I can't figure out how to register. Can you provide a link for registration? Alternatively, I've written below brief comments.

I am a member of the Affordable Housing Action Alliance. We feel strongly that homelessness is going to be an increasing problem as this pandemic continues to rage, and as those whose jobs have disappeared are struggling with maintaining housing. Already, many families and individuals have not been able to maintain housing, and whenever the various moratoriums expire there will be an additional flood of evictions.

- 1) Shelter is needed for more families. The family shelter has a long waitlist. There are families sleeping in their cars and some with nowhere to go.
- 2) Housing navigation and case management services are needed for doubled up families and those on the shelter waitlist who are not getting such services.
- 3) We support county purchase of properties to use for affordable housing and shelter.
- 4) Of course the longer term solution is more affordable housing. Housing first makes addressing other issues so much easier. To the extent possible we need to address both the immediate needs and the long term solutions that will improve housing options in Dane County.

Sincerely,

Gail Bliss
608-231-3511

From: [Robin Sereno](#)
To: [Menard, Lindsay](#)
Subject: 9.16 County Board meeting questions
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 3:39:55 PM

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My questions revolve around the County's plan to support housing stability and eviction prevention in 2021.

What financial investment will be in this budget for Bi-lingual Housing Counseling and Eviction Prevention work?

Overall, Dane County has 28,469 cost-burdened renter households and average rent is ~\$1100/month. How much will the County Board increase its investment in eviction prevention from it's current investment of \$50,000 in the 2021 Budget?

Thanks much,
Robin

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Robin Sereno
Pronouns: she, her and hers

From: [Scott Strong](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Cc: [Tessmann, Shawn](#); [Parisi, Joseph](#)
Subject: Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 5:26:48 PM
Importance: High

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Hello,

I am sorry to miss tonight's budget hearing. I like to attend these and offer feedback on the budget impacts to the community and the Purchase of Service sector. Unfortunately this year I am not able to appear and provide testimony. Instead, I registered in support of the budget and I will share my thoughts to all of you via email, although it isn't very personal.

I want to share that I am in support of the budget that Shawn Tessmann and her team have submitted to the County Executive. This is an incredibly challenging year, and having lead through many challenging years in the past, I believe that this year in particular, there has been a lot of careful thought given to maintaining funding levels that support human services, despite future revenue concerns. Shawn and her team recognize that the need for services during this pandemic have been and will continue to increase. In our agency alone we are witnessing the significant increase in child, young adult and family mental health challenges as well as increased parental stress across our early childhood programs.

I have appreciated the County Executive and the County Board leadership in supporting cost of living increases for POS in recent years, and those increases in past years do not go unnoticed as we work with flat funding for this year. I know there is wide support for POS among you and we will work through this next year together to support our community.

Finally I would like to share appreciation that through this pandemic, Shawn's team and the County have been very supportive and flexible with POS as we shifted to remote service. Funding had not been cut, and important investments were made in housing, childcare and mental health services. There is a shared understanding that service delivery, data collection and outcome tracking would not look the same. This shared understanding has supported the POS/DCDHS partnership and we feel like we are in this together.

On behalf of RISE Wisconsin and the POS Leadership Coalition, thank you!

Scott

Scott S. Strong (He, Him)

Executive Director

RISE

Direct: 608-210-0111

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www.RISEwisconsin.org

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From: [Jani Koester](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Dane County 2021 Human Services budget tonight
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 5:36:33 PM

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I wish to share some comments about the Dane County Human Services Budget.

My name is Jani Koester. I currently work in the Madison School District Transition Education Program serving students and family who are experiencing homelessness. The current number of students experiencing homeless in Madison schools today is almost 400, this will grow to over a 1100 before the school year ends. Already each week it is growing faster than expected.

Most of these students are not in our homeless shelters. Most families are double up or self paying in hotels. There currently is not enough shelter for all the homeless families who are seeking shelter. I understand that there are over 50 families on a waitlist and many of these families are currently in their cars. As a school support, we are finding that having a place to do school is very challenging. We can provide hotspots but sitting in your car and trying to do school is almost impossible. Even sitting on a bed in a hotel is challenging. We need to support these children in school with stability of shelter and housing. If we want to see a change in achievement gaps, racial inequity and simple access to basic needs, our community needs to step up and provide the resources to help families experiencing homelessness now.

We need your attention to these items.

1. Housing navigation and case management services for doubled up families and those on the shelter waitlist who are not getting such services.

2. Shelter is needed for more families. The family shelter has a waitlist. There are families sleeping in their cars and some with nowhere to go.

3. A position in the county (maybe paired with the city) that focuses on the needs of those who are homeless - doubled up and self paying in hotels so they can access housing navigation and housing support services similar to those who are served by shelter.

4. More affordable housing

4. The county should buy properties to use for affordable housing and shelter

Thank you for caring about our most vulnerable children. These children need a safe and appropriate roof over their heads so they too can learn and become the valuable community members we all strive our own children to become.

If you have questions please let me know.

Thank you for your time,
Jani Koester

My work phone is currently accepting all calls during regular business hours. Please feel free to contact me by phone and leave a message if I am away.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" Frederick Douglass

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Saint Mother Theresa

Jani Koester
TEP Resource Teacher
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From: [Edward Kuharski](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Human Services Budget
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6:05:32 PM

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All, As an architect and housing justice advocate, I urge you to increase line items for the purposes of adding capacity in entry-level affordable housing. increasing capacity for womens'/childrens' shelter (both number of beds and number of shelter days), health & nutrition support for unhoused individuals, land acquisition for development of permanently affordable housing and improvement in accommodations & rules for use of the County parks for serving unhoused individuals.

Thank you for your time & attention, Ed

Edward Kuharski, Architect, AIA, LEED AP
GREEN DESIGN STUDIO
405 Sidney Street
Madison, WI 53703
608/469-5963 mobile
ekuharski@aol.com

"The best way to predict the future is to help create it."

From: [Marilyn Feil](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Human Services 2021 budget
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 7:27:48 PM

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Hello:

In the 2021 Dane County Human Services budget I would like to see additional funding to address the needs of some of our most vulnerable residents, those without homes. The county has done a great job in partnership with the city in getting homeless individuals and families into shelter situations to deal with the challenges of COVID. But there are still important holes in the safety net. I am a part of the Affordable Housing Action Alliance, a local group of advocates, who is asking the county to include the following in it's 2021 Human Services budget:

- Funding for a shelter plan for 2021 that provides continued shelter to deal with COVID. The federal funding to put families and individuals in motels runs out at the end of 2020. It is highly likely that COVID will still be with us into 2021. We need a local plan in case the federal government doesn't provide additional COVID funds for 2021.
- Housing navigation and case management services for families who are homeless but who are not receiving these services because they are not in shelter either because they are on the shelter waitlist or because they are doubled up. These families are still homeless and very much in need, even though there isn't enough space or even though they don't fit the current federal definition of homelessness. Helping them get into permanent housing is the best solution. This will also alleviate some of the pressure on the family homeless shelter system. Also, it is dangerous for families to be doubled up and living in crowded conditions during COVID.
- More affordable housing. A major bottleneck leading to the homeless issue is a lack of affordable housing.
- The county should buy properties to use for shelter and affordable housing. If the county owns shelter buildings, affordable housing, and single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings those are permanent solutions.
- Increase the number of families who are sheltered. There has been a waitlist of families needing shelter. While the number of families being sheltered is already more than were sheltered in past non-COVID years, there are still many families without shelter.

Thank you for your time, and for your public service, especially in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Feil

3634 Alpine Road

Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Testimony
9/15/20

Good Evening – My name is Esther Olson

Senior Advocate – Chair – AAA Leg/Adv Com

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. Also want to thank you for your continuing support. Special thanks to Director Tessman for maintaining aging budget levels in a very tight budget year.

Speaking in support of Senior Adult Programs -

Realize this is a tough budget year but like the rest of the community - the aging community's needs continue to grow and become more complex – To continue to provide the support needed to help the Senior population remain viable and in their own homes - we have 3 asks this year – all are continuing programs that are critical.

1. Case Management – 3rd year of a three year req – first 2 years were funded by the County Exec. Provide support services to assist older adults to remain in their own homes by funding Client-centered services through 12 focal points. As our over 60 population grows, so does case management needs – funding is just not keeping up with needs. COVID-19 has increased the need even more. \$75,376K
2. Nutrition Site Management- 2nd year of a two year request. Includes coordination and oversight of maintaining safe and sanitary facilities for meal delivery whether congregate or home delivery, data collection and provision of nutritional education and isolation reducing activities. Requesting \$24,811 in 2021 to complete the two year request. Will support the continuation of 28 senior dining sites serving in excess of 240,000 meals per year.
3. Cultural Diversity – continue to experience increases in racial-minority populations – in the over 60 community – over 13% increase as opposed to 6.11% for white-non-Hispanic population - includes Latinx, African American and Asian/Hmong. Currently the program is served by two 75% time cultural diversity specialists – Request is for funds to increase both positions to 100% time at a competitive rate. = \$29,050. Will provide services for additional 75 – 100 people. Still only reaching 10% of the population.

We ask that you keep the elderly community on your radar screen as you work through this tough budget year.

Thank you.

Esther Olson
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608-335-3207