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2025 RES - 437

ESTABLISHING AN EQUITY FOOD PROGRAM FOR 2026

The Dane County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$35,200 in the 2026 budget to develop projects that improve access to local food systems in Dane County. To better assess the viability of potential projects, the Tamara D. Grigsby Civil Rights Department (“DCCRD”) oversaw a grant process that invited individuals and organizations to identify and explain how their proposals would meet the needs of the community.

The application review process developed by DCCRD prioritized the following focus areas that could benefit from a food equity program: low-income neighborhoods that have increased food demands and are in need of expanded food assistance, access and security to families, persons with physical challenges, children, teens, senior citizens, historically underserved populations and individuals at risk of hunger in several Dane County communities; low-income and under-employed Dane County communities, including but not limited to Sun Prairie, Monona, Oregon, Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Middleton, McFarland, Deerfield, and Marshall.

Communities need and deserve access to dietary specific and culturally relevant. Food equity programs assist the immediate provision for fresh garden produce, that incorporates local food into the school lunch menu that simultaneously supports local farmers. Food programs provide culturally appropriate foods and nutritionally balanced meals to seniors, children and adults. In addition, programs will help to reduce food waste for farms that results from unsold or unharvested produce and school districts when food that cannot be used as part of the school meal programs is utilized elsewhere.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby establish an equity food program for 2026, as a program for relief that will serve the focus areas identified in lines 12 to 18 of this Resolution;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tamara D. Grigsby Civil Rights Department is hereby authorized to operate the 2026 Equity Food Program, and to secure the provision of services for the focus areas previously identified.