



## Dane County Department of Human Services

Interim Director – Astra Iheukumere

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DANE COUNTY PROVIDES ACCESS TO LOCAL FRESH VEGETABLES TO ELIGIBLE SENIORS

Today, the Dane County Department of Human Services announced over \$25,000 available to older residents of Dane County for locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Area Agency on Aging is distributing farmers' market vouchers for \$25 to eligible adults to purchase Wisconsin-grown fruit, vegetables, or herbs at farmers' markets and roadside farm stands.

"We are committed to supporting older Dane County residents in all aspects of healthy living," said Dane County Department of Human Services Interim Director Astra Iheukumere. "With these vouchers, older adults are able to access fresh, nutritious unprepared fruits, vegetable, and herbs, while also connecting with the community."

The Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, now part of the Farm Bill, is over 20 years old and started as a United States Department of Agriculture pilot program designed to improve the diets of older adults living with a lower income. The program not only provides fresh fruits and vegetables to seniors, but it also supports the development and expansion of farm markets and stands.

The vouchers are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to adults age 60+ and Native Americans age 55+ who live in Dane County and have gross incomes under \$28,953 per year (or \$2,413/month) for a one-person household or \$39,128 per year (or \$3,261/month) for a two-person household. One set of vouchers is available per person.

Vouchers can be used between June 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Along with the vouchers, recipients will receive a *how-to-use* brochure, nutrition education material, and a list of the 30+ participating Dane County farmers' markets and stands.

If you wish to apply to the program, contact the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County at 608-261-5678 or [Gabriel.Shannon@danecounty.gov](mailto:Gabriel.Shannon@danecounty.gov). *"This program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*

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