

ESTABLISHING AN EQUITY FOOD PROGRAM FOR 2025

In the 2025 budget, the Dane County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$40,000 in funding to encourage the innovative developments of projects that advance equity and access in local food systems in Dane County. To better assess the viability of potential projects, the Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion (“OEI”) oversaw a grant process that invited individuals and organizations to identify and explain how their proposals would meet the needs of the community.

At the conclusion of the application review process, OEI identified the following class of individuals who could be helped by providing a service as part of 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, children, teens, senior citizens, women in recovery, women who are experiencing postpartum symptoms, historically underserved populations and individuals at risk of hunger in several Dane County communities; low-income, refugees and under-employed Dane County communities including but not limited to Sun Prairie, Madison, Fitchburg, and Waunakee. Communities that are in need of food for specific dietary needs, such as items that are Gluten Free, Nut Free, Dairy Free, Egg Free, culturally diets like kosher items, beans, rice, soy, etc. Food equity programs to assist the immediate provision for fresh garden produce, that incorporates local food into the school lunch menu that simultaneously supports local farmer and expose students to a variety of produce they may not have access to at home. Food equity programs help promote healthy habits, develop and teach educational demonstrations of growing, harvesting and food preparation and cooking and health meal delivery. Food programs that provide culturally appropriate foods and nutritionally balanced meals to women, children, youth and adults. In addition, programs will help to reduce food waste for the farm that results from unsold or unharvested produce, bridge the divide between growers and consumers and strengthen food networks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby establish an equity food program for 2025, as a program for relief that will serve the specific class of persons identified in lines 12 to 29 of this Resolution;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion is hereby authorized to operate the 2025 Equity Food Program, and to secure the provision of services for the classes of persons previously identified.