

DANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TEMPLATE FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION TOPIC PROPOSAL FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Note: After discussing with your standing committee and any other relevant parties, please submit your proposal to Lisa MacKinnon, Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator in the Office of the County Board, at MacKinnon.Lisa@danecounty.gov. It will be shared with the County Board Chair and Executive Committee for discussion and consideration. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: By the end of October.

Please provide information for each of the following sections in order to develop your program evaluation proposal. Take as much space as you need and feel free to provide additional resources if you think they will be helpful to understanding the program evaluation proposal.

Please indicate who is submitting this and who the main contact is for the proposal here. Submitted by the Public Works & Transportation Committee. Contact is Michael Engelberger Chair.

A few questions that could further clarify the proposal and scope:

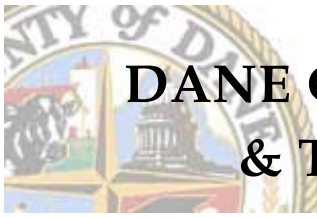
- Are there state or county regs that preclude making changes that they would need to be aware of? - Not that we are aware of.
- What county agencies, personnel, contacts would be most useful for the evaluator to work with to provide data and other information re: process, etc.? - Finance Directors of each department and Dane County Controller.
- And have you reached out to any of them to discuss this proposal or get input? - This has been discussed in general terms at various PW&T meetings in regard to AEC Surge Cleaning and in general with Directors of AEC, Waste & Renewables, Henry Vilas Zoo, Highway Department, Public Works, Air Port, Facilities Management and Administration in attendance at PW&T meetings.

1) TOPIC OF THE PROGRAM EVALUATION

[Provide a clear statement of the issue that this program evaluation intends to address.]

Program Evaluation to Reduce Privatization of Skilled Trades, Maintenance and Labor Type Service Contracts for Dane County

Dane County currently has many contracts with private vendors to provide labor services. [QUESTION: Do we know how many of these private contracts for labor services we have currently and what percentage of the work performed they account for, or is that a question that needs to be answered as a part of the program eval? This could be determined by department finance directors and the Dane County Controller). Examples of ~~these privatized~~ services currently contracted out to private entities are contracting of Plumbing, HVAC and Electrical maintenance, general maintenance on many facilities owned by Dane County, as well as lawn maintenance and snow removal services. Other examples include ~~private contractors providing county contracts with private vendors to provide~~ lawn cutting and lawn maintenance, and hired cleaning services hired to clean some or all



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facilities owned by Dane County [QUESTION: Which is it? Some facilities or all are cleaned by private contract currently, or is this a question we need to ask?]. It is not all as some facilities are cleaned by current employees. It needs to be determined to what extent by employees and by private firms.

2) SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM EVALUATION

[Which programs, functions, policies, departments will be affected and involved?]

Note: Please consider consulting with the relevant standing committee and affected departments on your proposal as they could provide insight into critical operational details that might affect the success of the proposed program evaluation.]

The evaluation would determine how we could ~~provide services with county employees performing~~ increase use of Dane County employees to provide skilled and labor services at all facilities of the county in lieu of privatized service contracts, to the greatest extent possible.

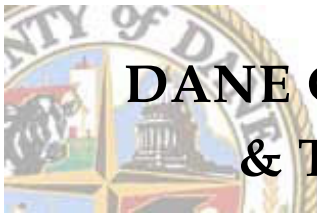
3) ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

[What are you trying to accomplish through this proposed program evaluation? What are the anticipated potential benefits to Dane County government of doing the evaluation? Are there current questions or concerns you would like this program evaluation to address? What will this information ideally help the County Board do within its jurisdiction?]

The sole purpose of this evaluation is to determine **whether and** which current contracted services for **labor, maintenance and skilled trades** can be reduced and/or completely replaced by current and future **Dane County** employees. The focus should be on skilled and manual ~~type~~ labor positions. This evaluation is not intended to address outsourced human services- ~~type~~ **POS** contracts or food or retail ~~type~~ service contracts and the like.

Currently there is a mix of privatized and **in-house** services being performed in our facilities by county employees and private contractors. In many cases services are performed individually by department, and ~~in some cases but more rarely~~ occasionally services may be shared between departments with current county employees. In many cases, **these** services are coordinated within a department, **and while** in other cases **Dane County Facilities Management** may coordinate services for multiple facilities. **Questions we would like answered by this proposed evaluation include:**

- **Is there** a better way to streamline coordination and management of employees to perform more **labor, maintenance, and skilled trade** services at multiple locations in lieu of performing work just at individual departments?
- What are the total costs **the county is** paying for **private** contractors to provide these services per contract and per facility?
- We hire employees to do lawn maintenance and snow removal for instance in our parks and other facilities. We contract the same type services at **other county** facilities. What is the feasibility of providing these services in-house by county employees in lieu of contracting the services out?
- **Are there** advantages to **Dane County of** reducing privatization of these services **with regard to**, including but not limited to:
 - cost savings



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- o providing living wages and benefits, which may not be provided under a privatization contract ~~where much of the funds go to profits over employee welfare.~~

[QUESTION: Anything else here you want to add in terms of specific potential benefits to consider?]
- Is there a way to determine efficiency factors county employees and contracted work?

4) DESIRED TIMELINE/ BUDGET TIMING

[Please indicate whether you seek a report and recommendations from the program evaluation to influence the next year's budget period or whether there is a longer timeline. Note: RFPs for program evaluations must go out by early January at the latest in order to yield information in time to inform the next year's budget. For more complex evaluation topics and proposals, the process may take longer.]

Determine ~~as soon as possible~~ in time for the development of the 2026 Dane County budget (approx. by July 2025), whether and which privatized services could be replaced by county employee labor. ~~If determined to be beneficial for the county,~~ Depending on the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, the timeline could include phasing in recommendations over two or three budget cycles to fully implement.

LMM, 7/9/24