



Dane County, WI
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703



January 13, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

Thank you for your past work and engagement with the [Dane County Community Justice Council \(CJC\)](#), formerly known as the Criminal Justice Council, and the on-going input and partnership to push fair, equitable, and just practices in the criminal justice system of Dane County. **This letter is to formally invite you to participate in the *Community Court Initiative in Dane County*. Your participation in this initiative is essential to plan a successful community court initiative and co-create solutions to improve outcomes and quality of life for residents in Dane County. Initially, we ask you to commit to attend two meetings per month for six months.**

Since 2009, the Dane County CJC has championed the ideals of national community court models, beginning with the [Task Force on Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice Report](https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/2009-RD-Task-Force.pdf) (<https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/2009-RD-Task-Force.pdf>). The 2009 report led to the creation of increased restorative justice practices in Dane County—including the most prominent success--the Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC). In November 2022, Dane County CJC was pleased to learn of a successful federal grant application for planning and implementation of a community court initiative (one of four selected jurisdictions nationwide).

A central component of this effort is engaging community voice in reimagining justice responses and supports for Dane County residents. The work plan for new diversion from traditional systems will require system stakeholders, staff--and most critically--the voice of communities most impacted by the criminal justice system. Your organization has been identified as a key partner in the planning effort. The CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee will embed a racial equity lens, data driven answers, and public health as mainstays of the planning process.

The CJC has established a [new sub-committee to guide the community court initiative](#). The subcommittee will be comprised of members of the CJC –Racial Disparities Subcommittee, plus a representative from each of the seven BIPOC groups that have previously participated in this project.

In keeping with previous practice, Dane County invites your organization to enter into a contract for \$3,000 for participation of your organization's representative at 12 planning meetings (2 meetings per month for six months). CJC staff will be in touch regarding the contract and payment details. The duties of the CJC-Community Court Advisory Subcommittee are to make recommendations to the full CJC on the planning and implementation of the community court.

The Dane County CJC invites you, or your selected representative to participate in this effort. One member of your organization needs to be identified as the subcommittee member to provide a consistent presence to aid in continuity of the planning process. All public are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide any additional public comments.

If you agree to participate, we ask you to send the name and contact information (phone and email) to Anadon.Isabel@countyofdane.com by January 27, 2023.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

Carlo Esqueda
Chair, Dane County Community Justice Council
Cjc.countyofdane.com
Dane County Clerk of Circuit Courts