



Dane County Executive
Room 421, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-4114

Dane County Board of Supervisors
Room 106B, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-5758

February 6, 2013

Paul Soglin, Mayor
City of Madison
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, President
Madison City Council
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mayor Soglin and President Bidar-Sielaff:

One of the potential strategies to address the growing needs of the un-housed in Madison is the development of cooperative housing. This progressive model has proven effective in other parts of the country and previous efforts to initiate something similar in our community have fallen short - - primarily due to challenges in securing financial resources. This is where Dane County stands ready to help, and we are hopeful the City of Madison will join us.

The 2013 Dane County budget adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and signed by the County Executive includes \$1.1 million in NEW county tax dollars for efforts to assist those struggling with homelessness.

This includes:

- \$600,000 in new county tax dollars for acquisition of a permanent day shelter, building upon the county's initial over \$85,000 investment last year to develop the current day shelter services at 827 East Washington Avenue,
- \$30,000 in new county tax dollars to assist in the operations of this new permanent day shelter,
- \$500,000 in new county tax dollars to assist with the development of low-income housing and explore the feasibility of how Dane County could aid in creating new single residency occupancy (SRO) facilities,
- \$30,000 in new county tax dollars to help Domestic Abuse Intervention Services provide overnight shelter for those in abusive relationships who seek emergency lodging, and

- \$30,000 in new county tax dollars to help runaway teens at risk of homelessness.

These historic new investments are in addition to the \$2.2 million Dane County allocated in 2012 to providers like Porchlight, the Salvation Army, the United Way, Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and our other providers who work tirelessly 365 days a year to assist those who struggle with both housing and the underlying issues that contribute to homelessness - - unemployment, drug and alcohol addiction, and mental illness.

Dane County Human Services invests \$7.5 million each year in services to assist those with drug and alcohol addictions and \$24 million to ensure those who struggle with severe mental illness have the opportunity to succeed in life.

We are proposing yet another new effort in our multiyear, multimillion dollar initiative against homelessness. If the County Board and County Executive approve a budget amendment sponsored by Supervisor Carousel Bayrd, the Dane County Department of Human services will seek proposals from non-profit entities for how they would use a \$250,000 Dane County partnership to develop a cooperative housing project to serve at least 20 homeless individuals.

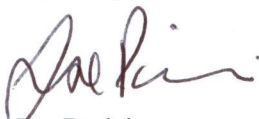
It is our sincere hope the immediate availability of these county dollars will expedite site acquisition and development of cooperative housing and encourage additional public and private support.

Similar to any other public policy matter, these dollars go further and efforts are more effective with partners. That's why we are formally requesting that you and the City Council commit a comparable amount of city funding to this new effort. Given the proximity to services and support networks, such a facility would be most effectively located in the central city, and your support is integral to this succeeding.


No one entity - - neither public nor private sector - - can singularly be effective at addressing the multi-faceted challenges of homelessness. These challenges are shared, and require collaborative and creative solutions.

We hope the City of Madison will join Dane County in this new initiative to help get a few more people off the streets - - and into more stable living situations.

Sincerely,



Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive



John Hendrick, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

cc: Dane County Board of Supervisors
Madison City Council Members