



Dane County Department of Human Services

Director – Lynn Green
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KATHLEEN FALK
DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 11, 2006

Kathleen Falk
Dane County Executive
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53709

Dear County Executive Falk:

This letter formally submits to you the Dane County Department of Human Services' 2007 budget proposal. This budget request is for \$218,634,383 of which \$155,070,244 is outside revenue and \$63,564,139 is General Purpose Revenue (GPR). This represents a substantial increase of over \$4.3 million in the Human Services budget above 2006. This budget proposal complies with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Administration's 2007 Budget Manual.

The Department developed this proposal with the following goals:

- To preserve our core and mandated services at a level that ensures protection and high quality of life for our community's most vulnerable and needy populations
- To continue to meet the needs of current Department consumers while adding new consumers or new services where feasible
- To maximize revenues to the greatest extent possible
- To promote efficiencies and service system changes as alternatives to budget reductions
- To preserve the continuum of services from prevention to intervention to the greatest extent possible
- To be responsive to input from providers, consumers and policy makers regarding priorities and cost control measures
- To fund providers to help them comply with the County's Living Wage Ordinance
- To assist the County in providing safe and adequate working conditions for Department staff
- To strategically align the Department for upcoming reforms in the area of long term care

Once again this year, Department staff formulated this budget proposal in an extremely challenging federal and state fiscal environment. These challenges included:

- Virtually no increases in all major forms of revenue – Community Aids, Youth Aids, Medicare rates, Medicaid rates, COP
- Loss of Community Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming (CBMAC)
- Reduction in IV-Drug funding
- Increased rates that the County must pay for alternate care including a major increase in state juvenile corrections (over 5%), residential treatment (5%), youth group homes (5%), and the basic foster care rate (1%)
- Significant decreases/losses in outside grants such as SIG, Project Safe Neighborhoods, MICCSA, Office of Justice Assistance
- Loss of state support for an income maintenance training position

On the positive side, staff were again able to find substantial new sources of revenue that allowed us to sustain current services and add new initiatives. Examples are:

- Addition of an AmeriCorp Grant
- Increased Energy Assistance funding
- Food Share Employment & Training funds for Hope Haven and the MUM inmate re-entry project
- Increased Children Come First managed care revenue
- Expanded MA Crisis claiming
- Additional revenue from usage of MA Transportation
- Increased Intoxicated Driver Program funding

A goal of this budget was to sustain services to consumers who continue to need our services while accommodating changing demands and trends. This was accomplished in each system through a combination of new revenues, realignment of existing services, Department reductions, innovative initiatives, and efficiencies. This budget reflects the reduction of 12.58 Department staff. Three staff are created totally on outside revenues and position reallocations. Capital outlay needed for the safety and well-being of staff (roof repairs, floor repairs, boiler room repairs, exterior door replacements, Northport HVAC study) and Badger Prairie Health Care Center residents (patient lifts, patient lift accessories, pressure relief mattresses) were funded.

In the children, youth and families system, average daily populations in foster care and Juvenile Corrections were once again reduced due to the efforts of staff and providers. In order to sustain our successful efforts to community-base juveniles, intensive supervision services for delinquents was increased. Two new social worker positions were created in the Department's Children Come First unit with outside revenue in order to enhance services to children and youth with severe emotional disturbance and at risk of institutional placement. Virtually all purchased services were sustained at their 2006 funding level including our valuable prevention and early intervention services.

Due to changing needs and increased demand in the adult mental health system, an additional \$22,900 of GPR and \$587,472 of outside revenue were budgeted for an increase of \$610,372 over last year's budget. The most significant program changes are increased early intervention services for those on waiting lists, the reconfiguration of information and referral and waiting list

management services, and a proposed development of an inpatient diversion facility at a cost of \$550,000. This new facility will avoid hospitalization for individuals who can safely remain in the community and will also help shorten hospital stays by offering a highly staffed residential post-hospital environment to which individuals can be discharged. New Directions, an innovative and highly successful consumer led information and referral resource for individuals with mental health needs, is proposed to take on an expanded role with increased County funding.

Jail diversion programs are fully funded at their 2006 budgets by adding revenues in order to cover some funding reductions from the Office of Justice Assistance and other sources. The AODA system experienced only a slight decrease due to reductions in the MICCSA Grant and IV-Drug funding. New revenue to the system was realized as a result of an innovative partnership with Rock County to jointly fund detox services. The arrangement enables both counties to maintain quality detox services with a current provider at considerably lower costs and with greatly increased efficiency by jointly funding and utilizing Dane County's current facility.

Once again we were able to fully sustain our outstanding \$74.8 million system for children and adults with developmental disabilities (DD) in Dane County. One consideration in this budget proposal was to strategically align this area given early indications from the state of major upcoming reforms in long term care. Both the children and adult systems are proposed for a slight increase over the 2006 adopted budgets despite a reduction in GPR in the adult system. This proposal continues our unique practice of funding high school graduates, and also adds new consumers who have traumatic brain injury, additional high need consumers and the annualized service costs of the 2006 high school graduates and others who received new or expanded services in 2006. The cost for these expansions is over \$1 million. These service enhancements are largely funded through new and innovative efficiencies. These include a MA personal care training program at the Waisman Center and a WI Sustainable Housing initiative to lower housing costs.

Even the non-mandated housing/homeless services are fully funded. Following the recommendation of the older adult focal points, aging case management sustains only a slight reduction with no obligation to collect fees or donations, giving each community the opportunity to explore unique alternative funding options. Services to those with physical disabilities are proposed for a slight increase.

Lastly, this budget proposal reflects the initial step in the creation of a joint City of Madison and Dane County Department of Public Health. Over 16 public health positions in a variety of areas such as administration, Tobacco Coalition, Well Woman, and WIC are transferred to a joint Department budget. Services remaining in the Human Services budget are sustained through a planned increase in environmental health fees.

Despite the very challenging fiscal environment in which human services continues to operate and at a time of increasing service needs, the Department is proposing a budget for 2007 that maintains the high quality human services system that Dane County residents have come to expect and can be proud of. I believe it reflects the value we place on our purchased as well as provided services and the importance of prevention and early intervention as well as core/mandated services.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone whose thoughtful input and hard work made the creation of this budget proposal possible. My special appreciation goes to my fiscal and management staff for their time and dedication in preparing this document. I look forward to working with you as you consider this proposal and develop the County Executive 2007 budget.

Sincerely,

Lynn Green

Lynn Green
Director

Cc: Health & Human Needs Committee
Human Services Board
Long Term Support Committee
Youth Commission
Area Agency on Aging
DCDHS Management Team