



# **Dane County Board of Supervisors Monthly Update May 2020**

## **County Board to take on additional COVID-19 measures**

At the Board meeting on May 7, initiatives to assist the residents and businesses of Dane County with the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed. Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Dane County was provided with a \$95 million payment from the United States Treasury as part of the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund. A contract was approved with Bright Star to provide on-site public health nurse staffing at an isolation site, and on-call medical assessment for foster care placements, shelter home, and other out-of-home care settings as needed. A resolution was approved that provides \$1 million per month to Second Harvest Food Bank in May, June, and July to purchase food to distribute to local food pantries. The Board also considered two items to provide an additional \$10,550,000 for a recently established small business assistance grant being administered by Dane Buy Local.

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## **Parks play role in well-being of residents during pandemic**

As Dane County continues to follow the Safer at Home restrictions the state put in place earlier this year, Dane County parks are playing a critical role in allowing residents to get outside, exercise and enjoy the county's natural beauty. Research shows the impact getting outdoors has on people's mental and physical health. During March and April, Dane County Parks saw an estimated 27% to 36% increase in park visitors from last year at this time. Dane County Parks asks the public to follow some guidelines including bringing hand sanitizer, using parks earlier in the morning, going somewhere else if the park is busy and following social distancing protocols.

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## **Update on COVID-19 federal funding**

The Board heard a presentation May 20 from the Committee of the Whole on the County's use of federal funding to address COVID-19 related expenses. The discussion included initial allocations in response to

the COVID-19 crisis, priorities for the funding Dane County received, and potential changes in guidelines and deadlines from the federal government that could impact decision making.

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## **Board votes on several measures related to COVID-19**

The Board discussed ways to support the residents of Dane County amid the pandemic. "As the County moves carefully to open back up, it is important to remember there are still a lot of people, businesses, and non-profits that have been greatly impacted by this pandemic," said County Board Chair Analiese Eicher (District 3). The Board considered a \$3.5 million contract with Community Coordinated Child Care to provide one-time grants to approximately 500 childcare providers in Dane County. The funds for this contract will come from the CARES funds the County received from the federal government. The Board approved a lease between Public Health Madison-Dane County and the Alliant Energy Center for use of [community COVID-19 testing](#). Board also approved payment of almost \$150,000 for personal protective equipment.

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