

From: [City of Madison](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Item 84, Leg File #82456, Version 2
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:52:06 PM

Recipient: All Alders:

Tue, 04/16/2024 - 15:47

Anne Benishek-Clark
3528 Atwood Avenue
#100

Madison, Wisconsin. 53714 Yes, by email. abenishekclark@gmail.com All Alders Item 84, Leg File #82456, Version 2 Yes, please bring a referendum to City voters on the November ballot. Anyone who pays attention, knows the many ways that the Republican Legislature has tried to cripple our City. Republican legislators know Madison is the economic engine of the state, which they envy. And they hate our progressive politics. I believe voters will agree to raise property taxes to continue the services and quality of life in our lovely city. Thank you, Alder Marsha Rummel, for submitting the language for the Resolution to create the Substitute, to support wage parity for the Municipal Employees, who have served the public, throughout Co-Vid and through hard times.

From: [Shannon Barry](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Zoë Hazen](#); [Kayla Muchka](#); [Mary Donahue](#)
Subject: Written Comments on Resolution 82456 for Common Council Meeting 4.16.24
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 11:50:23 AM
Attachments: [written comment, resolution 82456 Shannon Barry.pdf](#)

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Dear Alders,

Attached, please find my written testimony on Resolution 82456 for tomorrow's Common Council meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Warm regards,

Shannon Barry

Shannon Barry, MSSW

Executive Director

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services)

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Facebook: [Domestic Abuse Intervention Services](#)

Twitter: [@DAISofDaneCo](#)

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24-Hour Help Line: (608) 251-4445



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Written Statement, *neither support or oppose*, Resolution 82456

Establishing Guidance for Developing 2025 City Budget

I was honored to attend the City Council meeting April 15th on behalf of Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) to underscore our unwavering commitment to supporting victims, a commitment we uphold every day at DAIS. However, it is clear that we need to go further. The resolution passed tonight affirms our community's belief in survivors. Yet, at DAIS, we seek more than belief—we need concrete investment. This includes investment in the survivors themselves, in the essential services we provide, and in our capacity to sustain these efforts into the future. We urge the City of Madison to show a generous and steadfast financial commitment to the essential safety net of providers who support survivors.

This necessitates ongoing action from the Common Council. As you approach your budget discussions, I implore you to consider tonight's City Resolution 82834: *Affirming Unwavering Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse*, and strategize on how to effectively implement it. The City of Madison must not only affirm the commitment to believing survivors, but *invest* in that belief.

Currently, DAIS receives \$359,354 annually from the city, which represents 0.125 % of the Madison City budget and constitutes 9.16% of what DAIS needs to run its operation in total over the course of a year. The dollars we receive from the City of Madison are allocated to two programs: One of which is shelter where those dollars constitute 26.9% of the overall shelter budget, the other program is LEAP (Law Enforcement Advocate Partnership) which connects victims to DAIS by law enforcement referrals, of which we received 858 total referrals last year.

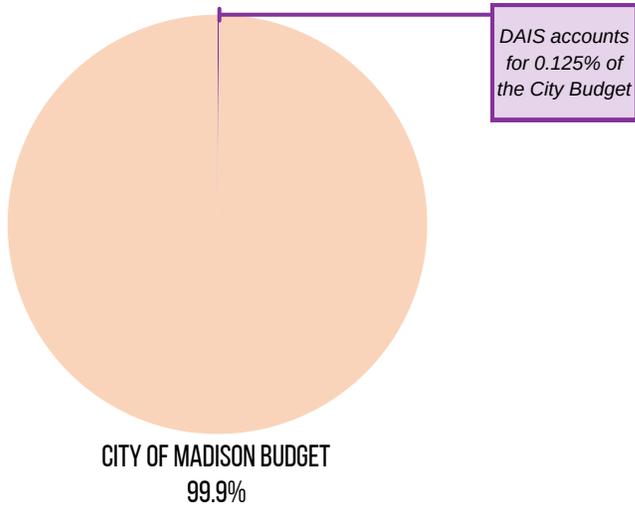
Shelter and LEAP are important, but they aren't all of what DAIS has to offer. We want to emphasize the importance of ALL of the other programs we provide. Simultaneously, we hope you appreciate how critical your piece of it is, because even small percentages of decline across our funding sources can force us into difficult decisions about which services to cut and whom we can help.

On a recent tour with a couple of city alders at our facility, I was asked "What would be lost?" and the answer was really simple. The people on the frontlines every single day; the believers; the people that don't need to be convinced, the dedicated DAIS staff committed to this mission and the work. We would lose a significant part of the safety net that people in this community rely on, and when they go, the ability to provide the level of services goes along with them. Ultimately, we would lose lives.

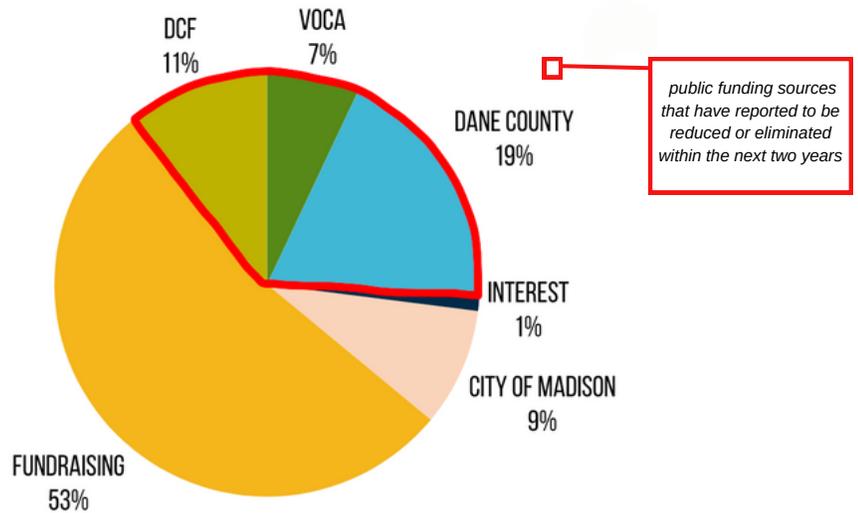
-Shannon Barry, MSW, Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

THE SAFETY NET FOR SURVIVORS: EVERY PIECE IS A CRUCIAL & INTERCONNECTED PART OF SUPPORT

% OF CITY BUDGET ALLOCATED TO DAIS



DAIS FUNDING BY SOURCE



SERVICES SUPPORTED IN PART BY CITY DOLLARS:



The DAIS shelter serves as the only **homicide prevention shelter** in Dane County. The shelter makes up 28.4% of our total operating budget. Of the shelter budget, the city of Madison funds 26.9%. In 2023, DAIS provided 8,695 sheltered nights and over 26,000 meals. Additionally, 60.4% of shelter residents were **children, primarily under age 12**. Our shelter is THE resource to keep safe those most at risk of serious injury or death.



DAIS's Law Enforcement Advocate Partnership (LEAP) program is a formal partnership between Madison Police Department (MPD) and DAIS. Referrals to DAIS are completed by officers responding to domestic violence related calls when an arrest is made. Over the past nine years, within 24-hours DAIS has reached out to 98% of those referred through the program. In 2023 alone, DAIS received 858 referrals.

DAIS IS MORE THAN A SHELTER BED

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS

HELP LINE / TEXT LINE

Our 24/7 crisis Help Line is the portal through which most victims access our services for the first time. In 2023, *we received 8,953 calls/texts and spent over 2,000 hours on the phone.*

PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

DAIS offers workshops, presentations and trainings tailored for specific groups in the community. This includes facilitating MENS Club programming at MMSD Schools which focuses on addressing the root causes of gender-based violence.

PARENT AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

This programming provides trauma informed services to families who have experienced domestic violence and age-appropriate programming to help children process their experiences with violence. In 2023, 742 hours of Kids' Space activities were provided.

CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2019, DAIS established a case management program to address the holistic approach to providing a continuum of services to victims of domestic violence. Last year, Case Managers served over 400 clients.

SUPPORT GROUPS

DAIS currently offers three peer support groups meeting weekly for survivors of domestic violence and are on track to expand the program. In 2023, there were 100 participants in our support groups.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

Legal advocates provide support during restraining order hearings, civil court, and family court hearings, and other legal issues. In 2023, *advocates provided 1,790 hours of support to 874 clients.*

"DAIS helped me harness the strength I already had inside me and build back up the person that had been whittled away... to build back the person that had always been there." - former DAIS client

"I don't watch over my shoulder anymore, and DAIS is the reason." -former DAIS client

