

From: [Tim Conroy](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please reconsider funding cuts to NewBridge
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 5:12:13 PM

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Alders,

Thank you for your service to the City of Madison.

I am asking you to reconsider \$277,000 in funding cuts to NewBridge. This organization serves a diverse group of older adults in Madison. With the proposed cuts we will not be able to support people nor will others getting funding be able to do much.

Madison is growing and gaining more older adults daily. They already live here and more need help.

Please reconsider and restore this funding.

Tim Conroy
1006 Stonebriar Dr, Verona, WI 53593
(City of Madison address, District 1)

From: [candice duffek](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Oppose NewBridge's proposed budget cuts
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:18:24 PM
Attachments: [NewBridge Oppose Cuts Letter.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from candicezd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am reaching out to you to ask that you **OPPOSE** the proposed \$277,970, (44%), budget cut recommendation for Newbridge, and reverse the funding to NewBridge in the 2025 operating budget. It is crucial to recognize and support Newbridge in its valuable role of serving the population aged 60 and older. NewBridge currently serves 3,500 older adults in the City of Madison.

Thank you for your consideration,
Candice Duffek

10/14/2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am reaching out to you to ask that you **OPPOSE** the proposed \$277,970, (44%), budget cut recommendation for NewBridge, and reverse the funding to NewBridge in the 2025 operating budget. It is crucial to recognize and support Newbridge in its valuable role of serving the population aged 60 and older. NewBridge currently serves 3,500 older adults in the City of Madison. They play a significant role in promoting socialization, providing resources, embracing diversity, ensuring proper nutrition, and enhancing overall mental wellness. Personal interactions at the various locations, whether through attending programs, engaging in activities, or having lunch, are incredibly important in promoting wellness and reducing isolation. Without Newbridge individuals would be deprived of access to transportation (RSVP/TSI), nutrition (on-site dining and Home Delivered Meals), opportunities to learn new skills, participate in recreational activities such as playing cards or listening to music, as well as obtaining essential services through community Case Management Services, that currently serves 1,100 older adults. As older adults continue to live in their own homes longer, we see the older segments of the population active with services. Assisting people 60-100 is a large span, with different needs from a younger-older adult, to an older-older adult. The Case Managers are trained professionals who are instrumental in many areas from completing Home Deliver Meal Assessments, assisting with Medicare, Medicare Part D, SSDI, food share, energy assistance, homestead taxes, promoting programs, providing resources, working with individuals with mental health needs, apply for and coordinate OAA Hoarding Funds, connect caregivers to the AAA Caregiver Grant, provide counseling and guidance to caregivers, connect individuals to the Dementia resources. The needs of the individuals have increased, and the case managers have added their skills, time, and efforts. It is unimaginable what is going to happen if the proposed cuts go through, and in the end, there will be even higher costs and other agencies are not going to be able to offer the kind of support Newbridge provides to older adults.

I was a former employee of Newbridge, previously known as South Madison Coalition of the Elderly, for 16 years (1994-2010). My roles included being the Home Volunteer Coordinator and I managed four senior dining centers that included the Madison Senior Center, Quaker Housing, Brittingham Apartments, and Romnes Apartments. I was also the program coordinator for neighborhood senior center programs at Romnes Apartments and Quaker Housing. During my time, we fostered relationships with the Police Department, the Boys and Girls Club, and

many other organizations to help the diverse, lower-income older adults. In addition, the Volunteer Home Chore program may not seem important to someone looking at it on paper, but it is one of the most valuable programs. NewBridge assists with basic household chores to 378 older adults, 35% are BIPOC. There is currently a waitlist of 8-12 weeks with 50 older adults. When a person has chronic conditions, pain, and other illnesses that no longer allow them to be able to clean or take care of their snow removal, it's volunteers that NewBridge has recruited, coordinated, and matched to provide these crucial services. For the client, having a clean environment and a friendly face that you can trust, is so valuable. These are individuals with very low incomes, who can't afford cleaning services. The Volunteer Home Chore Program also has connections with the UW system, as many volunteers are students, churches, and people who live in Madison. Cutting funding from this program will have a huge negative ripple effect that will only cause more problems in the future for the City of Madison to address.

I was also a Volunteer Guardian for two years, and recently have worked with the Volunteer Guardian Coordinator when I was a Case Manager with the Waunakee Senior Center. This is another program that has had a long history and has essentially stabilized so many individuals, from having the potential of repeat hospitalizations, dangerous behaviors such as wandering, and potentially being put in jail. My ward, who had dementia, was being taken advantage of by her daughter, who had stolen over \$100,000 from her. Please look at the big picture of what will be created in the City of Madison with these budget cuts. If you no longer have a Volunteer Guardian program, that currently is serving 33 individuals, The workload will increase on Madison Police Officers, Crisis, APS, and increase in homelessness, among many other negative outcomes.

NewBridge has been serving older adults in Madison for nearly 50 years and has a proven track record. **Please oppose the proposed cuts to NewBridge's budget.**

Sincerely,

Candice Duffek

From: [Judy Fowler](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: NewBridge funding
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:02:52 PM

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Alders,

It is my understanding that there is a proposal, which I oppose, to cut the budget appropriation for NewBridge, which provides services to older adults.

The proposed cuts to NewBridge are:

- **\$138,887** for older adult activities to address social isolation and loneliness
- **\$102,394** for case management - to help low-income older adults access critical resources
- **\$20,563** for home chore/food bridge - to provide food and assistance with basic chores inside/outside the home
- **\$16,125** for volunteer guardian/representative payee – to handle financial responsibilities and medical decision-making

Cutting funds from these programs is a terrible, harmful idea. NewBridge has a long history of providing valuable services in Madison, and residents have, reasonably, come to rely on and appreciate this outstanding organization.

Please vote against any budget cuts to NewBridge.

Judy Fowler
221 Gannon Ave Apt B
Madison 53714

From: [Mary kerwin](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: I oppose cutting funding to New Bridge
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:50:20 PM

You don't often get email from gfood67@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alder,

I am writing to voice my **opposition** to cutting \$277,900 from the city budget that funds New Bridge, an organization that helps older adults and their caregivers in the community. Older adults living in Madison, specifically those on limited and fixed incomes, face many challenges including social isolation and keeping up their homes. The case managers at New Bridge help identify ways to address these problems and identify supports that alleviate these problems. The volunteer guardianship program serves the most vulnerable of our older population by matching them with a guardian when they have no family or friends to serve in this role. The New Bridge case managers can provide case management long after the ADRC does.

As a social worker that has worked for 28 years in this community with older adults, I am acutely aware of the value that New Bridge brings to this population. I worked for the West Madison Senior Coalition for 7 years before it became New Bridge. I encourage you to spend a few hours with a staff at New Bridge to see how they spend their time helping seniors in this city. To cut these programs is to deny services to this group of seniors, who have paid their taxes their whole lives, and deserve to have lifelines to support when they need it.

I live in this city and am a taxpayer as well.

Please preserve funding to New Bridge.

Mary Kerwin
4123 S Sunset Ct
Madison WI

From: [Kristina Kuhaupt](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: NewBridge: Please consider stopping 2025 budget cuts
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024 7:27:23 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from k.kuhaupt@willystreet.coop. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Common Council of Madison,

I am reaching out on behalf of Willy Street Co-op to advocate for NewBridge. We ask that you would consider not cutting their older adult service programs and assistance resources. We would like to advocate for 100% restoration of their budget to help serve some of Madison's most vulnerable population.

I have come to know NewBridge through Deenah Givens, Program Coordinator for NewBridge earlier this year at a Northside Planning Council community event that the Co-op helped sponsor. With one of our stores being on the Northside of Madison, we have been continually been looking ways to integrate ourselves more into the community, and the older adult programs that Deenah helps shepard have been a positive outlet for me to see first hand the wonderful work and assistance this organization provides to our aging Madison population.

It would be a shame to lose such a powerful network of programs that support mental, nutritional, and advocacy foundational resources for a population that is reaching an age where as a collective society we need to embrace, with weekly quality driven resources, which NewBridge does with the highest professional care.

I encourage you to reconsider the original budget proposal to cut NewBridge funding, and rather invest in the elder population that has served us and our community so many years prior.

In respectful cooperation,
Kristina Kuhaupt (she/her/hers)
Customer Experience Manager
Willy Street Grocery Co-op
1457 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703
608.301.7415 (cell)
Ext: 2795
k.kuhaupt@willystreet.coop



PROUD



SUPPORTER

From: [Regina Rhyne](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: New Bridge Cuts!
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 3:29:58 PM

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Dear Alders:

Please, would you all oppose the impending budget cuts to the New Bridge Program, because it provides overwhelming support to many of us seniors that reside in Madison, and throughout Dane County.

The activities are exciting, and the fellowship that we enjoy with other seniors, can't be matched with most other programs available.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Regina Rhyne, M.S.

From: [Heather Sims](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [+district12@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district20@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district11@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district18@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district3@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district15@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district14@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district16@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district19@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district1@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district2@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district6@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district4@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district7@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district9@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district5@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district17@cityofmadison.com](#); [+mayor@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district13@cityofmadison.com](#); [+district10@cityofmadison.com](#)
Subject: Restore Funding to NEWBRIDGE
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:34:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from heathers@newbridgemadison.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Committee Members,

Please do not take the funding away from NewBridge to give to other agencies.

By doing so you will effectively do the opposite of what you intend to accomplish in making the change.

De-funding current programming that has made an impact and works for hundreds of older adults in Dane County each month is not how positive change is made.

In order to support the other programming and have the desired effect of the committee, which from my understanding is creating space for the newer agencies to support the growing population of the older adults, funds should be added to those agencies as they learn how to do the work they have aspired to do.

In this way we can continue to collaborate with the newer agencies and expand the inclusive environment, using the skills and knowledge of each program's team so that all adults are given the best possible opportunities and outcomes for support.

Thank you,
Heather Sims

--

Heather Sims, BSW

Case Manager
Pronouns: *she/her/hers*

NewBridge Madison, Inc.
1625 Northport Dr. #125, Madison, WI 53704
5724 Raymond Rd. Madison, WI 53711
5700 Pheasant Hill Rd. Monona, WI 53716
P: (608) 512-0000 Ext. 3004
F: (608) 299-0700
newbridgemadison.org
Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Sometimes the things that we go through are not so that we can suffer, but so that we can be saved.

NewBridge provides older adults a bridge to successful aging.

Funded by Dane County, City of Madison, City of Monona, United Way of Dane County, and private donors.

Proud partner with United Way of Dane County.

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I will make every effort to respond to your email as quickly as possible, but please allow up to 3 business days for a response. Thank you.

From: [Channing Welch](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Disastrous Cuts To Services for
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 1:48:08 PM

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Older Adults

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to urge you restore the cuts to social services for older Madison citizens.

How is it in your interest to make life more difficult for older citizens and for agencies such as Newbridge?

Hoping you'll go over the budget again and find a way to contribute to the social service agencies as you have done in the past,

Channing Welch