

From: [Virginia Wilcox](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: 85308 - Older Adult Funding Staff Recommendations
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 5:06:39 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

The need for Case Management services for older adults is increasing. The complexity of the needs for the older adults is also increasing. Reducing budget in this area of "greatest need" does not make sense from a staffing perspective or from a community care perspective. What is public money for, if not to meet the needs of the people who need access to social workers and supportive services most?

My Case Management colleagues are already stretched thin with the massive case loads they are brilliantly managing on an on-going basis and in increasing measure. They are dedicated professionals that are non-stop advocates for their older adult clients, persisting in finding resources that can help sustain the lives of the most vulnerable.

NewBridge has shown itself to be a responsible steward of County funds without exception. The effectiveness of NewBridge services is unquestioned. NewBridge takes the greatest care to make sure that the fiscal decisions that are made with County funds are allocated exactly as promised. NewBridge has shown itself to be trustworthy with public funds year after year after year.

Kindly respond accordingly to NewBridge's budget request of \$352,394 for Case Management Services to be able to support the older adults in Dane County. NewBridge needs your support to sustain our dedicated team of social workers. Case Management does everything they can to avoid long waitlists for Case Management Services for our older adults, but if we don't have the funding available...longer and longer waitlists will be the inevitable (but preventable) result.

Additionally, the need for Home Chore and Volunteer Guardian Services and appropriate budget funding of \$136,688 to pay them is absolutely urgent.

Older adults with mobility issues are at greatest risk for having their homes devolve into unsanitary and potentially hazardous health situations if there aren't appropriate maintenance services available. Many of these mobility challenged individuals will not be able to afford assisted living facilities. Home chore helps keep older adults in their beloved homes for as long as possible.

Dane County may find it to be exponentially expensive to tackle the MAJOR clean-up projects that may be required (retroactively) to remedy unlivable home situations that have gone unchecked over time (i.e. more expensive Hoarding Clean-up Grants), while also putting the health of our older adults at risk and causing undue stress because of potential loss of housing for the older adults.

Which would you rather invest in? Home Chore services for older adults as a preventative

measure? Or clean-up services for older adults that have not had access to adequate services and are now living in unsanitary conditions? Prevention is (without question) the answer!

Now is your opportunity to invest in effective and proven services that benefit our community.

NewBridge is committed to providing services that enable older adults to maintain healthy independent living standards, especially those that may otherwise experience threats of eviction because they do not have the physical ability to maintain the cleanliness of their living spaces without a minimum of support.

Kindly, do not put older adults at risk of homelessness by removing their access to NewBridge Home-Chore services.

NewBridge Madison Home Chore and Volunteer Guardian Services is ONLY asking for \$136,688 to maintain the services that are essential to keeping Dane County Older Adults living independently in their homes.

NewBridge Madison Case Management Services are ONLY asking for \$352,394 in order to maintain access for older adults to get their needs met with a highly trained professional that is effective at helping to provide the resources that older adults need to maintain their sovereignty and stay engaged in the community.

No matter what obstacles they may encounter, the older adults we serve will have access to a Case Manager that will ensure that the older adult is not alone in problem-solving pressing issues that arise in their lives. This is a service well worth the investment, ask any of our clients and they will agree.

Please reinstate the budget requirements that NewBridge Madison has requested in the original proposal. In return, NewBridge will continue to meet and (dare-I-say) EXCEED expectations with the effective usage of these Dane County funds.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Thank you for helping to make Dane County the best county in the State to grow older.

--

Virginia Wilcox

Mental Health Peer Support Specialist

Pronouns: *she/her/hers*



For immediate access to other available Wisconsin Peer Services please [CLICK HERE](#).

MHRT Office Locations are at 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. 2003

F: (608) 299-0700

<https://www.newbridgemadison.org/mhrt>

Mental Health Resource program is funded by Dane County.

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From: [Sandra L. Freeman](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Defunding Newbridge
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:09:55 PM

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Good evening, all –

I understand that the city is in Dire Straits for some terribly unfortunate reason, not knowing how to balance the budget, not being fiscally aware anything

I am an angry, senior citizen and I will not tolerate at all Newbridge being defunded.

Susan Watson, my Newbridge Social Worker has literally saved my life a numerous occasions. My family and my friends thank her personally because I am literally still alive.

She has found a new home for me. I moved from rats and bugs to a beautiful new Senior home. She has enrolled in the WISE program where I have a lovely volunteer job at Olbrich

She has prevented me from going into the hospital on numerous occasions she is helped me to acquire a new pharmacy just as far as a search she has provided assistance with filling out

paperwork because of my severe tremors, seriously challenged eyes and cognitive impairment

This is not what you should be doing is taking funding away from senior citizens who are dependent who raised you and now you are turning on us

Shame on you Shame on you shame on you. You have no shame because you would even consider doing this to senior citizens.

Sandra L Freeman

Committee on Aging
Meeting of September 25, 2024
Agenda #2, Legistar 85308

One of the programs not recommended for funding is NewBridge's Older Adult Activity program (request of \$138,887, the same as NewBridge received in 2024). I am writing to urge you to include this program on the list of recommended programs.

The Older Adult Services 2024 Policy Concept Paper states the City "strives to create the necessary conditions for older adults in Madison to age successfully" and that there is "the desire to see that older adults have services and activities that can help them avoid disease and disability, maintain high physical and cognitive function, and reduce social isolation." NewBridge meets that desire through various programs, for example: yoga (which includes a focus on balance to help prevent falls); health screenings; education; recreational and intergenerational activities.

The Policy Concept Paper also says that a City "goal is to ensure that services reach a more diverse population of older adults." The staff recommended programs do reach some very specific populations (e.g., African immigrants and refugees). However, that does not mean that broader based organizations do not serve a diverse population. For example, 23% of NewBridge's participants in 2023 were Black/African American and 14% were Hispanic/Latino. Both of these metrics exceed the percentages reflected in the RFP (Madison is shown as having a 7% black and 7% Hispanic population).

The Policy Concept Paper says one of the challenges that many older adults face in accessing services is the lack of mobility, and suggests "there may be areas in Madison where a more geographically focused approach to service delivery could be considered." NewBridge provides services at a number of locations including Warner Park (about 1 mile from an equity area) and at Meadowridge (within an equity area). Attachment 1 is a map of Madison which reflects the approximate location of the recommended culturally relevant programs and two locations where NewBridge provides services. NewBridge provides services in areas without other older adult services. (Near Warner Park is the targeted Outreach LGBTQ 50+ program.)

Attachment 1 also shows a concentration of services along S Park Street. However, this is not the only area in need of services. Within about 1.5 miles of Warner there are about 6,200 adults age 55 and older (30% of the population). Of those 6,200, about 5,000 are age 60 or older. Of those adults 60 or older, about 7.5% live in poverty. (American Community Survey, Table S1701, 2023 1-year estimates).

One item that does not appear to have been considered is the cost of services. When funding is limited, it may be wise to consider the cost in relation to the number of older adults served. The cost of the culturally relevant services range from about \$300 to \$1,100 per unduplicated person (with the City paying the full cost or part of the cost).

Several programs staff recommended for approval serve persons younger than age 55, one 40 years and older, two age 50 and older. Is it important to distinguish the cost allocated to adults age 55 and older?

How much funding is really available to older adult services? The staff presentation to the Committee on Aging was on 4/17, and the Community Development Division submitted its operating budget request on 7/19. The presentation reflected an Older Adult budget of \$838,039 while the requested operating budget reflects a budget of \$1,563,801. Perhaps the additional \$725,762 is the amount required to fund the Senior Center. If so, it may be time to review whether the Senior Center merits 46.4% of the Older Adult Services budget. The Madison Senior Center Monthly Report for July 2024 reflects 302 year-to-date unduplicated participants age 55+ (in 2023 the count was 279, with 506 by December 2023). With a count of 506 and a 2025 cost of \$725,762 (should the \$725K be for the Senior Center), that is a \$1,434 cost per unduplicated person. At a minimum, the metrics applied to review of the RFP applications should be applied to the Senior Center in order to assess the Center's value.

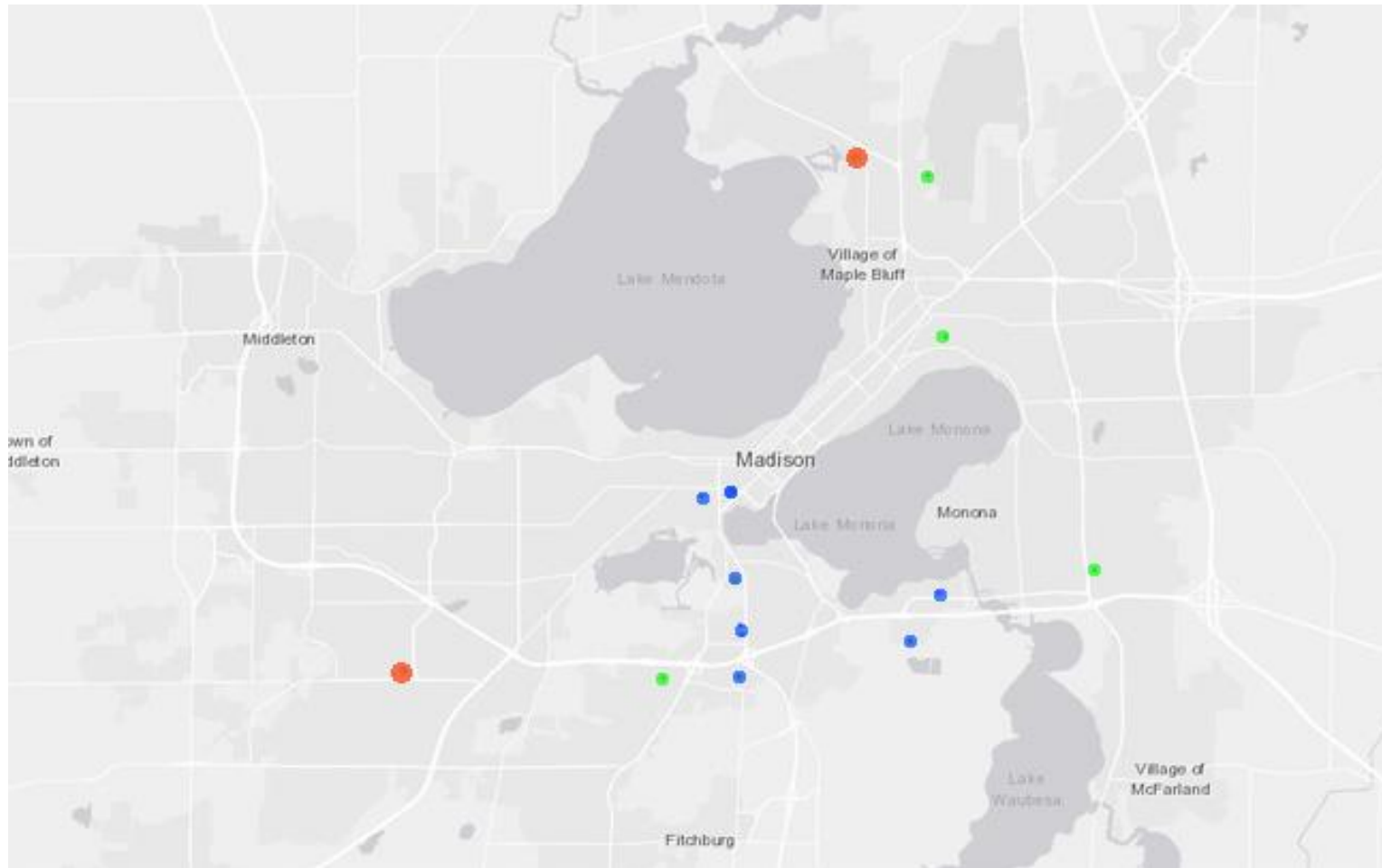
Recommended funding decisions are based on the EQT by Design report. However, data can sometimes be difficult to accurately describe. There are a few inconsistencies that merit mention.

- The Policy Concept Paper, page 5, states: "EQT by Design community outreach highlighted that white, fixed-income, older adults receive high quality services." That is not quite accurate. EQT stated, page 19: "According to the survey results, financial secure older adult respondents have not felt a significant need for services targeted towards older adults." There is a vast difference between fixed-income older adults and financially secure older adults. The average Social Security check to a retired adult is about \$1,900. Though a person receiving the average check is on a fixed-income, that person, at about \$24,000 per year, is not necessarily financially secure.
- The EQT study, page 21, claimed that 63% of older adults take advantage of the older adult programming. While 63% of the 193 persons completing the survey reported participating, 63% of all older adults would be over 30,000 people (American Community Survey 2023 one-year estimates reflect 48,662 persons age 60 and over in Madison, Table S1701).
- The EQT study said, page 21, 61% of older adults reported that the programming and services were close to where they lived. This may be because the survey was heavily weighted by responses from users of the Madison Senior Center (EQT reported, page 30, that 47% of older adults have used or accessed the Madison Senior Center, with another 16% having used the center in the past, but Senior Center data for 2023 only shows 506 unduplicated users).

It is my understanding that Older Adult funding did not increase between 2016 and 2023 and had a 5% increase in 2024. Yet the population of older adults increased by 21%, to about 48,662 adults age 60 or older since 2016. The estimated percentage of age 60+ adults living in poverty went up to 7.9% from 6.3% in 2016. (American Community Survey 2016 and 2023 one-year estimates, Table S1701). Further, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis' inflation calculator has \$1 in 2016 at \$1.31 in 2024. For all these reasons, the Older Adult program could use additional funding.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Lehnertz

Attachment 1



Blue: New recommended Culturally Relevant Service providers

Green: Existing Culturally Relevant Service providers recommended for full/partial funding

Red: Two of the locations where NewBridge provides Culturally Relevant Services

From: [Katie Gallagher](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: I oppose the budget cut to NewBridge - Agenda #85308
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 1:35:59 PM
Attachments: [Pround NewBridge.png](#)
[Picture1.png](#)

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Dear Committee on Aging,

I am asking that you **do not accept** the Community Development Division's recommendation to cut NewBridge's budget by **44% (-\$277,970)**. If enacted, these cuts would lead to over 3,500 older adults served by NewBridge losing access to the services they need to live independently.

As an employee of NewBridge for 15 years and the previous executive director of the West Madison Senior Coalition - I have witnessed the impact of all of these programs. We've been planning on how to increase services to meet the needs of the growing older adult population, not how to reduce services.

As you know, eight new organizations are proposed to receive City of Madison funding for the first time, totaling \$338,039. I support the goals of providing funding for new organizations; however, the solution should not be to shift resources from a well-established citywide organization-it should be to add more funding to the older adult services budget.

Please provide full funding to NewBridge Madison and the 3,500 older adults it serves in your 2025 budget.

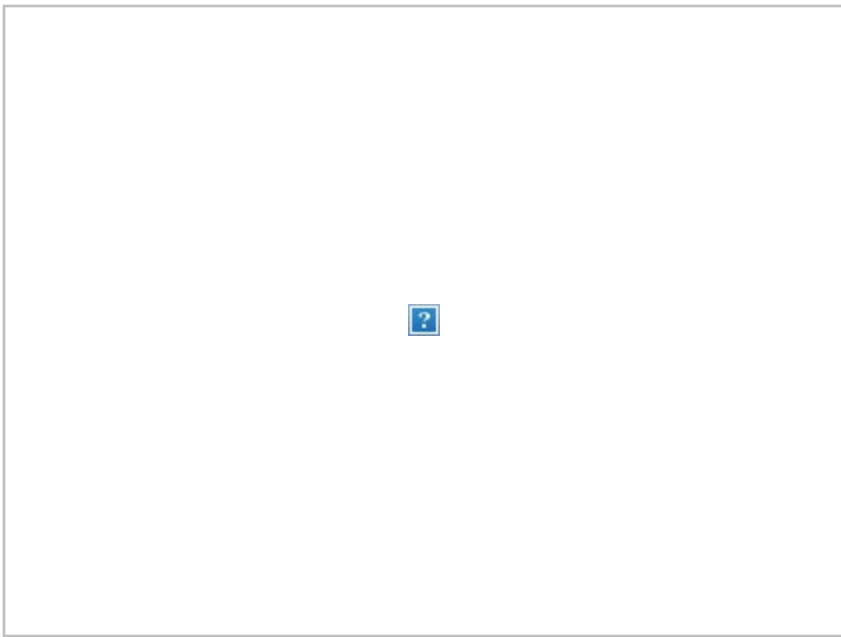
"We should give our older adults the respect and dignity they deserve, for they have made our lives possible"

Please take 5 minutes and watch the video we played at our fundraiser last week.



PROUD
50
NEWBRIDGE
SUPPORTER

--





Let Your City of Madison Alder Know You Oppose the Proposed 44% Funding Cut to NewBridge!

Template-please customize or write your own

Dear Alders and Mayor :

I am reaching out to ask that you oppose the proposed \$277,970, or 44%, funding cut to NewBridge Madison, Inc.

I am one of the Bilingual Case Managers at NewBridge.

NewBridge currently serves 3,500 older adults in the City of Madison. This includes a case management program that provides 1,100 older adults with the support needed to live independently by identifying resources and coordinating services related to housing, home chore, public benefits, food insecurity, and transportation. Support provided through case management can be as serious as securing housing for an older adult who is about to be evicted or helping them apply for energy assistance to keep their electricity on or Home Delivered Meals to make sure they get proper nutrition. NewBridge also assists with basic household chores to 378 older adults - 35% are BIPOC - through its home chore program, which already carries a waitlist of 8-12 weeks with 50 older adults, and assistance with critical financial and medical decisions to 33 older adults through its volunteer guardianship program.

If enacted, the proposed funding cut will likely lead to the return of the 8-10 week waitlist or case management services, a reduction in home chore staff right as we enter the winter season, and the potential end of volunteer guardianship program services to City of Madison residents.

It is my understanding that NewBridge's budget is being cut to provide funding to eight additional organizations. If the City wishes to expand older adult services, they need to provide additional funding in the budget instead of cutting funding from one organization.

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,

Vanina Miguel.

From: [Kim Sprecher](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: NewBridge funding
Date: Monday, September 23, 2024 12:55:34 PM

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Hello,

Group fitness/yoga is extremely popular and needed in our aging community.

I have been teaching chair yoga at Warner Park for NewBridge for over 6 years. We meet once a week and attendance is 35-50 people. Not only is it good for our physical body, but also a sense of community and support. I find it very distressing that these programs for older adults are at risk, when we should be building them up, instead of cutting them out!

Kim Sprecher
608-345-6340

What else can be done to support these important programs and NewBridge!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Beeman](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: NewBridge
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:01:07 PM

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NewBridge provides useful services to older, low-income people like me. I ask that its current level of funding be maintained in the City budget. Thank you.

John Beeman
Romnes Apartments



Support NewBridge in the City Budget Process!

44% Funding Cut Proposed

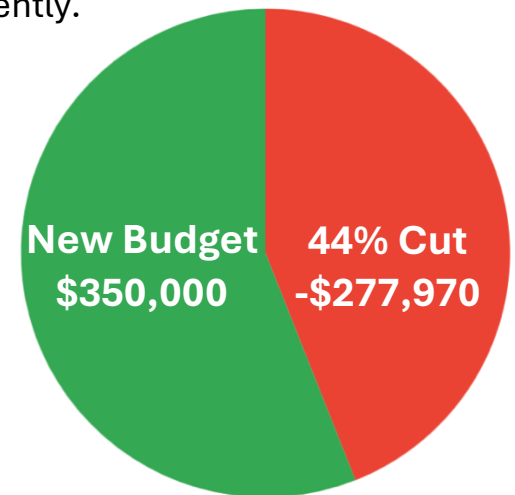
Contact: Jim Krueger, jimk@newbridgemadison.org or (608) 512-0000 Ext. 3005

The City of Madison has proposed a 44% cut to NewBridge

The City of Madison has proposed a **44% cut** (-\$277,970) to NewBridge in the 2025 City Budget. Funding provided by the City of Madison is NewBridge's second-largest source of revenue. Our organization cannot absorb a cut of this size without reducing services to the 3,500 Madison older adults who rely on us to live independently.

Reason for the Cuts

While NewBridge is being cut by \$277,970, the City has proposed providing a total of \$388,039 to eight organizations that have not previously been funded. NewBridge supports funding for new organizations, but believes the City should add more funding to the older adult services budget instead of cutting an existing, city-wide organization with 50 years of experience in successfully serving older adults.



These Cuts Mean Fewer Services Despite Growing Need

1 in 4 Dane County adults will be 60+ by 2040

Case Management **-\$102,000**

- Elimination of 1.5 case management staff.
- Return of 8-10 week waitlist.
- 80-100 older adults will be waiting on help with housing/homelessness, food insecurity, transportation, benefits assistance and more.

Home Chore **-\$20,563**

- Elimination of 0.4 staff that help provide household chores like cleaning and snow shoveling to 378 older adults.
- 35% of whom are from BIPOC communities.
- 8-12 week waitlist of 50 older adults will grow.

Older Adult Program **-\$138,887**

- Eliminates City funding for a program providing health screenings and clinic, exercise classes, education, and recreational and intergenerational activities to 2,000 unduplicated (16,000 duplicated) older adults.

Volunteer Guardian **-\$16,125**

- Eliminates City funding that allows NewBridge to train volunteer guardians for vulnerable older adults.
- 33 older adults will no longer have help with critical financial and medical decisions. Many of these individuals have no one else to turn to.

How You Can Help!

Contact your City of Madison Alder and ask them to oppose the proposed 44% funding cut to NewBridge. Let them know why NewBridge is important to you and what these cuts would mean for you or people you know!

From: [Amy Devine](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Oppose cuts to older adult services Agenda item 85303
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 8:21:12 AM

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Good morning:

I am unable to speak at the meeting tonight but wanted to share my reasons for opposition to cuts to New Bridge, specifically to speak about case management and the volunteer guardian rep payee program. I am a member of the Board of Directors of New Bridge and prior to New Bridge forming, I was on the Board of Directors for EMMCA (the East Madison Monona Coalition for the Aging) for several years. I know the good work of these organizations and do not understand why you would cut funding to high performing organizations, organizations that have a proven track record and run a fairly lean operation, in order to give funding to newer organizations that do not have that track record. I support new organizations but funding should be cut for organizations that have done a good job for the citizens of Madison.

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

I am an elder law attorney in Monona. Many of my clients have dementia or face other health challenges. Many do not have family that are able to support them or some have family but cannot trust family to manage important tasks for them. I am seeing these challenges in my clients more and more. The New Bridge case managers are crucial to helping older adults navigate the very complex systems we have in place, whether it be transportation to medical appointments, finding housing, obtaining public benefits, and more.

I also represent families in seeking guardianship over loved ones. This often happens when someone is suffering from dementia and either does not have powers of attorney in place or has them but they are insufficient to meet that person's needs.

Again, there are many older adults who simply have NO ONE to serve as their guardian and this is where the New Bridge volunteer program steps in. There are corporate guardians, companies that manage many many "wards" (term for someone under guardianship, not my choice in term). These companies are also at capacity and some people do not have the means to pay a corporate guardian. Without volunteer guardians, people will fall through the cracks. Guardianship is a very complex area of the law with specific requirements, especially when it comes to accounting. Court staff tries to assist

guardians in these tasks but they are also stretched thin. Volunteer guardians NEED the support of New Bridge staff to navigate potentially complex issues in these guardianships.

Please do not cut these programs for New Bridge. Thank you for your time.
Amy Devine

From: [ELIZABETH CHAPMAN](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item # 85308
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 12:02:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Hello,

I wanted to reach out to voice my opposition to the proposed cuts to the budget for NewBridge by \$277,970. As a geriatrician, -- a physician who specializes in the care of older adults -- I have been grateful to practice in a city that values public health and services that improve the quality of life for its residents, including the older adults in our community. As you know, NewBridge provides vital resources to older citizens of Madison that cannot be obtained elsewhere. The activities they provide combat the social isolation and loneliness among seniors that have [significant impacts on health](#). Their case management resources provide a lifeline to low-income seniors so that they can access the services they need. Their home chore and food bridge programs provide critical assistance that keep older adults living at home and well. Their volunteer guardian and representative payee programs ensure vulnerable elders have advocates who ensure their medical and financial needs are met. Without these programs, we would see an immediate negative impact on older adults living in Madison. I practice in the hospital and regularly encounter older adults who depend on NewBridge to succeed. Their programs are highly valued by myself and my colleagues as clinicians who seek to promote the health of those aged 65 and up.

Without access to these and other services, there will be costs to the community that likely exceed the savings that these budget cuts might initially yield. I have no doubt that losing funding for these important programs would lead to higher use of emergency services, greater strain on our area food pantries, more use of acute care hospitals and emergency departments, and overall less equitable access to services for older adults with low incomes. I understand that allocating scarce resources is difficult and that the cost of many things has risen in recent years, making it even harder to balance budgets. I ask, however, that we do not place the burden of these challenges on the vulnerable older adult population by cutting funding to the key programs provided by NewBridge.

Thank you,
Elizabeth N. Chapman, MD

Elizabeth N. Chapman, MD



Associate Director, Education and Evaluation
William S. Middleton Memorial VA Medical Center

Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center
2500 Overlook Terrace
Madison, WI 53705

Clinical Associate Professor
Program Director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship
Medical Director, Acute Care for Elders, Geriatric Transitional Care, Post-Acute Care
Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology
Department of Medicine
School of Medicine and Public Health
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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Follow the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology: @uw_geriatrics

From: [Todd Costello](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item #85308
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 12:10:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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I am writing in opposition to the proposed budget cuts to NewBridge (agenda item #85308). The proposed budget cuts to NewBridge will be devastating for Dane County elderly who rely on these valuable services that promote the independence, health, and dignity of our aging population. Newbridge has been very effective in addressing social isolation and loneliness as well as assisting our elderly in navigating an oftentimes complex medical system, for many, these services have been a lifeline not only supporting individuals but families as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Costello MSN, MBA (he/him/his)
Job Title Executive Director
Direct: 608.240.8500
Fax: 608.240.7060
Visit our website: www.clanet.org



Bringing Health, Independence & Dignity Home

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From: [Debra Puzzo](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item #85308
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:22:09 AM

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for NewBridge.

I am a social worker for a local hospital network and my patients heavily rely on NewBridge for services. There is already far too few services for older adults and reducing them further will help no one and nothing. I'm hoping there is a future proposal to increase funding to better serve Madison's seniors.

Thank you for your time,

Debra Puzzo, APSW
Madison, WI

From: [Morrissey, Therese E](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Opposition to proposed budget cuts to New Bridge
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 12:16:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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To City of Madison Community Development Division:

I am extremely concerned about the proposed budget cuts to New Bridge Senior Coalition. I am a social worker in a home-based primary care program and our patients depend on these case management, social activities, home chore/food bridge, and volunteer guardian/representative payee programs to maintain their mental, emotional, social, physical and financial health. And these programs allow older adults to live independently in their own homes. These programs provide a massive cost savings, as we all know, the costs of assisted living and nursing home care is exorbitant and many need to enroll in Medicaid to finance a facility.

Cutting these vital services will severely impact the well-being of older adults in our community.

Therese Morrissey, MSW, LCSW, CCM
She/her/hers
Social Worker
Home-Based Primary Care
ASB, 301 S Westfield Road
Madison, WI 53717
Office: 608-890-6978
Cell: 608-219-3593
TMorrissey@uwhealth.org

UWHealth

From: [Jodie Castaneda](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Opposition to the Proposed 44% Funding Cut to NewBridge!
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:25:28 PM

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Dear Committee On Aging members,

I am reaching out in opposition to the proposed \$277,970, or 44%, funding cut to NewBridge Madison, Inc.

I am the Case Manager supervisor here at NewBridge. I have worked with Dane County and Madison/Monona area older adults for over 18 years. I have seen an increase in need for more assistance throughout these past years vs a reduction in needs. NewBridge Madison is extremely important to the older adults we serve and those in Madison as we are often the first point of contact when a person loses their home, their benefits, access to food, transportation, etc. We are also a source of a hot meal or socialization. NewBridge also provides volunteer services to help older adults in winter clear their sidewalks or driveways of snow/ice or in Spring/Summer/Fall help them keep their yards mowed and clean. The volunteers also help them keep their homes clean, do their laundry for them, or bring them food from the local food pantries when the older adult can no longer go and get the food themselves.

NewBridge currently serves 3,500 older adults in the City of Madison. This includes a case management program that provides 1,100 older adults with the support needed to live independently by identifying resources and coordinating services related to housing, home chore, public benefits, food insecurity, and transportation. Support provided through case management can be as serious as securing housing for an older adult who is about to be evicted or helping them apply for energy assistance to keep their electricity on or Home Delivered Meals to make sure they get proper nutrition. NewBridge also assists with basic household chores to 378 older adults - 35% are BIPOC - through its home chore program, which already carries a waitlist of 8-12 weeks with 50 older adults, and assistance with critical financial and medical decisions to 33 older adults through its volunteer guardianship program.

If enacted, the proposed funding cut will likely lead to the return of the 8-10 week waitlist for case management services, a reduction in home chore staff right as we enter the winter season, and the potential end of volunteer guardianship program services to City of Madison residents.

It is my understanding that NewBridge's budget is being cut to provide funding to eight additional organizations. If the City wishes to expand older adult services, they need to provide additional funding in the budget instead of cutting funding from one organization.

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,

Jodie Castaneda

Jodie Castaneda

Case Manager Supervisor

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

Madison, WI 53711

P: (608) 512-0000 Ext. 1004

F: (608) 299-0700

newbridgemadison.org

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* I will make every effort to respond to your message as soon as possible. Please allow up to three business days for a response. *



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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From: [Ceara Yahn](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Proposed Budget Cut - Agenda #85308
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 12:20:58 PM
Attachments: [IMG_8657.HEIC](#)
[IMG_8658.HEIC](#)

You don't often get email from ceara@artlitlab.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing in staunch opposition to the proposed budget cuts to NewBridge Madison.

I am the Director of Education at Arts + Literature Laboratory (ALL), a nonprofit community arts organization located on Madison's isthmus. I partner with NewBridge on a very successful and impactful project in which senior citizens are transported to ALL's on-site Education Studio to participate in sewing classes, taught by local artists. Each session lasts for multiple weeks and we hold sessions in both English and Spanish. Our Spanish-speaking classes are led by a native Spanish-speaker who taught fashion design at the college-level in Colombia.

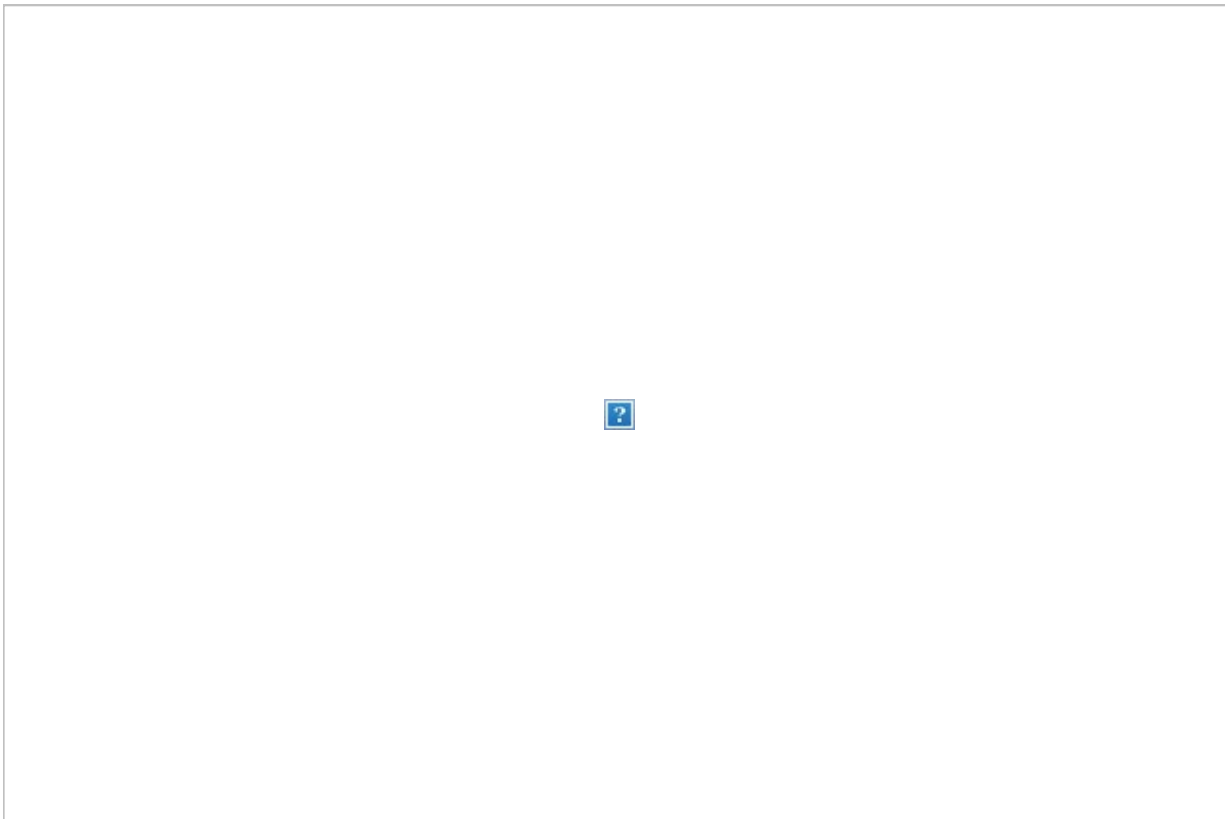
Many of the participants in these classes share the experience of moving to Madison as older adults to be close to their adult children and families. Older adults are among our most vulnerable community members to begin with. For these aging adults, they are facing the additional challenges of attempting to acclimate to a new community, language barriers, transportation barriers, financial barriers, and medical impediments. The Senior Sewing classes at ALL provide these individuals with (a) community, (b) transportation, arranged by and funded by NewBridge, (c) the opportunity to take classes during daytime hours in an accessible, centrally-located arts center, and (d) a change to learn new skills and to exercise their creativity. These classes also pay highly qualified local artists to teach at fair wages.

Valuable friendships, improved mental health, increased confidence - all of these are results of the Seniors Sewing project *and* the countless other similar projects that NewBridge thoughtfully puts on. Seniors are woven through the fabric of our community and, if anything, they need extra attention and funding. When seniors are well-cared for and are able to age with grace and strength, the entire community benefits. Please do not take away from NewBridge's ability to do the critically important work that they do.

I am attaching photos of some of the participants in the NewBridge-ALL Senior Sewing project. The photo in front of the orange wall shows participants from the Sewing for Seniors in Spanish class. The red, blue, and gray collared blouses were made from scratch by the students wearing them, in this class.

I am available to answer any questions or provide more information if needed.

Ceara Yahn
Director of Education
Arts + Literature Lab



Ceara Yahn
Education Director
Arts + Literature Laboratory
111 S. Livingston St. Suite 100, Madison, WI 53703
608.556.7415
artlitlab.org
Pronouns: she / her / hers

From: [Lorrie Hylkema](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Re: funding cut for New Bridge
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:20:55 AM

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I have been a volunteer guardian for New Bridge, which used to be Southside Coalition on Aging, for close to 30 years now. I have been able to help the county during these years provide needed support and legal guardianship for citizens of the county who do not have someone to look out for them when they are no longer able to make decisions, particularly medical, for themselves. I have had 5 people whom I have helped during this time. This saves the county resources, time, and money. I have greatly benefited from this volunteer opportunity. I also see that the needed programs such as food bridge and volunteer home help is extremely valuable, particularly during this time as the aging population increases and the cost of food and rent has risen to the point that people make choices that are not healthy or go without. To take away funding does not make sense to me for an organization like this, who serves our socially isolated and aging population. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I strongly oppose these budget cuts. I personally do not have numbers to back up my position but I have the personal experience of working directly with the New Bridge Volunteer Guardianship Program. I have indirect experience working as a volunteer coordinator for RSVP of Dane County. Making these cuts to New Bridge not only hurts New Bridge and the population it serves but it also affects the partnerships with other organizations such as RSVP of Dane County. My length of volunteer service and satisfaction with New Bridge speaks for itself. I know I am not alone in feeling this way. Sincerely, Lorrie Hylkema.

From: [Grant Gelhar](#)
To: [Committee On Aging](#)
Subject: Restore New Bridge funding
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:25:38 AM

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New Bridge is an important resource for the community. They serve as case mgr to over 1100 and provide 260 programs. They have 400 volunteers who some serve as guardians and rep payees to those in need. They also provide mental health help, home help and nutrition and food. This is an important resource that must be funded.

Grant M. Gelhar, Madison