

**From:** [Ariel Robbins](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Holly Hatcher](#); [eicher.analiese@countyofdane.com](mailto:eicher.analiese@countyofdane.com)  
**Subject:** P&F-O-03 Proposed operating budget amendment re \$50,000 for Saving Our Babies initiative  
**Date:** Monday, October 9, 2023 12:38:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Greetings Finance Committee members,

On behalf of the Dane County Health Council, I'm writing to support the amendment referenced above that would allocate \$50,000 to the Saving Our Babies initiative through funding to the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness.

A \$50,000 contribution would provide critical funding for this growing undertaking that is successfully addressing the worst-in-nation disparities between birth outcomes for white and Black birthing people and babies. The transformative Saving Our Babies initiatives support doula care and diverse maternity care teams that reflect the clients served and address social needs, such as food, housing and stress.

The initiative currently receives financial support from Dane County Health Council members and other funders, and to go on, it needs to recruit new sources of funding to be sustainable. As the budget amendment notes, Public Health Madison Dane County (PHMDC) currently contributes \$9,600 to the \$384,000 budget. Increasing the amount by \$50,000 would elevate PHMDC's contribution to be more in line with the importance of this work to our county to address health equity.

Background:

The Dane County Health Council is a coalition of healthcare providers, government and nonprofits with a mission to eliminate gaps and barriers to optimal health and reduce disparities in health outcomes in Dane County. Council members include Access Community Health Centers, Black Maternal and Child Health Alliance, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, Madison Metropolitan School District, Public Health Madison & Dane County, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, United Way of Dane County, UnityPoint Health – Meriter and UW Health.

Saving Our Babies is a comprehensive cross-sector collaboration launched by the Health Council that brings together health care systems, community organizations and members, public health leaders and service providers to close the gaps in birth outcomes. It centers the voices of Black women to shape resources and solutions in policy and practices affecting Black maternal and child health.

For more information:

<https://www.savingourbabieswi.org/>

Best regards,  
Ariel

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