

From: [Sonja Worthy](#)
To: [Foster, Grant](#)
Cc: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: City Budget
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:32:17 PM

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Dear Alderman Foster,

Thank you for representing us in district 15. I'm a community social worker at Journey Mental Health Center working with individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, substance use concerns, and often significant trauma. I'm writing about the budget hearing today, and although I'm unable to attend for public comment I wanted to send my thoughts that are influenced by my 8 years of experience working in the mental health systems in Madison.

The individuals I work with have had extremely negative experiences with the police. While it's difficult to compile a complete list of experiences, I wanted to provide a few striking examples that have happened in our community. A police officer broke my clients arm while forcibly cuffing her behind her body after she asked to be cuffed in front due to having a bad shoulder that needed surgery. Another officer almost shot a client of mine while he was experiencing a psychotic episode, only when his mom intervened did he switch to using a taser which was used twice and the taser piece was embedded in his collar bone so thoroughly that he had to get it surgically removed. Another client I work with stated last week that she is absolutely terrified by the idea of the police coming to her door, especially if she's suicidal or otherwise in crisis. I've seen officers speak to my clients in ways that are inhumane and disrespectful. And I've thought before that if I ever spoke to my clients like that I would be fired immediately, but it seems the police have a very different bar for what they consider acceptable behavior. While these are just a few local examples, on the national level individuals with untreated mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement (see link below for more details). With these experiences in mind, I'm asking you to oppose the addition of 6 officers through the COPS grant for the protection of some of our most vulnerable community members. As you consider the city budget, I know you will get pressure to support more funding for police and policing, but I ask you to have the courage to take our city on a different path—one that understandings that building a safe community means supporting dignity, humanity, and capacity of some of our most vulnerable community members.

I wanted to highlight the incredible work that our CARES team have done this year. I've seen first hand their successes in deescalating crisis situations, and their ability to get folks connected with much needed treatment and services. I hope you can be a strong advocate for this program to receive the robust funding it will need to thrive and provide care throughout Madison, and hopefully soon to the rest of Dane county.

Thank you for your continued advocacy in these areas. I would be happy to speak further with you on these issues if it would be helpful.

Best,
Sonja Worthy, MSW, APSW

<https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/key-issues/criminalization-of-mental-illness/2976-people-with-untreated-mental-illness-16-times-more-likely-to-be-killed-by-law-enforcement->

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Sonja Worthy
Rae.Sonja@gmail.com
pronouns: they/them/theirs, she/her/hers

From: [Kristina Kuhaupt](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Double Dollars Support for Amendment #8 Testimony 10/31/22
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 4:59:32 PM

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Hello-

Here is my written testimony from my verbal comments tonight - thank you:

10/31/2022 - Madison Finance Committee Budget Public Hearing

Good evening - thank you members of the committee for taking the time today to consider my support for Amendment #8, sponsored by Alder Cole, increasing funding for the Double Dollars program. My name is Kristina Kuhaupt, and I am the Customer Experience Manager for Williamson Street Grocery Cooperative, helping facilitate the Double Dollars program at our three locations throughout the county. In addition, I am a resident of Dane County in the city of Madison.

In my current role at the Co-op, I help advocate, distribute and partner with local double dollars stakeholders to help families stretch their grocery budget and prioritize buying locally grown healthy foods. The Co-op partners with the City of Madison, Public Health Madison and Dane County, and the Community Action Coalition to both fund and provide a program called Double Dollars at participating local farmers' markets, and at all three of our Co-op locations throughout Dane County.

Double Dollars is a supplemental nutrition incentive program which allows SNAP/FoodShare users to utilize their Co-op Double Dollars on Tuesdays from mid October through early March at our locations. For every \$5 you spend using FoodShare/QUEST for any of those eligible items, the Co-op will give you 1 \$5 Double Dollar voucher, up to \$20 total. These extra dollars allow shoppers to purchase any items in our produce department, canned and frozen fruit, vegetables and legumes, and seeds/seedlings for growing edible plants; helping those in our community that are at risk for nutritional insecurity. Our customers help us fund the program by making cash donations at the registers throughout the year, and when shoppers reuse bags for their purchases, the Co-op donates 10 cents per bag to help supplement funding. In FY22, we helped raise over \$66,600 for the program. To give perspective, in FY20 we achieved \$72,890 in donations, but when the pandemic hit, it brought the donation pool down to \$53,632 in FY21, a deficit over \$25,000 in two years due to changed shopping habits and consumers not using reusable bags during that time. We are looking to keep climbing back to pre-pandemic numbers, however, we are not quite there yet.

When this program is paired with our Access Discount Ownership, which lowers the cost of

membership per year, gives 10% off all groceries throughout the entire year and provides a free cooking class, it allows those who are most vulnerable to find the resources they need.

Personally, it has been a rewarding experience seeing the positive impact on our community through this program, and the households that are nutritionally insecure experience the dignity of healthy and culturally appropriate food choices. Without this program continuing, our local food banks will see a higher participation rate, FoodShare dollars would potentially not stay in the local economy and local food suppliers would not see the positive financial impact of Double Dollars. Thank you again for considering supporting Amendment #8! Every dollar we are asking for goes directly to client benefits, positively affecting Dane County families, farmers and our local economy! I am available to answer any questions at this time.

Kristina Kuhaupt (she/her/hers)

Customer Experience Manager

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From: [Lindsey Karls](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Personnel and Finance Committee - Public Comment in Support of HHN-O-10 and HHN-O-11
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 4:33:22 PM
Attachments: [cac_icon-orange-rgb-75x100at96dpi_d7edb3cc-0069-4fd8-9fdb-8ae911652040.png](#)
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[Written Testimony_City of Madison_Lindsey Karls.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached is my public comment regarding agenda item 73845 – 2023 Executive Operating Budget. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you!
Lindsey Karls



Lindsey Karls
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**Community Action Coalition for
South Central Wisconsin**
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Tell us how we are doing! [Click Here](#) to complete a short survey about your experience with CAC.

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Hello Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information regarding the Double Dollars program administered by Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (CAC).

My name is Lindsey Karls, district 24 resident and Community Programs Manager representing CAC. I am glad my role at CAC allows me to work on the Double Dollars program, which provides low-income community members with matching dollars for a portion of their EBT or FoodShare benefits – at participating Dane County farmers’ markets and at all 3 Willy St Co-op retail locations.

Double Dollars empowers community members with lower incomes to support local retailers and to participate in Farmers’ Markets, which are one of Madison’s most loved traditions. The program also increases the revenue that local vendors and farmers take home at the end of a market day. During a time of increasing grocery prices, Double Dollars helps ease the impact on EBT clients – while also increasing access to healthy and affordable local foods for Madison and Dane County families. Since 2013 Double Dollars has grown in popularity and we now disperse roughly \$140,000 in client benefits in a season. Our data shows that nearly all of Madison and Dane County zip codes are represented among our Double Dollars clients. It also shows that a high level of our users live in low-income and low-food access census tracts throughout Madison and Dane County. We’re very happy to serve these clients but we believe we could serve them and other SNAP users more equitably if we had more capacity to expand to additional markets throughout Madison and Dane County.

I know quite a bit about this program through my current work, but I was also a client of the program back in 2015. At the time I worked as an Americorps VISTA for Centro Hispano of Dane County, assisting with their wellness and healthy eating initiatives – including Centro’s farmers’ market, which participated in Double Dollars at the time. The Double Dollars program was helpful for me when I needed it most, and I was able to interact with a lot of clients who were excited to use the same program. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused Centro to pause its market. They have recently started to operate their market again and we hope to offer for them to re-join the Double Dollars program as soon as capacity allows.

The pandemic also saw a marked rise in FoodShare participants utilizing Double Dollars. Double Dollars redemption has increased from \$97,000 in 2018 to over \$134,000 in 2021. The program has gained in popularity year after year, with demand regularly outpacing available funding – sometimes causing the Double Dollars distribution to be cut off before the planned distribution end date. During the pandemic CAC was able to offset funding shortfalls with money from the federal CARES Act. Those funds will no longer be available next market season.

CAC is incredibly grateful for the funding we've received in the past and continued funding from the City of Madison, Dane County, federal grants, and private donations. Unfortunately, this funding coupled with our reserves will leave the 2023 program at least \$45,000 short of maintaining 2022 funding levels – and even more short of rising demand levels. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we face uncertain economic times that will impact our low-income community members the most. Federal pandemic benefits have been reduced to pre-pandemic levels but the need has not decreased. The Double Dollars program helps meet the needs of individuals facing decreased EBT benefits while also supporting local vendors and bringing community together.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions regarding the Double Dollars program. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Karls