

From: [Gail Bliss](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:38:48 PM

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Dear committee members

I recognize that Dairy Drive was created as a temporary location. I also understand that it has been wildly successful at working with chronically homeless individuals who have been unwilling or unable to get necessary help in large congregate settings. With over 75% of those leaving Dairy Drive going to positive living situations, this seems like a plan that has really worked. The city/county does not have enough places to serve this population, so shutting down Dairy Drive just because it was created as a "temporary" location without an alternate solution for these people does not make sense.

It is also my understanding that there is an opportunity to continue operation thru next April without additional funding from the city. It seems like eliminating 28 or 29 spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness as cold weather is approaching is cruel and unnecessary. If Dairy Drive is closed these individuals will be less well served, harder to find because street outreach will be out looking for them instead of serving them where they are congregated.

I have heard that Dairy Drive is "expensive." The city put \$179,000 into Dairy Drive last year. That is \$6,400/person (assuming 28 residents). The new men's shelter will cost the city \$1,500,000 for 250 residents or \$6,000/person. If Dairy Drive is able to move dozens of residents from homelessness to housing that seems like a good deal for the extra \$400/year. Residents at Dairy drive have a safe place to be 24 hours a day, a key to their own space, staff to help them get their life on track. They aren't in a doorway somewhere generating police calls. I recognize the residents of the Dairy Drive camp also generate some demand for police/ambulance/CARES services, but not as much as they would if back on the streets.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support continuation of the Dairy Drive campground, at least thru the winter, and hope funds can be found to continue it in the mix of services in Madison long term. It is short sighted to spend money to demolish these still functional units when we don't have anywhere else for the residents to go

Sincerely

From: [Carolyn Virginia](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 6:44:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carolynvirginia7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Madison City Alders and Members of the Community Development Block Grant Committee:

I am writing to ask that you extend the funding for the Dairy Drive Campground at least through the winter of 2025-26 and until the new Men's Shelter on the northside is complete and open for residents.

I am a retired RN who has volunteered with Madison Street Medicine for over 10 years. As a nurse I feel an obligation to serve the most vulnerable population, the unhoused folks in my community.

At this time, I am very concerned that the Dairy Drive Campground could be closed at the end of this September (right before winter) due to lack of funding. But I now understand that it is within your collective power to extend that funding for the near future (upcoming meetings Sept 2 and 4, 2025) It would be truly be an act of kindness and compassion on your part to extend this funding. Are you really willing to turn these residents out into the cold?

With all that is going on Washington DC these days, many look at our government agencies with disappointment and disbelief. I believe this is your opportunity to outshine them all and demonstrate how it should be done!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Virginia, RN

From: [Marilyn Feil](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Please support Dairy Drive
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 1:47:33 PM

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Hello CDBG Committee members:

I am emailing to urge you to support the continuation of the Dairy Drive campground for 4 more years. In this time when homelessness is increasing and the outlook for federal help is diminishing, we need to maintain our local resources that house and assist those without housing, and not demolish them.

Dairy Drive has already been constructed and paid for. All that is needed are the funds to operate it, which is already partially covered by a federal grant and expected funds from the county.

If 4 years is not possible, at least extend the contract with Madison Street Medicine to operate the campground through April. While Dairy Drive has a 70% success rate in placing its residents into housing, there are still people living at Dairy Drive with no where else to go. Keeping Dairy Drive open through April would be at no cost to the city (the county has pledged funds) and would give people a place to live during our coldest months.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Feil
3634 Alpine Road
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Joshua White](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Cc: [Matthews, Julia](#)
Subject: Save Dairy Drive Campground!
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:11:30 PM

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

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the potential defunding and demolition of the Dairy Drive Campground. As the Clinical Director of a community mental health services agency in Madison, I have personally witnessed the impact the tiny home experiment has had on our community members. Housing First, as a model, has demonstrated significant long-term benefits and outcomes over shelter "housing" and should be adopted permanently. I also live close to the Occupy Madison location on N 3rd St., which, in my opinion, effectively integrates folks struggling with housing insecurity into our community.

In addition to this, I understand the city of Madison has recently taken issue with Madison Street Medicine's medical vending machine and food pantry. We cannot label ourselves as a progressive city while systematically dismantling the parallel systems created by community members to support each other and survive. I ask simply that you uphold the progressive values we elected you to enact or move out of the way so our community can care for itself.

Thank you,

Joshua White (He/Him)
Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC)
M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
M.S. Forensic Psychology
joshuawhitetherapy@gmail.com

If you are in crisis, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room.

Crisis Hotline: 1(888)7-WE-HELP or 1-888-793-4357

Suicide Lifeline: 1(800) 273-8255 text: 741-741 or <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

National Suicide Hotline - 988

The Trevor Project - 1-866-488-7386

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From: [Randy Coloni](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Support for 4 years funding for Dairy Drive Campground.
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 11:37:36 AM

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We desperately need dairy drive at least until we have a viable and realistic imminent plan for how to deal with the homeless that will not be accommodated in the upcoming shelter. It makes no sense to demolish a functional homeless services facility when one is desperately needed. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: [Madalyn Grau](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Support for Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 11:59:53 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my fervent support for the Dairy Drive Campground. This space functionally houses people who desperately need it, many of whom are biding time until they can get into an affordable, more permanent unit. We are a community that can and should take care of one another, and this demolition leaves our most vulnerable members behind. Please allow the encampment to continue through April of 2026 (winter is upon us and to leave people without shelter in the Wisconsin cold is unbelievably inhumane). Additionally, if the campground persists, I urge the city to continue funding for the next four years. As a city we have far to go before we meet our rapidly growing housing needs, and this is the absolute bare minimum we can do. The need will only grow as our federal government disinvests in essential services and wealth inequality deepens across the United States. Madison is not invulnerable and we need to take care of our own.

Thank you,
Maddie Grau

From: [Jamie Buisse](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Support for Dairy Drive
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 1:45:47 PM

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am a Madison resident and I support funding for Dairy Drive. I am concerned for the wellbeing of the recipients of this program if it were to disappear without an alternative option. In my opinion destroying this empcampent will damage the health, well-being, and connection to care. It will also cause trauma and worsen mental health conditions. This program offers safety and care to a vulnerable population. From my observation it appears the residents of Madison overwhelmingly support this program.

Please continue to fund Dairy Drive!

Thank you,

Jamie Buisse

From: [Marsha Rummel](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Cc: [Harrington-McKinney, Barbara](#); [Mayer, Davy](#); [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#)
Subject: Support 89779 to extend contract for Dairy Dr Temporary Campground and amend 89724 to add funds for Dairy Dr
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 4:31:58 PM

marsha.rummel@gmail.com appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#)

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Greetings CDBG members-

I sent the following email to all alders and wanted to share my thoughts with you. I support Alder Mayer's proposal, legistar 89779, agenda item #6- Extending the contract between the City of Madison and MACH Onehealth, Inc. dba Madison Street Medicine to provide those services and extend currently allocated funding through April 2026, at an additional cost of \$0 dollars from the City of Madison, and authorizes the use of up to \$100,000 of additional funds from Dane County to pay for those services.

In addition, if you vote to support extending the contract in 89779, please amend agenda item #4 89774- Authorizing the allocation of approximately \$3.5 million of combined City and Federal funds among seven non-profit agencies to support the provision of homeless services and housing resources beginning in 2026 - to add funds for Dairy Dr.

We need a more long term solution but at minimum, please add resources to help Dairy Drive through spring of 2026 and leverage potential county funding. The city funding that would be allocated for demolition and site restoration (est \$220K) could be redirected to pay for services at the campground in the short term.

Help answer the question of where unhoused people are supposed to live. Utilize the existing infrastructure at Dairy Dr until you have more answers.

Thanks for your service-

Marsha Rummel
Spaight St

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marsha Rummel** <marsha.rummel@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 4:18 PM
Subject: 89274 Dairy Dr Temporary Campground - oppose demo
To: <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Dear Alders-

I support keeping, not demo'ing Dairy Drive campground, through next spring at least. You have received dozens and dozens of thoughtful emails and I share the general sentiment of not destroying housing without a plan for where people are going to sleep safely. The housing

there may not last forever but it certainly has a more useful life. Please don't throw away this valuable space using what's left of valuable ARPA funds.

The expectation is that the new men's shelter will be under capacity as soon as it opens based on current usage so let's keep the current temporary shelter on Zeier Rd and the temporary campground on Dairy Dr ready to use for as long as possible.

I appreciate Alder Mayer's initiative to find solutions and urge your support.

Thanks for your service-

Marsha Rummel
1029 Spaight St.

From: [Douglas G Olk](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Closure
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 4:34:19 PM

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Dear Madison City Alders and Members of the Community Development Block Grant Committee:

I am writing to ask that you extend the funding for the Dairy Drive Campground at least through the winter of 2025-26 and until the new Men's Shelter on the northside is complete and open for residents.

I am an Urgent Care Physician here at the University. I have been here for 2 ½ years, having moved from Dubuque, IA after practicing there for 34+ years. When I moved here I was quite impressed with the collaborative effort that had made by the City of Madison, Dane County and Catholic Charities to provide services for those experiencing homelessness.

Seeing this, I readily volunteered at The Beacon and with Madison Street Medicine.

It really motivated me.

I am still very involved with both and have continued to advocate for them, helping to recruit many new volunteers to help with services.

I was, however, quite disappointed to learn that the Dairy Drive Campground would be closed at the end of this September (right before winter) due to lack of funding.

I also now understand that it is within your collective power to extend that funding for the near future (upcoming meetings Sept 2 and 4, 2025)

I think you can agree that it would be truly be an act of kindness and compassion on your part to extend this funding.

Are you really going to turn these residents out into the cold?

How is that going to look?

With all that is going on Washington DC these days, many look at our government agencies with disappointment and disbelief.

I think this is your opportunity to outshine them all and show them how it

should be done.

Doug Olk, MD

From: [Caelyn D](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Block grant committee
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 5:04:51 PM

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I am emailing my support for agenda item #6 and believe we need 4 more years of dairy drive if there is nowhere better for our unhomed neighbors to go, winter is rabidly approaching and it would inhumane to force even more people to try to survive outside in winter conditions.

I also am against item #4 that doesn't include dairy drive in its service funding recommendations. Dairy drive should be funded for another four years at 179,500 dollars per year.

Please don't abandon your unhomed constituents they have the right safety and shelter just like we all do.

Zade
Sent from my iPhone

From: [M. Sweetnam](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Concerned Community Member - M Sweetnam
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 5:04:53 PM

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Hello,

I'm reaching out as a concerned community member. I'm writing regarding item #6 to extend Dairy Drive through April 2026. This minimum timeline is needed to support Madison Street Medicine in helping to find housing for the community members currently residing at Dairy Drive, and to make sure that these residents have a safe space to live during the winter months.

I also strongly encourage you to support ongoing funding for the program, as it has been a highly successful housing program. Dairy Drive offers a great opportunity as an intermediary space for unhoused community members to have stable safe living space while accessing needed support services, and to ideally work towards securing long term housing, work, and other needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
M Sweetnam