

**From:** [Mary Gorman](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda #85469 New Bridge budget cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6:17:31 PM

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Regarding budget cuts to New Bridge, please consider impact on older adults.

For 2 years, I've belonged to a story telling group hosted on zoom by New Bridge. Older adults while maintaining health or managing chronic conditions and illness still need connections with people. With efforts to stay out of costly facilities and avoid the isolation that often occurs with such transitions, connecting thru programs with other adults becomes a vital component to aging.

New Bridge offers help by facilitating connections among older adults in many ways, connections that are personally meaningful to them. For those who can travel, they can share meals. For those who cannot travel, they have a caring and resourceful caseworker who can help. Sharing ideas alone can be helpful but coordinating possibilities for finding companionship are irreplaceable.

Mary Gorman  
[mmgorman14@gmail.com](mailto:mmgorman14@gmail.com)

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

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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:** [Jill McHone](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** New Bridge Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:20:06 AM

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Dear Madison Alders,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed funding cuts to New Bridge Madison. These drastic cuts will have significant negative consequences on the older adults who rely on New Bridge services each and every day. These cuts will also put valuable and experienced employees out of work.

New Bridge has been serving older adults for over 50 years by providing critical case management, home chore and guardianship services, a wide range of activities to reduce social isolation and so much more. As the Fitchburg Senior Center Director for over 20 years, I know first hand the value of long term relationships that have been built not only with seniors, but with other social service agencies, local businesses, volunteers, funders, etc. If these proposed cuts are enacted, these relationships will suffer and result in more long term costs to the City.

While I recognize the value of investing in other service providers, these proposed cuts are extreme. How will continuity of care be handled? How long will it take for other services providers to add staff to handle the increased demands for services? Will there be standardization "across the board" to ensure agencies are held accountable and provide consistent services to our most vulnerable population?

I feel the social fabric of the Madison community of older adults is in jeopardy with this quick decision. As the older adult population continues to grow and service demands are higher than ever, I urge you to reconsider these funding cuts and explore options to increase funding for all.

Sincerely,

Jill McHone,

Jill McHone, Director  
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*(Pronouns: she/her/hers)*

*National Senior Center Month 2024*  
*Powering Connections*

Celebrating September as  
National Senior Center Month

