



Office of the Common Council

16 February, 1993

To: Council Members
From: Jack Hopkins

Subject: Social Services Funding

Most of us have discussed the question of social services funding, either in the Social Services Committee (which has met twice) or individually. I would like to summarize the discussions of the committee so far, in order that we may act soon to take final action on the matter.

The committee reached a consensus on the following criteria to be used for choosing appropriate programs for funding in the 1993 budget year:

1. The focus should be on previously identified priority areas.
2. Programs or projects should be such that a one-time investment will make a substantial difference.
3. Priority should be given to projects or programs where investments now will have a positive long-term spillover effect (such as reduced susceptibility to other diseases, decreased absences from school, reducing lost time for sick child care, etc.)
4. Capital should be leveraged wherever possible by watching from other sources.

The Social Services committee concluded that the Community Health Program meets all these criteria. Appropriation of the available 1993 social services funds for the Public Health Nursing Association would enable the PHNA to carry out a drive for complete immunization of all children in Bloomington and Monroe County and enable the consolidation of three separate locations into one building, which would save substantial funds in the process. The possibility of leveraging the investment through Community Foundation's Lilly Endowment grant is being pursued. In addition, a substantial additional appropriation from Monroe County makes the Bloomington investment particularly timely and effective.

I would appreciate your comments before any final action is taken to introduce an appropriation ordinance for this purpose.