

Statement of Support from La Crosse Library Board of Trustees

October 7, 2021

The La Crosse Library Board of Trustees supports the use of American Recovery Act funds for the reinstatement of 3 Library FTEs eliminated due to budget cuts that were a direct result of pandemic related income losses.

Library services and resources are essential to our community's recovery from the effects of the pandemic, including their need for community connection, access to information and technology, job skills, direction on how to find and access community housing services, mental health assistance and more.

Despite the incredible impact reduced staffing and hours has had on our ability to provide service to the community, the library has continued to evolve to meet the needs of our citizens in new ways, offering enrichment, continued access to materials, relationship building, and assistance in everything from storytime to workforce development. However, the hours of service we can provide to the community have been significantly reduced by loss of staff resulting from pandemic cuts.

Without the utilization of ARPA funds, there will be no opportunity for continued growth. Our hours of service will remain stagnant, limiting access for those who use our building as their one truly free community space.

With ARPA resources, the library could hire a Community Connections librarian to begin to collaborate with our city resources more efficiently and effectively. Additionally, the use of mobile services to reach those most impacted by the pandemic and related recession could become a reality.

We hope that you, like us, see the continued value to the entire community in reinstating some of the funds disproportionately removed from the library allocation in 2020.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Anglehart, Library Board President

On behalf of the La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees