

Resolution approving an appropriation of the City's ARPA monies earmarked for childcare to go towards a second-year contract with The Parenting Place.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City was awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed a Resolution on January 13, 2022 appropriating some of these ARPA funds to promote healthy childhood environments through improvements in childcare, mitigation of health disparities, and improvement of living and recreation environments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed a Resolution on March 10, 2022 further specifying the funding amounts and uses for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, City staff has been continually engaged with multiple stakeholders and child care experts regarding the best usage of the City's ARPA monies allocated to address childcare, and in part due to the complexity of this issue and the ever-changing dynamics in play, the City recognized the need to have a dedicated entity to directly oversee the success of the City's childcare initiatives over the lifetime of the grant period for ARPA; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified The Parenting Place as the sole entity to oversee this project, and documented justification to meet the sole-source threshold, and part of that justification includes that there is "no other entity within La Crosse County that is doing this work: coordinating efforts of childcare, working directly with all providers, supporting parents and children, has complete familiarization and expertise of 'nuts & bolts' of childcare (licensing, financial resources and programs available, regulations, etc), and facilitates data collection and child care referrals"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution 22-0805 allocating \$350,000 of ARPA funds to The Parenting Place to facilitate the first year of a multi-year comprehensive initiative to improving the wholistic childcare industry for all in the City of La Crosse: parents, providers, childcare employees, community stakeholders, and children; and

WHEREAS, the first year of this initiative was successfully implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse to allocate \$400,000 of ARPA funds to The Parenting Place for the second year of facilitation of a multi-year comprehensive approach to improving the wholistic childcare industry for all in the City of La Crosse: parents, providers, childcare employees, community stakeholders, and children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$104,075 will come from the funds referred to as "increased capacity for efforts with childcare" and the remaining \$295,925 will come from the funds referred to as "support and grow the childcare industry" allocated via Resolution 22-0259.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this work will be carried out in compliance with all items include in the attached contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Director of Planning, Development and Assessment are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.