

Resolution appropriating ARPA funds in the amount of \$60,000 in connection with Legal Action of Wisconsin's project entitled Eviction Defense Project to establish a service to provide free legal assistance for families that are at risk of eviction.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Legal Action of Wisconsin has an Eviction Defense Project which provides free legal advice to help to low-income tenants facing eviction. Those services include on-the-spot legal assistance at the courthouse including consultation, legal advice, negotiation and settlement assistance with limited in-court representation, (excluding representation at the eviction hearing), and

WHEREAS, said program would help tenants communicate more effectively with landlords and can help them stay in their homes or soften the blow when eviction is necessary by helping tenants plan their departure in healthy ways, and

WHEREAS, the Eviction Defense Project Anticipated Process Roadmap is attached to further explain the project, and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County and the La Crosse Community Foundation have partnered with Legal Action of Wisconsin, each providing a \$60,000 grant for the first two years start-up and operational costs of the Eviction Defense Project, and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse has ARPA funds designated through Resolution 22-0259 for "investment in housing and neighborhoods serving the hardest hit families including those impacted by homelessness."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby appropriates \$60,000 from ARPA funds designated through Resolution #22-0259 with \$30,000 of said funds to be used to help fund operational costs of the Legal Action of Wisconsin Eviction Defense Project in La Crosse County in 2024 and \$30,000 to help fund operational costs of the Legal Action of Wisconsin Eviction Defense Project in La Crosse County in 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior to expending the 2025 funds, Legal Action of Wisconsin shall provide a report summarizing the successes and challenges encountered during the 2024 year of operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Department and other City staff are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.