

Resolution approving an appropriation of the City's ARPA monies earmarked for childcare to go towards a one-year agreement 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 21-1732 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 22-0259 on March 10, 2022 further specifying the funding amounts and uses for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, City staff have been in conversations with multiple stakeholders for several months 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 has recognized the need to have a dedicated entity or group of people to directly oversee the success of the City's childcare initiatives over the lifetime of the grant period for ARPA; and

WHEREAS, the City previously facilitated another ARPA-funded initiative, the La Crosse Community Foundation project, with a similar structure: leveraging a local expert entity that is best positioned to carry out the work to reach the City's overall goals for the funding; 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".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse to allocate \$350,000 of ARPA funds to The Parenting Place for the first 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 this work will be carried out in compliance with all items include in the Grant Program Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to signed said agreement.

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.