CITY OF LA CROSSE

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LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL

File ID 23-0826

Caption Resolution allocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Homeless Outreach Team.

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Brian Sampson, Homeless Services Coordinator, Department of Planning, Development and Assessment

Requestor of Legislation

Homeless Services Coordinator Brian Sampson

Location, if applicable

City of La Crosse

Summary/Purpose

To fund Independent Living Resources for two full-time Outreach Workers for the calendar year 2024.

Background

Independent Living Resources currently employs two full-time Outreach Workers who cover the entire city of La Crosse. The Outreach Workers meet with unsheletered individuals regardless of where they're staying in La Crosse, build relationships with them, and help connect them to services and potential housing opportunities. Some of the locations they visit include parks, parking ramps, and the marsh. In the past 24 months, their two Outreach Workers have helped 64 people get into housing, and many more connect to services.

Independent Living Resources runs out of funding for this team at the end of 2023. With the City and County of La Crosse entering into a partnership to corodinate a community-wide plan to address homelessness, it would be a setback to homeless response efforts to lose the local capacity to provide outreach to the individuals and families on the Coordinated Entry list. This list includes 290 individuals and families, including approximately 80 who are sleeping outdoors in the City of La Crosse.

Fiscal Impact

$155,000 from ARPA funds designated to addressing homelessness in resolution 22-0259.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend to approve.