

Resolution approving an appropriation of the City's ARPA monies earmarked for childcare to go towards a final ARPA-funded 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 amounts and planned uses of funding with a childcare initiative, based on knowledge available at that time; and

WHEREAS, City staff has been continually engaged with multiple stakeholders and childcare 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

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution 22-0805 allocating \$350,000 and Resolution 23-0690 allocating \$400,000 of ARPA funds to The Parenting Place to facilitate the first two years of a multi-year comprehensive initiative to improve the wholistic childcare industry for all those impacted in the City of La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, the first two years of this initiative was successfully implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Common Council of the City of La Crosse approves \$1,220,000 of the remaining childcare ARPA funds to be provided to The Parenting Place to facilitate the final ARPA-funded years of the Child Care Development Project.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$445,000 allocated to "financial incentives for home improvements made to in-home childcare operations" via Resolution 22-0259 be re-allocated to funds referred to as "support and grow the childcare industry" to allow for a more impactful and sustainable use of these funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$305,076 of the \$1,220,000 will come from the funds referred to as “increased capacity for efforts with childcare” and the remaining \$914,924 will come from the funds referred to as “support and grow the childcare industry” allocated via Resolution 22-0259.

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.