



LA CROSSE COUNTY
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Human Services Department

July 30, 2024

RE: La Crosse County Partnership with The Commonwealth Companies

Commonwealth Development Corporation of America
2501 Parmenter St., Suite 300B
Middleton, WI 53562

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to confirm that La Crosse County Human Services, specifically the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC) and La Crosse Youth System of Care (SOC), intend to form a partnership with Commonwealth Development Corporation of America as part of their proposed Lincoln Middle School Redevelopment project located at 510 9th St., South, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Commonwealth intends on providing a community service space in their proposed housing development at the former Lincoln Middle School. The intent is for that space to be occupied by an established partner who provides supports to the local community. This partnership aims to make services available to those who live within the development itself and to those who live in the surrounding neighborhood.

The La Crosse Area Family Collaborative is a voluntary, neighborhood-centered prevention program focused on supporting La Crosse children and families in a way that is highly accessible, collaborative, responsive, and empowering. Efforts are focused on developing trusting relationships at the neighborhood level and to find ways to be helpful. Prevention efforts stabilize families and reduce the need for emergency responses. The Washburn-Powell Poage-Hamilton neighborhoods are a primary area of focus. The LAFC collaborates with other neighborhood-based partners who serve similar populations and who share similar interests in supporting families and investing in neighborhoods. The LAFC has Neighborhood Social Workers placed in shared community spaces that are accessible and comfortable for families seeking supports.

Once connected, the LAFC assists families with housing concerns, parenting or family supports, mental

health and healthcare navigation, transportation, employment, education, childcare, mentoring and adolescent supports, basic needs, general support and advocacy, and case management. The LAFC also acts as a liaison between families and other County, City, and community services. In 2023, the LAFC supported a total of 377 adults and 609 children encompassing 261 unique Crosse households.

The La Crosse Youth System of Care (SOC) was established as a collaboration between the La Crosse Police Department, La Crosse County Human Services, and the School District of La Crosse to keep youth out of the youth justice system, mentally healthy, and safe from abuse and neglect. SOC provides interventions for youth and their families identified by school administrators and police officers in need of support and advocacy. SOC services include skill building; mentoring; wrap-around services for the family; assistance with basic needs; referral to counseling/therapeutic services; participation in pro-social activities; and overall guidance/support. SOC is embedded in both our secondary schools and youth serving agencies to support our most diverse and high-need neighborhoods including the Washburn-Powell Poage-Hamilton neighborhoods. To date, SOC has served over 600 youth (and their families) with a success rate that is documented by both data and anecdotal outcomes.

The Commonwealth Companies intends to provide office space and family meeting space in their Lincoln School development so LAFC and SOC can provide supports for individuals and families residing within the development and for families living in the surrounding neighborhoods. LAFC and SOC have been providing neighborhood-based supports in the Washburn Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhoods for the past eight years. A partnership between La Crosse County and Commonwealth will allow those supports to continue for years to come, further strengthening individual families and the La Crosse Community.

Sincerely,

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