



Memo

To: Dodge County Board of Supervisors

From: Mayor McFarland, City of Watertown

Date: January 21, 2022

Re: American Rescue Plan Act Funding Requests

Dear Dodge County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the City of Watertown, I want to thank you for engaging the public and your community stakeholders in seeking the most appropriate and impactful use for the ARPA funds you've received. Attached to this brief memo is an outline of the allocation plan the City of Watertown intends to follow in utilizing our own ARPA funds. This plan was approved by the city's Finance Committee. Federal and State guidance has strongly encouraged funding recipients to seek partnerships and coordinate with other entities who have received funds, so we are encouraged to have the opportunity to work with the county in considering the best use of this allocation.

Tier One projects in the attached document consist of higher-cost items that meet strategic goals of the City, would be difficult to fund otherwise, and are considered to be high-impact with the potential to be a catalyst for continuing public benefit at the end of the grant funding period. Projects in this tier are largely focused on infrastructure improvements, community development and public facility updates. It is from this category that the City makes its request of Dodge County for funding and partnership. Below are three proposals for your review that seek to capitalize on our joint funding and participation to better the lives of Dodge County residents.

Proposal Requests

1. The City of Watertown has partnered with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation and allocated \$400,000 of ARPA funding over 4 years to assist in developing a regional Childcare Hub. The City is aware that the Foundation is submitting a parallel request of Dodge County for this initiative. It is our hope that, by lending our voice to this request, Dodge County may join in funding this project and amplify its impact. I have heard from our business community that childcare availability is a barrier to employment. We see this work as not only what is best for children and families, but it is also a powerful labor creation tool. The City is requesting a funding allocation of \$200,000 from Dodge County.
2. The City of Watertown is allocating \$300,000 of its ARPA funds to create a Housing Trust Fund focused on creating affordable housing in the community. Our business community has indicated that the lack of availability of this kind of housing for entry level employees has been a barrier for accessing labor. The City is requesting a 50% matching allocation from Dodge County in the amount of \$150,000 to be reserved for assisting in the development of affordable housing in the Dodge County part of Watertown.



3. The City of Watertown is allocating \$100,000 of its ARPA funds to create a Housing Rehabilitation program focusing on assisting homeowners in making necessary improvements and upgrades. Many communities in Dodge County, including Watertown, have aging housing stocks. In many cases, renovations and redevelopment can be as costly as building anew. Improving our collective housing stock helps with elderly residents aging in place, increases home values for residents, and increases the attractiveness of our housing market. The City is requesting a 50% matching allocation from Dodge County in the amount of \$50,000 to be reserved for assisting the rehabilitation of housing in the Dodge County part of Watertown.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these requests. If you have any questions please contact me via email at emcfarland@cityofwatertown.org.

Mayor Emily McFarland
City of Watertown



January 20, 2022

Dodge County Board of Supervisors
 127 East Oak Street
 Juneau, WI 53039

Dear Dodge County Board of Supervisors,

Our current child care systems are not working for families, for providers or for employers. I am writing on behalf of Every Child Thrives, a partnership of 60+ agencies across Dodge and Jefferson Counties, to formally request County support for improving access to quality childcare. The pandemic has exacerbated challenges for our childcare industry, making it clear the industry’s revenue model is broken. The true cost of quality childcare is more than double the already-too-high cost of \$11,000 Dodge County families are paying annually for infant care.

This letter summarizes potential opportunities for the County to utilize ARPA dollars to support our economy by increasing the number of quality childcare slots available. Efficiencies can likely be gained by sharing resources between Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Where collaboration is possible, the foundation would be willing to support 1/3 of the cost with both counties receiving 50% of the services.

Potential Investment	Description and Vendor	Cost Estimates	Potential 3-4 Year Dodge Investment
Growing Access			
Start-up Business Coaching	Start-up business coaching for family, group or onsite care. <i>Vendor: Wisconsin Early Childhood Association</i>	Funding for 1 FTE and overhead could be split between Dodge County, Jefferson County and the Foundation, with Dodge County receiving 50% of the support. \$125,000/3 = \$42,000 annually	\$84,000
Start-Up Capital for Facilities and Supplies	Provide grants and/or no interest loans to support facility updates to meet licensing requirements. <i>Vendor: Childcare Providers</i>	Renovation needs can vary from \$5,000 for an in-home provider to \$100,000+ for a group center. Estimate \$40,000 grants x 7 new Dodge providers	\$280,000
WI Early Education Shared Services Network	Improve quality of care and reduce administrative overhead with shared technology, business coaching, purchasing, professional development and substitute pool resources. <i>Vendor: Wisconsin Early Childhood Association</i>	A WI DCF grant is covering expenses for 20 Dodge/Jefferson providers to be supported in 2022. We anticipate DCF will renew this funding, but this has not been confirmed. If DCF does not renew, annual expenses for Dodge would be estimated at \$100,000/ year.	Up to \$300,000 <i>(if DCF does not renew funding or expand to include additional providers)</i>



ChildcareWORKS Project Coordination	<p>Staff time to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit/engage childcare provider participation Facilitate businesses learning and engagement Develop partnerships with DCF, WECA and other partners to bring state resources to Dodge County <p><i>Vendor: Health Foundation</i></p>	<p>A .5 FTE could be split 3-ways between Dodge County, Jefferson County and Watertown Health Foundation over a period of 3.5 years.</p> <p>\$50,000 annual salary/fringe and overhead costs.</p>	<p>\$70,000 (over 4 years)</p>
Capital Support for Watertown Hub	<p>Support the development cost of 100 square feet to house ChildcareWORKS project coordination and space for wrap-around services provided to Dodge County residents.</p>	<p>Costs to purchase/renovate the 55,000 square foot property are \$10MM. <i>The City of Watertown has committed \$400,000 ARPA dollars to support development of the new childcare facility and match employer support.</i></p>	<p>\$200,000</p>
Strengthening Workforce			
Educator Effectiveness Programming	<p>Professional development and onsite coaching to support providers in implementing evidence-based model to fidelity.</p> <p><i>Vendor: Watertown Health Foundation or WI Alliance for Infant Mental Health</i></p>	<p>Health Foundation already supports 15 classrooms at 7 facilities within the Foundation service area. Dodge and Jefferson Counties could split the costs of an <u>additional</u> coach so the full counties could be served.</p> <p>\$110,000/year x 3 years split with Jefferson County.</p>	<p>\$165,000 (total for 3 years)</p>
Employer Supported Childcare	<p>Incentivize employer supports by matching payments employers make directly to childcare providers, helping them to pay living wages.</p> <p><i>Vendor: Childcare Providers</i></p>	<p>If 10 businesses each support 10 employees at \$5/day over 52 weeks, the County's match would be \$130,000 annually.</p>	<p>\$390,000 (total over 3 years)</p>

Thank you for making time for dialogue about potential collaboration to mobilize multi-sector support to expand access to childcare. With this letter we have included a 1-page summary of the ChildcareWORKS vision as well as the presentation slides for your review.

This letter is intended to simply initiate dialogue, and we look forward to developing a plan in collaboration with our local childcare partners.

Thank you,

Tina Crave
President & CEO

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