



RESOLUTION # 27-9/20

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 9-10

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 27
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 2
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0

RE: APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ECONOLODGE, THE COULEE COLLABORATIVE TO END HOMELESSNESS AND LA CROSSE COUNTY TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY TEMPORARY SHELTER IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE UNSHELTERED POPULATION

WHEREAS, ongoing census data has recorded an increase in the homeless/unsheltered population in La Crosse County over the last six months; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult for homeless/unsheltered individuals to take recommended steps to reduce the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19 when they do not have a residence in which to isolate or quarantine; and

WHEREAS, if an individual is unable to demonstrate that they have been self-isolating, many of the existing homeless shelters and resources are unable to admit that individual into their general housing even if they would otherwise be eligible for shelter; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County and the Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness have been attempting to address these types of situations on a case by case basis including providing short-term shelter for individuals at a local hotel and that these expenses are fully reimbursable under the CARES/Routes to Recovery grant; and

WHEREAS, over the last several weeks, the incidence of positive COVID tests in the homeless/unsheltered population in La Crosse County has been increasing; and

WHEREAS, given the increase in the homeless/unsheltered population and the increase in the incidence of positive COVID tests in said population, it is more effective and efficient, both from an economical and epidemiological perspective, to attempt a collective response versus a case-by-case response; and

WHEREAS, the owner-operator of EconoLodge of La Crosse has agreed to provide the exclusive use of the hotel through October 31, 2020, to provide temporary shelter to unsheltered individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, individuals that opt to stay at EconoLodge during this time would be doing so on a purely voluntary basis, if they chose to stay they would be encouraged to complete COVID-19 testing and to follow health recommendations related to mitigation of spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, EconoLodge has sufficient space to house individuals (50 rooms with total numbers served depending on length of stay and family group sizes) which includes space to safely quarantine individuals that are COVID positive; and

WHEREAS, the Coulee Region Collaborative to End Homelessness has staff available to provide needed services;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board approves entering into an agreement with the EconoLodge of La Crosse and the Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness to provide temporary shelter to unsheltered individuals in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this agreement will extend only until October 31, 2020 and that any necessary expenses will be submitted for reimbursement through the Routes To Recovery grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after approval by Corporation Counsel, the County Board Chair and County Administrator are hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents required.

FISCAL NOTE: The cost of the leasing and staffing of the facility through October 31, 2020 will cost approximately \$300,000 which are reimbursable through the Routes to Recovery grant program.

Date: 9/9/2020
[Signature]
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: September 9, 2020
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	_____	_____	Requested By: Steve O'Malley Date Requested: September 1, 2020 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>SRD</u>	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>MO</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	_____	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 17 Day of September, 2020

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 17th day of September 2020.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk