RE: AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL WISCONSIN HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WHEAP) CRISIS SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2021

WHEREAS, La Crosse County administers the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), under which crisis funding is provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) to assist eligible households that experience an energy emergency that may include:

- Having no heat
- Having received a disconnect notice from their vendor
- Being nearly out of fuel and unable to purchase more; and

WHEREAS, WHEAP agencies such as La Crosse County also receive administrative funding to support operational expenses incurred in determining eligibility for crisis benefits; and

WHEREAS, Financial struggles brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in an increase in Wisconsin households seeking financial assistance for an energy emergency; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County and other WHEAP agencies across the state have been provided additional funding from the Wisconsin DOA throughout Federal Fiscal Year 2021 to help households facing an energy emergency, with La Crosse County having received an additional $260,000 in Crisis Services Benefit dollars for FFY 2021; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin DOA has also provided to La Crosse County an additional $105,000 in WHEAP administrative funds to be used through September 30, 2021 for the purposes of:

- Covering staff salary expenses incurred in determine eligibility for the increased benefits available
- Satisfying costs directly related to providing crisis services
- Purchasing educational and informational materials that are related to the provision of emergency services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board hereby accepts the funding of $365,000 provided by the Wisconsin DOA for WHEAP crisis services ($260,000) and administrative costs ($105,000); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers related to accepting this additional federal funding.
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FISCAL NOTE: Award funds of total $365,000, with no County match required, and the award period ending September 30, 2021. The operating costs will be tracked under the 210.480.4960 division within the County financial system.

Date: 8/10/21

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 8/11/21

REVIEWED CLERK

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Reviewed
Recommended

Not
Recommended

Requested By: Jason Witt
Date Requested: 07/29/2021
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19 Day of August, 2021

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 19th day of August 2021.

Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk