



RESOLUTION # 31-11/21

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

ITEM # 11-6

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2  
Vote Req: 3/2 Full  
Other Action: --

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 1

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 1

**RE: AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVING ADDITION OF NEW POSITIONS IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of National Drug Control Policy facilitates the Drug Free Communities Grant Program to assist local communities in organizing to prevent youth substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2021, the La Crosse County Health Department applied for a competitive grant through the Drug Free Communities Program, in part based on the following concerns:

- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of La Crosse County adults report binge drinking or excessive drinking at higher rates than the rest of Wisconsin (24%).
- Recent surveys show that of 381 metro areas in the US, the Metro area of La Crosse/Onalaska rated 10<sup>th</sup> for "drunkest" cities in America.
- La Crosse County experienced 40 over-dose deaths in 2020, which is the highest recorded rate of overdose deaths since 2013.
- In over 50% of the cases reviewed by the La Crosse County Overdose Fatality Review Team there was evidence that the deceased's initial use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana was as a youth.
- Students of Black/African American or Hispanic ethnicity report having their first drink prior to age 13 and use marijuana at rates much higher than white students.
- LGBTQ youth report using alcohol and marijuana at much higher rates than cis-gender students; and

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County recently received confirmation that the Health Department was awarded a Drug Free Communities Grant in the amount of \$625,000 over a five year period in installments of \$125,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a 100% match requirement to receive the grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Department will use the proceeds of the grant to continue and expand work related to evidence-based strategies to combat youth substance use; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to coordinate and facilitate these efforts, the Health Department intends to create a new 1.0 FTE Health Educator position dedicated to youth substance use education and a new 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant position to support this work as well as ongoing work within the Department;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that La Crosse County Board hereby accepts the Drug Free Communities Grant in the amount of \$650,000 over five (5) years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Administrator is authorized to execute any documents to effectuate this resolution and the Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers related to accepting this additional funding; and

**RE: AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM AND APPROVING ADDITION OF NEW POSITIONS IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Health Department is authorized to hire 1.0 FTE Health Educator and 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant; if funding is no longer available to support the increase in FTE or match requirement, these positions will be eliminated.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Awards totaling \$125,000 will be used for operational and staffing expenses with a 100% match requirement. The match for the remainder of 2021 and all of 2022 will come from Health unassigned fund balance. The operating costs will be tracked under the 200.300.3445 division within the County financial system. \$27,000 is estimated to be used for the remainder of 2021. Each successive year to be levied as part of the 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 budgets.

Date: 11/2/21

Date: 11/3/21

Chetan A. Syya  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Concepcion P. Kruze  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Renee Weston

R.T. Kr

RECORDING CLERK

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.		<u>50</u>		Requested By: Audra Martine Date Requested: October 27, 2021 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>			

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 8 Day of November, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk