RE: ACCEPTING "FAMILY KEYS" FUNDING FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ASSIST CHILD WELFARE-ENGAGED FAMILIES WITH HOUSING NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), under the "Family Keys" housing collaborative, has awarded La Crosse County a grant under a pilot program to assist with the housing needs of child welfare-engaged families who are experiencing housing instability to ensure that the lack of access to housing is not a reason for separating children from their families or a barrier to reunification; and,

WHEREAS, in October of 2022, the County accepted the initial grant funding of $120,000 to be used to cover hotel costs, short-term rent and a variety of other expenses associated with finding and maintaining housing (Resolution #20-10/22); and,

WHEREAS, for State fiscal year July 2023-June 2024, La Crosse County has been awarded an additional $144,500 to continue the program and to expand the program to longer-term housing alternatives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board hereby accepts the $144,500 in DCF Family Keys funding and the County Administrator is authorized to execute any documents to effectuate this resolution, after approval of Corporation Counsel; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers related to accepting this additional funding.

FISCAL NOTE: Total grant award is $144,500, with no County match required, and the award period ending June 30, 2024. Operating costs related to this grant are tracked under Org. 210.420.5235.