



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	Staff time to: - 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 <i>Vendor: Health Foundation</i>	A .5 FTE could be split 3-ways between Dodge County, Jefferson County and Watertown Health Foundation over a period of 3.5 years. \$50,000 annual salary/fringe and overhead costs.	\$70,000 (over 4 years)
Capital Support for Watertown Hub	Support the development cost of 100 square feet to house ChildcareWORKS project coordination and space for wrap-around services provided to Dodge County residents.	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>	\$200,000
Strengthening Workforce			
Educator Effectiveness Programming	Professional development and onsite coaching to support providers in implementing evidence-based model to fidelity. <i>Vendor: Watertown Health Foundation or WI Alliance for Infant Mental Health</i>	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. \$110,000/year x 3 years split with Jefferson County.	\$165,000 (total for 3 years)
Employer Supported Childcare	Incentivize employer supports by matching payments employers make directly to childcare providers, helping them to pay living wages. <i>Vendor: Childcare Providers</i>	If 10 businesses each support 10 employees at \$5/day over 52 weeks, the County's match would be \$130,000 annually.	\$390,000 (total over 3 years)

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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127 East Oak Street
Juneau, WI 53039

Re: Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund Investment

Dear Dodge County Board of Supervisors,

Dodge County municipalities are experiencing a significant shortage of housing which is impacting workforce, business and municipal growth. The recent housing study estimates Dodge County will be short almost 1,600 housing units by 2030. As the study reports, the shortage of housing is particularly pronounced amongst income constrained households.

I'm writing to request Dodge County consider budgeting ARPA dollars to participate in a Revolving Loan Fund that makes affordable capital available for workforce housing projects.

In 2021, the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation invested in consulting technical assistance to learn how Foundation resources could best be utilized to catalyze workforce housing development across the county. The strongest recommendation from this work was to leverage our local relationships to help create and invest in a Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund which could make affordable capital available to get workforce housing projects off the ground.

As you evaluate how the County might utilize ARPA dollars to support community prosperity, please consider allocating funds, which could be matched with private sector funds, to create a Workforce Housing Revolving Loan Fund. We are happy to engage in further discussion on this idea.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Crave".

Tina Crave
President & CEO