



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

American Rescue Plan Act

August 5, 2024

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- ARPA bill signed into law on **March 11, 2021**
- Goal was to aid **economic recovery** from the pandemic
- **\$350 billion** was allocated to local governments
- La Crosse County's portion was **\$22.92 million**
- Created a huge **opportunity *and* a huge challenge**

The Process

- **Deadlines:** Funds obligated end 2024, spent end 2026
- **Priorities:** Areas of focus selected by board included sustainability and environmental protection, housing, child care, local economy and aging.
- **Public Input:** Community survey (1,547 participants) backed up board's priorities.
- **Taskforces:** 6 taskforces with 80 members were created to refine project ideas.

The Projects

Allocated/Spent

COVID Response	\$705,000
Bridge Housing/Families	\$3,000,000
Skilled Trades Training	\$2,000,000
County Solar	\$1,500,000
Housing Redevelopment Grants	\$1,000,000
Stormwater Infrastructure	\$2,000,000
Community Events	\$90,000
Broadband Consultant	\$100,000
Child Care Grants	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$10,895,000

Allocated for Hillview Project

Hillview CBRF	\$5,000,000
Adult Bridge Housing	\$3,000,000
Intergenerational Center/Child Care	\$2,500,000
Veterans	\$500,000
Housing Redevelopment Grants	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$12,000,000

Family Housing

Funding: \$3 million.

Impact: 5 families have homes (16 children and 9 adults)

Status: \$1,800,384 spent

2/3 of total funding spent by end of 2024

Remaining funds must be spent by end of 2025



Skilled Trades Training

Funding: \$2.45 million to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse.

Impact: Funding will support construction of a new Workforce Readiness Center on the northside of La Crosse (\$7 million raised to date, including county funds). Center will support career exploration for youth with many local partners involved.

Status: Architects hired, planning to go out for bids in the coming months and break ground by November.



Solar

Funding: \$1.5 million of ARPA was allocated to buy/install solar panels. County will receive \$700,000 rebate through the Focus on Energy Credits Inflation Reduction Act.

Impact: Long-term savings (estimated 13% annual reduction in electricity bills), reduced carbon footprint.

Status: Panels installed at Goose Island, Lakeview, Admin Building, LEC, West Salem and STH 33 Highway Shops. Health & Human Services building delayed pending new roof.



Housing Redevelopment Grants

Funding: \$1 million allocated, \$792,982 awarded to date.

Impact: 20 projects awarded (16 in La Crosse, 1 in Rockland, 2 in Campbell, 1 in Town of Onalaska).
New single-family and multifamily home developments supported, millions of dollars in new tax base created.

Status: All funds have been allocated, but the remaining \$207,018 have not yet been spent.



Stormwater Infrastructure

Funding: \$2 million for grant program for towns and rural areas (up to \$50k for studies or \$500k for designed projects).

Impact: 14 projects in towns funded (Campbell, Holland, Onalaska, Shelby, Holland). Leveraged town funding to improve culverts, drains and basins – protecting water resources, homes and public infrastructure.

Status: All funds have been awarded.



Community Event Grants

Funding: \$90,000 to assist community events impacted by the pandemic.

Impact: 13 community events/festivals received grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$8,000. Recipients included:

- West Salem Dairy Days
- Hmong New Year
- Bangor Fun Daze
- Onalaska Community Days
- La Crosse Pride

Status: One-time grant program, all funds awarded.



Broadband Consultant

Funding: \$100,000

Impact: Report Completed

Status: Applications being accepted for a limited term employee(LTE) to work with towns and other organizations/businesses to position La Crosse County to receive grants. LTE will be in the 2025 budget. Highlighted in the strategic plan as an outcome measure of having a healthy infrastructure.



Child Care Grants

Funding: \$500,000 for grants outside the City of La Crosse

Impact: 36 grants funded

Status: 16 projects completed for a total of \$281,128. Most are scheduled to be finished by the end of September.



“This funding is going to make a huge difference for my small business and for my community,”
Josie Wermager, Learning Wagon Preschool,
Rockland.

Child Care Grants cont.

“This grant has been so beneficial to the operations of our program. It has allowed us to fix things that were mainly safety issues, which we would not have been able to afford to do on our own. Childcare is so crucial to a community; this support and future support is so important and appreciated.”

-Linda Meinking, La Crosse Toddler Inn



Hillview

Funding: \$12 million

Impact: Project will create a new Community Based Residential Facility, Intergenerational Center, Housing, Crisis Stabilization Unit, and more.

Status: All bids are scheduled to be received by August 12th. County Board approval of bids in August, Construction scheduled to begin September 3rd if approved



Conclusion

- First of its kind process for La Crosse County
- Projects funded will expand housing, increase sustainability, protect homes and infrastructure from flooding, improve workforce readiness, plan for broadband readiness, and transform Hillview.