

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: October 6, 2023
FROM: ARPA STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES COMMISSION
RE: Omro Community Center Resolution

General Description:

The ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission is recommending a grant of \$250,000 to assist in the remodeling of the new location of the Omro Area Community Center.

Requested Action:

Approval of the resolution appropriating \$250,000 from the Spirit Fund to Omro Area Community Center for their remodeling project.

Procedural Steps:

ARPA STRATEGY AND OUTCOMES COMMISSION	Meeting date: 10/6/23
Action taken: Recommend passage of resolution	Vote: 8-0-1 (Borchardt absent)
County Board	Meeting date: 10/17/23

Background:

When the Spirit Fund was created by the county board in March, an amendment collapsed three proposed categories to two: County Government Projects and Government Identified Community Projects. The Government Identified Community Projects was to be for grants to organizations, governments, or other project funding to tackle legacy work which would assist county government in our mission to meet the basic needs of our residents.

The ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission reviewed the passed Spirit Fund resolution and determined non-profits are eligible under this category provided the project is a partnership and necessary for the county to delivery services to our constituents.

The Spirit Fund dollars were to be used to build resiliency toward communities impacted by the pandemic. The Omro Area Community Center serves elderly populations at risk for social isolation. Multi-generational events assist in these efforts.

Many Winnebago County Departments utilize the community center resource to engage and improve social access for rural residents (e.g., ADRC, Public Health, Veterans). Agencies such as ADVOCAP, Scouts, Red Cross, etc. rely on this space to provide safe, ADA accessibility for rural residents.

Winnebago County Department Programs offered at the OACC include:

- Wellness Plus classes (Healthy Aging, Evidence Based Classes, e.g., fall prevention, muscle strengthening, health management education) a partnership of WCPH and ADRC,
- Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center,
 - Welcome to Medicare,
 - dementia training and information with families,
 - ADRC overview of services

- Veterans Services Quarterly Veteran Outreach
 - Veteran Services have utilized this community resource to improve access for rural residents facing barriers to travel to Oshkosh

At the first Veterans Services outreach event, the staff was introduced to a WWII Veteran who drove to the grocery store and to medical appointments on the west side of Oshkosh. He would have never come downtown to meet with staff to discuss his benefits. The Veterans staff connected him to the ADRC and provided transportation services and other assistance.

This small story is how the county is meeting citizens where they are. We will be able to use this location for years to come to provide service in one of the county's poorest communities.

The OACC has hosted, and wants to continue hosting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy & learning through music, • exercise classes, • health education, • painting, and mental health programs targeted to middle and high school students. • ADVOCAP 60+ and ADA Meal Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout meetings, • babysitting courses and • CPR classes, • Alcoholics Anonymous, • the American Legion, • Women's Service League, and the • Red Cross
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Attachments:

- = Resolution
- = OACC Application Documents