

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: 1/9/2024

FROM: Winnebago County Executive's Office

RE: Solutions Recovery Housing Expansion

General Description:

Proposal for portion of Solutions Recovery Housing expansion

Action Requested:

Approval of a \$500,000 Spirit Fund grant issued to Solutions Recovery to assist in funding of expanded housing space.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: ARPA Strategy & Outcomes Commission Meeting date: 11/07/2023

Background:

Solutions Recovery started serving the local recovery community as a 12-step fellowship club and meeting venue. In 2013, Solutions opened to the general population with an art fair featuring the works of people in recovery; and this event marked the beginning of Solutions' shift from a recovery club to a recovery community organization. In 2015, Solutions opened its first sober living home to address the need presented for sober living in Winnebago County. Since its opening the sober living program has grown to be a place dedicated to providing women in the program resources to grow in their recovery. In 2017 the program shifted dramatically to provide curriculum and a more structured approach to sober living. The first program coordinator was hired to facilitate the continued growth of the program. Since then, Solutions has grown to offer more than 30 sober living beds for men and women in the Winnebago County community.

Since 2018, Solutions Recovery has exhibited a tremendous amount of growth in many ways. Programs were added to support and grow the reach of our mission and to meet the needs presented by not only our recovery community, but the broader community as well. Solutions is proud to serve the Fox Valley area with many programs that help those impacted by alcohol and drug addiction.

Solutions Recovery is an organization that supports and empowers individuals impacted by drug and alcohol addiction in our community. The mission is to increase the quality of life by helping individuals transform their lives through their recovery journey. They take pride in achieving a high success rate, with 85% of their sober living graduates becoming gainfully employed and productive members of the community.

Solutions Recovery listens to the needs of the community and works diligently to serve those needs. They have 19 paid staff members and recently underwent their first audit to demonstrate their ability to receive grants and comply with audit requirements.

The organization is currently undertaking the Solutions Recovery Housing Expansion project, located at 206 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI, with an estimated total cost of \$1,100,000. They are requesting a \$500,000 award from the Spirit Fund. This project will improve the quality of life in the county by expanding

programming possibilities to help community members on their path to recovery. The facility has undergone recent infrastructure upgrades, and with full funding, Solutions Recovery can increase revenue from participant fees and contracts with partner agencies. The project will provide transitional living opportunities and explore emergency housing for individuals seeking a fresh start. It will serve residents from across the county and integrate them into the existing recovery community.

The project anticipates serving 100 individuals annually within Winnebago County and will track the individuals served through their Solutions Database tracking system. The project will increase the operational budget through participant fees, ensuring sustainability and financial stability for the organization. The attached budget document provides projections for revenue and expenses associated with the project. There are two options for facility utilization: a 21-bed sober living facility or 8 beds with other potential uses in collaboration with community partners.

Funding for the project includes \$150,000 from the City of Oshkosh, \$211,000 from the Neighborhood Investment Fund Pass Through Grant, and \$250,000 from private foundations. Spirit Fund dollars are able to be used as a match for other grants and funding opportunities.

Policy Discussion:

The commission has recognized Government Identified Community Projects that support or enhance county services:

- 1) Solutions Recovery is a vital collaborator with county services including Behavioral Health, Public Health, Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's office.
- 2) Expanded and updated facilities allow for greater opportunity to serve county departments and clients in distress and seeking resources.

Attachments:

Resolution
Spirit Fund Application