

# RESOLUTION

## ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Wilson  
INITIATOR



5/14/2024  
DATE SUBMITTED

Supervisor Sutterlin  
SPONSOR

### **Modifying the Purpose of ARPA Funds Provided for the Community Action Twin Oaks Shelter Project to Support the Community Action Fresh Start Program**

1 **WHEREAS**, the 2025 County budget included \$750,000 in ARPA funding to support the development  
2 and construction of a new Twin Oaks Shelter, operated by Community Action, Inc., to expand  
3 emergency housing options to Rock County residents; and,  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, on numerous occasions, the County Board has discussed current housing-related  
6 challenges in the community and the importance of providing resources to address these issues; and,  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Community Action, Inc., was recently informed that, despite positive performance, the  
9 federal Department of Labor would not renew a grant that supports operational costs of the Fresh Start  
10 program, leaving an estimated deficit of \$711,000 over the next year; and,  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Fresh Start is an education and job training program serving youth between the ages of 16  
13 to 24 who are enrolled full-time and attend 32 to 34 hours per week; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, half of the time is spent in an intensive individualized educational program to complete  
16 their high school education or GED, while the remainder of their time is spent in construction,  
17 community service, leadership development, employability and various life skills classes; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the community benefits not only from the youth engaged in the community service  
20 projects, but also by the development of homes sold to a low-income eligible household; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, Fresh Start graduated 44 of the 46 youth who participated, and hundreds of  
23 students who would have otherwise been high school dropouts with zero employment skills have  
24 benefited from the program since its inception in 2006; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, 96% of participants live in households with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal  
27 Poverty Level; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, despite the importance of the Twin Oaks shelter project, the Fresh Start funding shortfall  
30 represents an immediate crisis, and shifting ARPA funding would allow Community Action to continue  
31 this successful program in 2024-2025 until it can apply for the Department of Labor grant in 2025 while  
32 continuing to raise funds for the Twin Oaks project.  
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
35 assembled this 13th day of June, 2024, does hereby modify the purpose of the ARPA funding provided  
36 to Community Action, Inc., to allow it to be used to fund the shortfall in the Fresh Start program.  
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any of these ARPA funds not needed to support Fresh Start will be  
39 used for the Twin Oak shelter project.

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution reallocates funds awarded to Community Action from the Twin Oak Shelter project to the Fresh Start project. No budget amendment is needed.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This is eligible for ARPA under the category of assistance to unemployed and underemployed workers, which includes combined education and on-the-job training programs, among other uses.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Human Services Board

Human Services Board recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote (6-2)

Planning & Development Committee

Planning & Development Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote (4-0).

