

Jefferson School
Community Center Proposal

American Rescue Plan Grant

November 1st. 2021

For a 24-month pilot project that would create a Community Center at Jefferson School. Funding to do so would come through an American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant from Independent School District No. 256 (ISD 256) and the Minnesota Department of Education.

Summary

Red Wing's educational and non-profit organizations have long sought to create a thriving community center. Driven by a variety of desires like collective impact models, shared administrative services, economies of scale, and eliminating transportation barriers to separated sites, a central location for programming and services has seemed an obvious solution to innumerable problems . . . but also an elusive one. Previous successes at places like Friendship House and the former St. John's Hospital have been fleeting as infrastructure challenges drove moves away from those properties. Jefferson School's current availability, coupled with ARP dollars that can be used to fund the operations of the proposed Community Center, puts Red Wing in a unique position to pilot a new model. It is proposed that the ARP grant would pay for hard facility costs like property maintenance, heat, electricity, and custodial services, along with funds to provide child care. The cost to provide programming would be borne by the various educational and non-profit partners presenting it. If successful, this pilot could provide the proof needed to seek long-term funding for a Community Center from both government and philanthropic sources who previously have, and would in future, demand such proof.

Real Property & Facilities

The recent use of Jefferson School puts the building in excellent condition for this pilot. While compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act is a concern, not only for ISD 256 but also for program partners whose operations require the same compliance, those concerns can be at least temporarily allayed by the use of the ground floor. The upper and lower floors could be left available for those purposes not requiring ease of access.

The figure quoted us for the annual cost of operating and maintaining Jefferson's interior and exterior property is \$100,000. It is proposed that these operational costs be borne by the ARP grant, and that is no small thing. The annual, bare-boned maintenance cost of the building when not in use is approximately \$35,000, a burden currently borne by ISD 256's operations budget. This pilot project would relieve the District of that obligation through its term.

We also must mention the favorable position which retaining Jefferson School as an asset puts ISD 256. The building's availability during COVID-19's lockdowns proved incredibly valuable, an availability retained through this pilot. In addition, the possibility of future mandates like universal child care and preschool would require space in the District that currently does not exist. Jefferson's building could provide that future space, sharing the facility with an operational Community Center. Finally, when asked about what their vision for Jefferson's future was, the neighbors in and around the fairgrounds emphasized retaining the property both as a green space and as a school. This proposed use of the building satisfies that desire as well.

As emphasis, there is intentionally no proposal here to derive any income from the program partners for the use of the Jefferson School's space. The pilot project intends to use ARP dollars to satisfy the physical costs, then with hard figures in-hand at the pilot's end have the data necessary to support future requests for physical plant funds from other funders.

ISD256 Staff & Facility Use Coordination

As mentioned above, this proposal hopes for assistance from ISD256 staff in all areas of building and ground maintenance and upkeep.

In addition, that through an already-secured grant from Every Hand Joined a "Community Center Coordinator" be provided for the building. The role would be to administer the spaces of the Community Center to include reservations and point-of-contact for the community. The estimated annual cost of that FTE is \$75,000, or \$150,000 over the course of the pilot.

Child Care

The partners in this proposal identified the critical need to provide child care as part of the effort. On-site services, whether they be offered through ISD 256 resources or in partnership with a local provider, simply must exist. This is especially critical where adult programming is concerned, and a veritable non-starter to the effort in its absence. If this Community Center pilot is approved, the partners will work to secure the care and pay for it with ARP grant dollars.

Food Service

While the kitchen in Jefferson School is currently not licensed to prepare food, the partners feel the availability of food is critical to the Community Center's success. We propose to make arrangements with groups like the Red Wing Food Shelf to provide food to take home,

and with our partners at ISD 256 Food Service to discuss the possibility of on-site food and beverages.

Programming

It is proposed that the pilot give primacy to after-school programs for young people, focusing on social, emotional, educational and health recovery. However, we know that as a community we can best impact a child when whole-life and family-centered offerings are also available. In addition, the prevalence of home schooling and post-secondary options do not limit school age programs to only after 3PM. To all these ends we intend to include partners that offer a range of services and programs throughout the day.

Programming at the Jefferson site would also afford a safe environment for students, outside the normal classroom, where horizons could be expanded beyond the school day. A lack of tutors has been identified as a gap in this community's capacity to provide best outcomes for young people. It is therefore proposed that inter-generational tutoring, as well as peer-to-peer, would be an integral part of the pilot.

The details of specific programs would be prepared as the pilot project is finalized, but to assure ISD 256 of the quality of those offerings here a list of organizations who are looking into the possibility of offering the proposed activities:

Mental Health

- Care Clinic: Mental Health Support Groups location
- ArtReach: class once a week, stocking an arts classroom
- HOPE Coalition: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Groups
- HOPE Coalition: Kids Count programming and support groups
- Pier 55: Social engagement, help with mentoring and tutoring
- Red Wing Community Education and Recreation classes

Basic Needs

- RW Food Shelf: for a satellite location at Jefferson if adequate and appropriate storage of food is figured out
- HOPE Coalition: Community Care Fund office hours
- United Way of GWP: Fare for All food distribution site (if we can work out safe traffic flow with kids coming and going)
- Red Wing Community Education and Recreation classes

Physical Health

- Care Clinic: dental cleaning events, MNSure navigation site, diabetes prevention classes
- YMCA- hosting physical fitness classes
- HOPE Coalition: help with protective orders

Live Well Goodhue County: getting the space set up in a way that supports a healthy environment (i.e. maybe it needs hydration stations to promote drinking water vs vending machines full of pop or maybe it needs a lactation room, etc.
Pier 55: use of gym for pickleball, fitness class
United Way of GWP: Born Learning Trail installment outdoors
Red Wing Community Education and Recreation classes

Academic Support

Red Wing Youth Outreach: mentoring and tutoring
United Way of GWP: Blue Book Shelf Site & could provide some reading activities for parents and preschoolers
Pier 55: volunteers for mentoring and tutoring
Red Wing Community Education and Recreation classes

Childcare

YMCA- providing childcare onsite or offsite
Red Wing Community Education and Recreation- Kids Junction

Additionally, there are groups that have the need for office, event and meeting space. This building could be used to offer no-cost office and meeting space to community partners like Community Education and Recreation, the City of Red Wing, Red Wing Youth Outreach, Pier 55, HOPE Coalition, and The United Way of GWP (Community Investment meeting site).

Goodhue County Health and Human Services strongly supports the efforts to provide support and social connection for community members, and we support the need for everyone to feel like they have a place to belong.

Partners agencies participating in this conversation included: ArtReach of Red Wing, CARE Clinic, City of Red Wing, Community Education & Recreation, Environmental Learning Center, Every Hand Joined, Goodhue County Health & Human Services, Hispanic Outreach, HOPE Coalition, Red Wing Public Library, Pier 55, Red Wing Food Shelf, First Presbyterian Church Red Wing, Red Wing YMCA, Red Wing Youth Outreach, United Way of GWP.

Budget

\$200,000	2 years of interior & exterior maintenance of Jefferson School (\$100,000 per year) to include custodial services, snowplowing, lawn care, heating & lighting, classroom furniture and setup, etc.
<u>\$50,000</u>	Child Care.
\$250,000	Total Request to ISD 256's ARP Grant
\$150,000	Community Center Coordinator, hired by Red Wing Community Education and Recreation, whose role would be to facilitate building use, scheduling programs, reserving space, and management and supervision of the Community Center Program Manager (\$75,000 per year). The cost of which is proposed to be borne by a grant from Every Hand Joined.
\$400,000	Total Estimated Cost of the 2-Year Pilot Project

This proposal is presented to the Board of Red Wing Public Schools by these individuals who serve on the staff and boards of a number of local educational and community partners:

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