



For Immediate Release

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Opportunity Center Project Selected as Finalist for Prominent Economic Development Award

Madison, WI – The Opportunity Center in Prairie du Chien, WI has been selected as a finalist for the Wisconsin Economic Development Association’s (WEDA) Public Private Partnership economic development award for its recent expansion project. The award is part of the Community and Economic Development Awards (CEDA) program established by WEDA to recognize businesses, projects and organizations that are making significant contributions to Wisconsin’s economy.

The Public Private Partnership award honors projects, programs or initiatives that have been successful due to exceptional collaboration between the public and private sectors.

The Opportunity Center is a non-profit that provides employment and rehabilitation services to adults with disabilities. The Center’s expansion projects allowed them to grow services, diversify operations, and provide a local economic spark. The projects represent a \$1.8 million investment and include the Sharing Spaces Kitchen, a shared-use incubator kitchen with a bakery retail store, Café Hope, a restaurant and retail shop, and Unity Adult Day Care. The projects, which retained 100 jobs and created ten new jobs, were made possible through the joint effort of the City of Prairie du Chien and the Center. They were financed with private investment secured by tax increment financing and state and federal funding.

The Opportunity Center project is among 17 finalists selected for the 2019 CEDA Awards. There are two to three finalists in the following six award categories: Business Retention & Expansion; Economic Development Initiative; Economic Driver; Private-Public Partnership; Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse; and Talent Development. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association and WEDC have partnered with WEDA to present the CEDA Awards program.

Finalists have been screened by an impartial panel of WEDA members and partners, and winners will be unveiled at a ceremony on September 11, 2019, at The Edgewater Hotel in Madison. The event is open to the public. For more information on the CEDA Awards, please visit weda.org/events/awards/.

About WEDA:

For over 40 years, WEDA has been dedicated to expanding Wisconsin’s economy through advocacy, education and providing resources to promote economic growth. WEDA is a statewide trade association comprised of economic development professionals, businesses and organizations who strive to make Wisconsin a better place to live, work and do business through economic development. For more information, visit our website at www.weda.org.

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