2016 RES-386
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION
DCDHS – CYF DIVISION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and

WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

WHEREAS, child welfare workloads and documentation requirements have increased in all counties across the state in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals to Dane County CPS has increased by 98 percent since 2007 (from 3,029 referrals to 6,004 in 2014); and

WHEREAS, the number of children in CPS-related foster care in Dane County has increased by 21 percent since 2011 (from 233 to 281 in 2015); and

WHEREAS, the number of investigated CPS reports in Dane County has increased by 28 percent since 2011(from 1,444 to 1,850 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dane and other counties struggle to recruit and retain child welfare workers; and

WHEREAS, the stress of increasing caseloads takes a significant toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that Dane and other counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, Dane and other counties struggle to identify resources to increase child welfare staff (Dane has found resources to increase CPS staff by 6.2 per cent, only, since 2011);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, it its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.