



**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Melissa R. Wittwer,  
Interim Director  
Rock County Child Support Agency  
INITIATED BY



Melissa R. Wittwer,  
Interim Director  
Rock County Child Support Agency  
DRAFTED BY

Public Safety and Justice Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

May 9, 2019  
DATE DRAFTED

**IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED 2019-21 STATE BUDGET FOR COUNTY CHILD  
SUPPORT FUNDING**

1 **WHEREAS**, Rock County Child Support Agency administers the Child Support Enforcement Program  
2 on behalf of the state, providing services to Rock County residents including paternity establishment,  
3 obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those  
4 orders; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, our children’s well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents  
7 who provide financial and emotional support; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, Rock County’s Child Support Agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care  
10 and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children’s lives and provides  
11 services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin’s future as  
14 child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children’s  
15 well-being; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for collecting  
18 current support; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an  
21 average of \$5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, county child support agencies collected \$934 Million in child support during 2017, 95% of  
24 which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for  
27 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private  
28 insurance; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, state funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency  
31 costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding.  
34 Diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Rock County’s child support  
37 agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child  
38 support collections; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, new state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1  
41 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates \$2 in federal matching funds.

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IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED 2019-21 STATE BUDGET FOR COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

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43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly  
44 assembled this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019, respectfully requests that state funding for county  
45 child support agencies be increased by \$1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-2021 Wisconsin  
46 state budget, which will generate approximately \$3 million in additional federal funding each year. This  
47 investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

48  
49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the  
50 Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Rock County,  
51 the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin  
52 Counties Association for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mary Beaver  
Mary Beaver, Chair

Phillip Owens  
Phillip Owens, Vice Chair

Terry Fell  
Terry Fell

Kara Hawes  
Kara Hawes

Brian Knudson  
Brian Knudson

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.

Sherry Oja  
Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

Richard Greenlee  
Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzilni  
J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Absent  
Mary Mawhinney, Vice Chair

Absent  
Richard Bostwick

Henry Brill  
Henry Brill

Betty Jo Bussie  
Betty Jo Bussie

Louis Peer  
Louis Peer

Alan Sweeney  
Alan Sweeney

Terry Thomas  
Terry Thomas

Bob Yeomans  
Bob Yeomans

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator